

East Hartford Veterans Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2018

1. Call to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll call

- a) In attendance: Joshua Quintana, Awet Tsegai, Melodie Wilson, John Cook, Timothy Siggia, Vincent Parys, Jim Shelmerdine.
- b) Absent: David Whalen, Eugene Pushefski, Sr.
- c) Late: Joshua Quintana was late so Vice Chair, Awet Tsegai, began meeting.

4. Approval of minutes from November 28, 2018 meeting: motion was made by Vincent Parys to approve; motion was seconded by Tim Siggia. Motion as amended by John Cook to correct the following:

II. b. added Eugene Pushefski Sr as being absent.

III. Approval of minutes: Change the date of the meeting to: ...approve minutes of October 17, 2018 ...

VII. a. Add the word "indicated" in the sentence beginning: Joshua Quintana indicated...

These corrections were added to the amended motion and was passed by voice vote.

5. Election of Officers:

- The following nominations were made:
 - Chairman: Vincent Parys motioned for John Cook to be appointed Chairman. His motion was seconded by Awet Tsegai. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0.
 - Vice Chairman: Vincent Parys motioned for Awet Tsegai to be appointed Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Melodie Wilson. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0.
 - Secretary: The motion was made by John Cook to appoint Timothy Siggia as secretary of the commission. The motion was seconded by Awet Tsegai. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0.
 - Treasurer: The motion was made by John Cook to appoint Melodie Wilson as treasurer of the commission. The motion was seconded by Timothy Siggia. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0.

It was agreed that newly elected commission officers will assume their new roles immediately after their election.

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6. Old Business:

- Timothy Siggia reported on his presentation to the Town Council concerning our support to enact PA 17-65 which provides additional property tax exemptions for qualified Gold Star parents and Spouses. Melodie Wilson also reported on her presentation to the Town Council concerning the ambiguities in the Town Ordinances concerning the appointment of a Veterans' Affairs Agent. Both Timothy and Melodie felt that their presentations were well received and were told that they would be referred to the Ordinance committee for further review.
- O'Connell School and Wreaths Across America: it was reported that O'Connell School did an excellent job of placing wreaths on the graves of Veterans in our Silver Lane Cemetery. Vincent Parys made a motion that we award a plaque to O'Connell school recognizing their work and excellence. The motion was amended by John Cook to authorize up to \$50 for the plaque. Timothy Siggia seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0.
- Schedule of 2019 Veteran's Commission Meeting: the schedule of commission meetings has been published as part of our November minutes and has been sent to the Mayors office.
- 2019 Commission Budget: Melodie Wilson is working on finalizing budget numbers. She is hoping to have estimates for the Memorial Day parade prior to the budget deadline.
- 2019 Commission Events: the commission will finalize events for 2019 at our January meeting.
- Commissioner Tsegai reported that he has talked with the library staff about having a drop off box for flags to be retired. Awet will follow through with this and will check with D'Esopo Funeral Home to ensure that they still willing to retire flags on our behalf. He will also check with the VFW to see if they will.
- Commissioner Tsegai commented that he received an email from Joshua Quintana, who had previously left the meeting, that Joshua had resigned his membership in the commission.

7. New Business:

Prior to the election, John Cook, motioned a revised Agenda format for the commission as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Amendments to agenda
3. Roll call
4. Opportunity for residents to address commission.
5. Approval of minutes
6. Communications and bills.
7. Old Business:
8. New Business:
9. Adjournment

And to submit a proposed agenda to membership no later than two weeks prior to a meeting and once members have a chance to provide feedback to submit a finalized agenda for

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publication. Awet Tsegai motioned to accept the above new format. It was seconded by Tim Siggia. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0.

8. Adjournment: Motion was made by Vincent Parys to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Timothy Siggia. The motion carried by a vote of 6/0 at 8:19 pm.

Submitted by:

Commissioner John Cook