

**Proposed Minutes for the November 19th, 2024
Pitt County Human Relations Commission**

The Pitt County Human Relations Commission met on November 19th, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Eugene James Auditorium, with Chairwoman Jessica Williams presiding.

Members Present:

LaChauncey Staton, Sheriff's Office
Mary Moye, Town of Simpson
Juan Garcia, LatinX
Carl Wilson, Town of Bethel
Andrew Shue, Faith Community
Wes Gray, Public Health
Lucas Seijo, Town of Grifton
Byung Lee, Asian-American
Mary Perkins-Williams, Board of Commissioners
Veronica Roberson, Town of Winterville
Nancy Ray, City of Greenville
Carlton Dawson, At-Large
Luther Hemby, At-Large-Faith Community

Members Absent:

Shantel Hawkins, NAACP
Sharon Rochelle, DSS
Mark Rasdorf, LGBTQ+
Toni Heffner, Town of Ayden

Staff Members Present:

Jessica Williams, Community Relations Coordinator/Chairwoman

Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Williams called meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Roll Call

Community Relations Coordinator, Jessica Williams called the roll and stated there was a quorum.

Chairwoman Williams asked for a motion to excuse Sharon Rochelle, Shantel Hawkins, Mark Rasdorf and Toni Heffner. Mr. Dawson made a motion to excuse Sharon Rochelle, Shantel Hawkins, Mark Rasdorf and Toni Heffner. Commissioner Perkins-Williams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Approval of August 20th 2024, September 17th 2024 and October 15th 2024 minutes

Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept August 20th 2024, September 17th 2024 and October 15th 2024 minutes as presented. Mr. Staton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Kerry Wiggins Directors of Boards and Commissions with NC League of Conservation Voters Foundation. She spoke about the program and the information on the upcoming Boards and Commission Fellowship which will start in February.

Report of Community Relations Coordinator

Chairwoman Williams reminded the board that the December 17th meeting will be held at the Eugene James Auditorium.

Old Business

Chairwoman Williams mentioned turning the information we received from the listening session into programming for the community and potentially partnering with the Greenville HRC. Commission members agreed to begin planning for early next year. At the December meeting tasks will be given to subcommittees.

Councilwoman Roberson mentioned NCWorks has some programming for the community and we should reach out to them and see if we can partner.

New Business

Chairwoman Williams mentioned maybe doing something for Black History Month. Commissioner Perkins-Williams suggested we partner with other community organizations on events for Black History Month.

Mr. Dawson mentioned maybe doing an event education the community on their rights. He also mentioned highlighting the Teel vs Board of Education and everyone who were apart of this history milestone.

Mr. Seijo mentioned having a Black History segment that highlights Black History of Pitt County. Mr. Lee agreed and stated the importance of educating people on history of all cultures as well. Mr. Garcia mentioned we should also highlight current Black History milestones.

Commissioner Perkins-Williams suggested the HRC highlight a different culture each month. Mr. Shue suggested this be posted on the webpage and maybe have something rotating on the County Channel. The other Commission members agreed. Chairwoman Williams stated she would send out a list of the different cultures and months. Chairwoman Williams stated she would check with PIO.

Commissioner Perkins-Williams made a motion that the HRC highlight one culture each month. Mr. Hemby seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Williams gave a presentation of Board rules and Procedures. The Commission discussed its goals for 2025 which are more community engagement, inclusiveness, and programming. A motion was made by Mr. Shue to accept the Board Rules and Procedures as presented. Seconded by Mr. Station and it carried unanimously.

The Commission agreed to table the voting of officers for the December meeting. Mr. Staton mentioned we should set the term of 2 years for committee members in the December meeting. Chairwoman Williams mentioned these changes would have to be added to the HRC By-Laws.

Committee Reports

- Executive Committee- no updates
- Youth Involvement- no updates
- Community Issues and Actions- no updates

Questions/Comments

Mr. Garcia suggested for the meeting in December we all bring light snacks to celebrate the holiday. He also mentioned next year will be tough for immigrants and foreigners in America and asked how we can bring more awareness and provide resources. Mr. Garcia stated he would reach out to Amexcan and the Mexican Consulate to see if they can come speak and maybe host an event to educate the community of these issues.

Mr. Seijo mentioned the recent election and the hard work of the Pitt County Board of Elections and suggested we send a letter of appreciation to them. A motion was made by Mr. Seijo to send a letter of appreciation to the Pitt County Board of Elections and seconded by Councilwoman Roberson and it carried unanimously.

Community Announcements

- Christs Church and Carenet will be hosting a HOPE Concert on November 22th at 7pm, address 745 Davenport Farm Road Winterville, NC 28590.
- Bethel will be hosting a sweet potato drop November 22nd at 9am Bethel Field of Dream Park. House of Refuge Church Ministries 10am. White Plain Church Ministries 11am
- Bethel will be hosting a Christmas tree lighting December 7th at 6pm at the Town Gazebo.
- Bethel Christmas Parade will be December 14th at 10am downtown
- Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church located at 510 South Washington Street in Greenville will be hosting MLK day Monday, Jan. 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m
- The year-end gathering for Koreans will take place at Winterville Peace Presbyterian Church on December 14th. Also, 100 people from this area are leaving for a visit to Korea this Friday, November 22nd
- Christmas Celebration in Winterville will be on Saturday, December 14 beginning at 12, Parade, at 2:00 PM.

Adjourn

With no additional items of business to discuss, Mr. Dawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm . Councilwoman Roberson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Williams
Jessica Williams, Community Relations Coordinator

