

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE MAYOR'S COUNCIL ON
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Minutes Subject to Approval

October 5, 2020 6:00P.M.

Room 306, City Hall, 145 Taunton Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914

6:00P.M. Open Session

Councilors: Chair DosReis, Vice Chair Caparco, Abatecola, Lange, Luttge, Pacheco, Panzarella.

I. OPEN SESSION

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting is called to order by the Chair at 6:14P.M.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. *None.*

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes August 5, 2020

a. *The motion to approve is made by Vice Chair Caparco, and seconded by Ms. Panzarella. The vote is unanimous.*

B. Veterans Tax Credit Policy

The Chair announces that this matter is still waiting, pending a report from the Tax Assessor.

C. Veterans Transportation

Mr. Pacheco points out the addition of a bus at the senior that could be used to help transport veterans to obtain goods or services. The Chair announces that SNAP benefits have been extended to include a larger stipend through December, and that people who would otherwise not qualify may now qualify. The Chair encourages everyone to let veterans know and apply for the program. The Chair also talks about the potential benefits of Meals on Wheels for veterans in need.

D. Veterans Town Hall

Dates for a veteran's town hall are discussed in in the summer. The preference is either the third weekend in May or the first weekend in June, depending on high school graduation. The Chair brings up the idea that roles need to be designated in order to get tasks accomplished. Roles discussed are designating: who will find a location, who will put together the content, who will contact the different veterans' organizations in the city to join, who will be in charge of advertising to the East Providence Reporter, and who will reach out to the Congressional delegation to be present?

V. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lange addresses a need for veterans outreach. He would like to find a way to identify veterans, or have them self-identify. The Chair brings up the need for a digital presence i.e. social media or a website. Mr. Abatecola brings up that the old Veterans Advisory Committee did have a facebook page but it may no longer be active.

The issue of whether the board can hold money or raise funds is also brought up. Mr. Furtado states that he will consult with the legal department as to whether the board has this power, however, his initial assumption is that it exceeds the mandate of the board.

The Chair brings up the idea of being stewards of the various veteran related monuments and memorials of the city and asks that a list be compiled so this project may begin.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion is made by the Chair and seconded by Ms. Panzarella. The voice vote is unanimous. The meeting is adjourned at 6:57 P.M.