

Civil Service Commission Minutes

On April 24, 2023, the Civil Service Commission of the City of Amarillo met at 8:30 am at City Hall, 601 S Buchanan, Amarillo, TX, 79101, in the City Council Chambers for a Regular Meeting.

	Present	No. Meetings Held Since Appointment	No. of Meetings Attended
Lawrence Walker, Chairman	No	66	64
Lilia Escajeda, Vice Chair	Yes	8	7
Bill Harris	Yes	7	7

Also, in attendance were the following:

Mitchell Normand, HR Director
Bryan McWilliams, City Attorney
Brandon Ester, HR Generalist
William Lindley, HR Generalist
Stephen Price, Firefighter
Chris Gibson, Firefighter

Call to order. Vice Chair, Lilia Escajeda established a quorum and called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Civil Service commission to order at 8:55am.

ITEM 1: Lilia Escajeda opened with the public address- no comments from the public on agenda items.

ITEM 2: Consider Fire Driver examination question appeals and approve any revision to the initial eligibility roster as may be needed or caused by the decision(s) made on the matters appealed here.

Mitchell Normand explained to the Commission that the appellants will have the opportunity to review their submissions to exam question challenges and provide to the Commission their position on the questions they are challenging. Mr. Normand also informed all appellants present that their submissions are available in a binder at the podium.

Question #26, Stephen Price stepped to the podium and stated that he could not find the correct answer, he focused on the word "downhill" in the question and was confusing. Therefore Mr. Price asked that the question be thrown out.

Bill Harris asked Mr. Price if the source material used the terms downhill and uphill. Mr. Price stated that in the source material it does talk about operating in a downhill position, but in his mind, it was ingrained operating from a different position.

Question #35, Chris Gibson stepped to the podium and announced his name. Mr. Gibson stated the answer that he picked, stating that the word "maintained" triggered him to select that answer. Mr. Gibson asked that the answer also be counted as correct.

Question #40, Stephen Price stepped to the podium and announced his name. Mr. Price stated that the question referred to seat belts on trucks. Mr. Price stated what the correct answer was and stated that he was wrong in his answer. Mr. Price stated that nowhere in the material does it talk about the truck being taken out of service and that is why he answered the way he did.

Question #60, Stephen Price remained at the podium, and stated that he was not a hundred percent sure what the question was. Mr. Price stated that the answer he provided was also the correct answer and

asked that it be counted as correct also.

Question #70, Chris Gibson stepped to the podium and stated that that he doesn't have the question in front of him so he can't remember what the question was asking. Mr. Gibson stated that in the book "House Fires" it states that in the same paragraph as the answer, collapse can be a deadly hazard for firefighters. Mr. Gibson asked that the question be eliminated.

Mrs. Escajeda asked if Kendall Oliver was present. Mr. Oliver was not present at this meeting. Mr. Harris stated that Mr. Oliver's appeal will be considered by the Commission. Mr. Normand read the appeal submitted by Mr. Oliver to the Commission. In Mr. Oliver's appeal, he asked that the question be eliminated.

A firefighter that was present asked the Commission what the correct answer was to question #70. Mr. Harris read the correct answer submitted by the test maker. The firefighter asked if he could speak to this question even if he did not file an appeal. City Attorney Bryan McWilliams advised as to the proper protocol for speaking on an item to the gallery.

Question #74, Stephen Price stepped to the podium and announced his name. Mr. Price stated that upon review there is a sentence in the book that agrees with the correct answer. Mr. Price stated that the sentence is in the middle of the page. Mr. Price stated that he feels the answer he put is correct and asked that his answer also be considered correct.

Question #77, Chris Gibson stepped to the podium and stated that this question should be eliminated and gave his justification for this question being thrown out.

Question #83, Chris Gibson remained at the podium and stated that this question should be eliminated because the verbiage is off and stated that the wording created his answer.

Question #93, Chris Gibson remained at the podium and asked that this question be eliminated. Mr. Gibson stated that the question was not complete and therefore should be eliminated.

Bryan McWilliams clarified with the gallery if someone was wanting to make a comment on an item, then they could do that.

Firefighter Bailey Vincent stepped to the podium and commented on question #70. Mr. Vincent stated that any collapse is a serious threat to firefighters in his book.

At 9:28am, City Attorney, Bryan McWilliams read Executive Session 551.074 and announced the Commission will be in closed Executive Session.

At 9:50am, City Attorney, Bryan McWilliams announced that the Civil Service Commission is back in session.

Bill Harris made a motion to grant the appeal for question #70 and eliminate the question, and affirm all the other questions, #26, 35, 40, 60, 74, 77, 83 and 93.

Lilia Escajeda seconded the motion—Motion Passed.

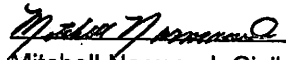
Mitchell Normand announced a brief recess to recalculate the scores and present a final eligibility register to the Commission for approval.

Lilia Escajeda read aloud the final eligibility register names in order.

ITEM 5: Approve the eligibility registers for the position of Fire Driver, exam given on March 23, 2023.

Bill Harris made a motion to approve the eligibility register as read by Vice Chair. Lilia Escajeda seconded the motion—Motion Passed.

There were no other items or discussions. Lilia Escajeda moved to adjourn at 9:55 am.



Mitchell Normand, Civil Service Director



Lawrence Walker, Chairman