

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL/LIQUOR COMMITTEE

September 12, 2023

Present: Clint Epley, Chairman, Jean Vandenberg, and Clayton Walter
Absent: David Puccetti and Miranda Langen
Others present: Bryan Sharp, Dwanna Kelmel, Mary Barry, Linda Curtin, Dr. Chad Anderson, Blake Tarr, Jim Vandenberg Jr., Ray Koonce, Lucas Domonousky, and Elizabeth Hile in attendance.

The Executive, Personnel, and Liquor Committee met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board meeting room, second floor of the Christian County Courthouse, Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to address any agenda items, any personnel issues, policies, and any other matters properly brought before the Committee. Roll call was taken and there was a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

EMA UPDATE

Jeff Stoner was unable to attend but provided a report for the committee's review.

RESIDENCY WAIVER(S)

Committee Chair Epley noted the committee had a residency waiver request from Animal Control for one (1) employee who was living in the county but recently moved to Shelby County. There was another request for two (2) new employees from the Health Department.

Regarding the request for Mr. Robert Thompson, employee from Animal Control. It was noted the individual at the time of hire and during orientation was aware of the County's residency requirement. Additionally noted was under Personnel section J of the CB Rules reviewed it states only a professional skill will qualify for petition to waive and approved by the Personnel Committee and the full County Board.

Motion by Clint Epley and second by Jean Vandenberg to recommend to the full Board to deny the residency request for Mr. Robert Thompson based on the provisions of the CB Rules under Personnel section J. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Chad Anderson highlighted the two (2) residency waiver requests for the Health Department. Ms. Mariah Zinn was recently employed as an Environmental Inspector and Mr. Bryan Delendik, Jr. as the Emergency Response Coordinator. Both individuals are currently living in Springfield and are aware of the residency requirement. Bryan Delendik relocated to this area from New Jersey and attempted to find housing in the county but was unable to do so. Mariah was already residing in Springfield. Both positions have been advertised without receipt of any qualified applicants from Christian County. Mariah and Bryan both hold high degrees for their respective fields.

Motion by Jean Vandenberg and second by Clint Epley to recommend to the full Board to waive the residency requirement for Ms. Mariah Zinn and Mr. Bryan Delendik, Jr. until January of 2025 at which time they will be reviewed again. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS – ANIMAL CONTROL

Assistant States Attorney, Mary Barry, advised that she is working on the review of amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance and should have a draft to the committee next month.

PERSONNEL AND FUTURE PLANNING

The committee discussed addressing this at a special meeting. Information is being gathered at this time.

TEXT AMENDMENT PROPOSAL(S)

Blake Tarr, Zoning Officer, highlighted two (2) text amendment proposals presented.

Blake advised that currently, our ordinance does not have a designated Battery Storage section. He has been receiving several questions and inquiries regarding battery and would like to adopt an existing ordinance to establish a baseline for Christian County. As we learn more, we will refine the ordinance as necessary. This language will be added to a new section, Appendix D.

Regarding personal solar panels, there has been some confusion with personal solar panels and what is defined as a front yard. There are several examples in the code that explain the setbacks from the road depending on the zoning district. Recommended proposals include to add language to show the front yard is considered anything between the residence and the road. This is consistent with other counties with zoning for safety, privacy, and environmental factors.

He advised the Zoning department is working through the necessary changes required for our ordinances to be in compliance with state regulations. He has been in contact with several counties and have worked their approved language into ours. As we continue to learn more, we will continue to refine these ordinances to ensure consistency and eliminate confusion. There will also be some formatting changes in the future as we are working to fix some issues within the word file. Such as, solar was not listed as a possibility for Special Use in A-1; we needed to comply with the 30 day decision requirement in the state standards and finally, we updated specific language in each ordinance.

The committee referenced amending fees to be equivalent for battery, solar and wind.

Motion by Jean Vandenburg and second by Clayton Walter to recommend to the full Board to refer to the ZBA for consideration to adopt Appendix D, Battery Energy Storage System text amendment as presented. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Clint Epley and second by Jean Vandenburg to recommend to the full Board to refer to the ZBA for consideration to adopt the wind and solar text amendments and amend the solar and battery storage presented text to standardize the fees to match wind. A roll call vote polled all ayes. Motion carried.

REFERRAL(S) ZBA

None

REFERRALS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no referrals from other committees this month.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Sharp advised that the next County Board meeting will be a large agenda and to please watch for information that will be coming to include summaries on ZBA referred ordinances and text amendments.

Motion by Jean Vandenberg and second by Clayton Walter to adjourn. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Clint Epley, Chairman
Executive/Personnel Committee
09/12/2023