



City of Colorado Springs

City Hall
107 N. Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO
80903

Meeting Minutes Council Work Session

City Council meetings are broadcast live on Channel 18. In accordance with the ADA, anyone requiring an auxiliary aid to participate in this meeting should make the request as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Monday, September 14, 2020

2:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting to Discuss Appointment of LETAC Members

How to Watch the Meeting

Coloradosprings.gov/springstv | Facebook Live: Colorado Springs City Council
Facebook Page @coscity Council | SPRINGS TV - Comcast Channel 18 / 880 (HD)
- CenturyLink Channel 18

1. Call to Order

Present 9 - Councilmember Yolanda Avila, Councilmember Jill Gaebler, Councilmember David Geislinger, Councilmember Don Knight, Councilmember Bill Murray, Councilmember Andy Pico, President Richard Skorman, President Pro Tem Tom Strand, and Councilmember Wayne Williams

2. Items Under Study

2.A. [20-366](#) Discussion on Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission appointments

Presenter:

Richard Skorman, Council President

Wayne Williams, Councilmember At-Large

President Skorman introduced the discussion on Law Enforcement Transparency and Accountability Commission (LETAC) appointments.

Councilmember Murray stated after reviewing the list of applicants submitted by City Councilmembers, he sorted it by the number of applicants which received support from at least five or more Councilmembers which reduced the list down to eleven people. He stated the two alternate members should be chosen from the four applicants who received four Councilmember referrals and one of them should be from district five so all districts are represented.

Councilmember Williams stated the amount of Councilmember support received for each applicant should not be the sole metric used in

determining the LETAC members because Councilmembers took a variety of approaches to their selections and every district should have a representative on the commission and not just as an alternate member. He recommended the list be narrowed down by applicants who were supported by a minimum of six Councilmembers, including Councilmember Gaebler's selection of Felicia Embry and Rachel Flick, and also include Rachel Stovall from the Gazette as an alternate member for the transparency aspect of the commission.

President Pro Tem Strand agreed with Councilmember Williams' selection of Rachel Flick because of her being the spouse of a fallen police officer which could bring a broad background to the commission.

Councilmember Pico stated he agrees with selecting applicants who were supported by a minimum of six Councilmembers, a district five representative, and Councilmembers should take another look at the list of applicants who did not receive six Councilmember recommendations.

Councilmember Geislinger recommended selecting the top five applicants who received seven Councilmember recommendations and even though he supports Brent Windebank as a commission member, he is not certain he is representative of the district two community.

Councilmember Avila asked if Councilmember Murray's list of members changed from his original selection. Councilmember Murray stated it has and he has selected the top eleven based on other the Councilmember's input.

Councilmember Knight stated the balance of representation of the commission is most important to him and there is no representation of an older white male. He stated Deborah Walker should be on the panel even if she is not a direct representation of the district one community. Councilmember Knight stated he supports the selection of Felicia Embry, Rachel Flick, Joe Aldaz, and Lou Velez and the demographics of the commission also need to be considered in order to provide balance to the commission.

Councilmember Gaebler stated she supports adding Felicia Embry, as a representative for district five, and Rachel Flick to the commission and make the two individuals with the least amount of Councilmember support,

which were Sherrell Bethel and Rosita Carmago, alternates. She stated the commission should not be determined based on age or race.

President Pro Tem Strand stated he supports adding Rachel Flick to the commission and removing Brent Windebank and Deborah Walker.

Councilmember Avila stated this commission should not include police officers or their family members, Rosita Carmago is her number one pick, and Deborah Walker and Brent Windebank are representative of their districts.

President Skorman stated Sherrell Bethel and Rosita Carmago should remain on the commission, he supports either Felicia Embry or Steve Kern as a district five representative, Lou Velez as either a member or an alternate, and recommended they start with making one person from the original list an alternate.

Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff, stated Councilmember Williams' recommendation most closely reflects the position of the Mayor and himself.

Councilmember Williams stated the initial proposal for this commission was to be balanced and his recommendation would provide three members from district four, three from district three, and the other five would be from the other districts.

Councilmember Murray stated the reason for this discussion is because the community has lost trust and respect of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD), the goals of the commission are to review, reflect, and transmit confidence in the City's law enforcement personnel and programs, and members should be free from bias.

Councilmember Pico stated he did not select his list of applicants based on their demographics or what district they resided in, he based it on their qualifications and ability to accomplish the commission's objective.

Councilmember Geislinger recommended polling Councilmembers on their selection of applicants who have received referrals from four or more Councilmembers.

Councilmember Gaebler stated this Council is almost completely unified on the selection of this commission and agreed with polling Councilmembers regarding the representative for district five and the top ten candidates.

President Pro Tem Strand asked if the Mayor's Office has made any recommendations. Mr. Greene stated they had not, but are very supportive of City Council's selections and agrees that the commission should be balanced.

President Pro Tem Strand stated they want what is best for the community, citizens, and police officers and recommended they poll Councilmembers on the entire list of Councilmember referred applicants.

Councilmember Murray stated he changed his referral from Dick Celeste to Rosita Carmago.

Councilmember Pico and Councilmember Murray recommended the poll be based on candidates who received six or more Councilmember referrals.

Councilmember Geislinger stated the district five representative should be selected first.

Councilmember Knight stated the applicants who received five or more recommendations do not represent a balanced commission.

Councilmember Williams stated first, there should be a poll for the original nine candidates who received six or more referrals, second, there should be a poll for the district five representative, third, there should be nominations for the last position, and fourth, nominations for alternates.

Councilmember Geislinger recommended polling City Council one applicant at a time.

President Skorman polled City Council regarding the nomination list for the LETAC members for the applicants which received six or more Councilmember referrals. Consensus of City Council agreed on Justin Baker, Janice Frazier, and Terry Martinez, Brent Windebank, Joe Aldaz, Dennis Moore, Kate Angulski, Lou Velez, and Deborah Walker.

President Skorman polled City Council regarding Felicia Embry or Steve Kern as the district five representative. Steve Kern was selected as the district five representative.

President Skorman requested nominations for the final member of the LETAC. Rachel Flick, Gabriel Cordova, Rosita Carmago, and Sherrell Bethel were nominated. Rachel Flick was selected as the final member of the LETAC.

President Skorman requested nominations for two alternate members. Gabriel Cordova, Rosita Carmago, Felicia Embry, Sherrell Bethel, and Rachel Stovall were nominated. Rosita Carmago and Felicia Embry were selected as alternate members.

Michael Montgomery, Deputy City Council Administrator, provided the final list of nominees and the districts in which they reside; Deborah Walker from district one, Brent Windebank from district two, Terry Martinez from district three, Justin Baker from district four, Steve Kern from district five, Kate Angulski from district six, Dennis Moore from district four, Lou Velez from district three, Janice Frazier from district four, Joe Aldaz from district six, and Rachel Flick from district three. He stated the alternates nominated are Rosita Carmago from district four and Felicia Embry from district five.

3. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before City Council, Council adjourned.

Sarah B. Johnson, City Clerk