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**CITY OF PHILOMATH**  
**Inclusivity Ad Hoc Committee**  
**July 7, 2020**

Mayor Eric Niemann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, members of the Committee and staff attended by videoconference. The public was also provided with log-in instructions to listen and observe the meeting electronically.

**A. WELCOME/ROLL CALL**

City Councilor members Eric Niemann, Ruth Causey and Chas Jones.  
Staff: City Manager Chris Workman and City Attorney Jim Brewer.

**B. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES**

Noted that the title of the minutes of June 25 should be corrected from “May 25’ to “June 25”.

Motion to approve minutes of June 25, 2020 and July 1, 2020 as amended by Councilor Jones, second by Councilor Causey, approved 3-0 (yes, Causey, Jones, Niemann; no, none)

**C. REVIEW OF DRAFT PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Niemann summarized the effort put forth by the Committee and members of the public over the past three weeks and spoke of the tragic deaths of four Black children that took place over the weekend, namely Natalie Wallace, Davon McNeal, Secoriea Turner, and Royta De'Marco Giles Jr. A moment of silence was observed in their memory.

Time was given to community members on the call to provide additional input or ask questions. In response to a question, Mr. Workman clarified his statement that systemic racism did not exist within the Philomath Police Department.

Mr. Workman led committee members through the remainder of the proclamation.

Resolve #5: It was agreed to remove the term “brutality”

Resolve #6: There was discussion about use of the term “black lives matter”. It was agreed that Black should be capitalized. There was discussion about what the term means to different people and the importance of including or not including the phrase. There was a vote to retain the phrase: Yes, Causey and Jones; No, Niemann.

Resolve #7: No concerns raised.

Resolve #8: Recommendation to rearrange the structure to make it easier to understand, change “citizens” to “community members”, and strengthen the statement by replacing “preventing” to “eliminating” racism within our city.

There was discussion about the final resolve and the effects of bringing the resolution back to the Council annually. Mr. Brewer noted that resolutions stay in effect until they are changed.

There was additional discussion about the definition of Black lives matter and the message it would or would not send to the community, including Black members and the police officers. It was agreed to include clarifying language that the City Council affirmed the sentiment that Black lives matter, but did not necessarily support the organization Black Lives Matter, its goals, policies or methods.

1 There was a motion to move the resolution to the City Council by Councilor Causey, second by  
2 councilor Jones, approved 3-0 (yes, Causey, Jones, Niemann; no, none).

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4 There was additional discussion about community members being able to provide additional  
5 testimony prior to or during the City Council meeting through the city recorder.

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7 **E. Adjournment**

8 Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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10 Meeting recorded by Chris Workman, City Manager