

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting
4:00 P.M.

June 21, 2016

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Dorothy Hall, Vice-Chairman Patricia Pullar, Secretary Ruth Ash, Board Member Harry Osborne, Director Shauna Dozier and Clerk Allison Ruotolo.

GUEST: Reginald McClendon, Staff Attorney, and Ricky Clark, Jonesboro City Administrator.

1. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order.
2. Moment of silence observed.
3. Motion by Board Member Osborne, second by Vice-Chairman Pullar, to amend the agenda to include a new vote regarding Saturday Voting for the July 26 2016 General Primary Run-Off Election for the June 21, 2016 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
4. Motion by Vice-Chairman Pullar, second by Secretary Ash, to adopt the agenda for the June 21, 2016 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
5. Motion by Vice-Chairman Pullar, second by Secretary Ash, to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
6. Motion by Board Member Osborne, second by Secretary Ash, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2016 Special Called Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous by three board members present. Vice-Chairman Pullar abstained because she was not present at the Special Called Board Meeting.
7. Old Business: None.
8. New Business:
 - A. Director's Report.
 - B. Intergovernmental Agreement to conduct the City of Jonesboro Special Election in conjunction with the 2016 November General Election.
 - C. Recommended List of Managers and Assistant Managers for the July 26, 2016 General Primary Run-off Election.
 - D. Hearing to Remove Deceased Voters from Electors' List. (If available)
 - E. Hearing to Remove Returned Mail of Deceased Voters. (If available)
 - F. Hearing to Remove Felons from Electors' List. (If available)
 - G. Hearing to approve Saturday Voting for the July 26, 2016 General Primary Run-Off Election.
9. Director Dozier stated the Elections and Registration Office has two part-time vacancies and one full-time vacancy position to be filled by the first week of July.

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10. Director Dozier stated in the month of May poll worker surveys and debriefings began to provide feedback regarding training and their experiences from Election Day for analysis and process improvement.

11. Director Dozier stated the July Primary Run-Off is scheduled for July 26, 2016; and Logic and Accuracy testing is underway as of June 15, 2016 and will continue until testing is complete.

12. Ms. Dozier informed the Board that during election night on May 24, 2016 she observed a bottleneck in the check-in process at the Election Center. The bottleneck resulted in poll workers standing in line for hours during check-in and contributed in the delay in uploading election results.

Ms. Dozier further informed the Board that the office would be piloting a program during the July Primary Run-Off to establish a second check-in location at the Elections and Registration Office. Twenty-eight precincts would be assigned to one check-in location and twenty-nine precincts would be assigned to the second check-in location to reduce the bottleneck on election night and to better prepare for establishing a permanent second check-in location for the November General Election.

Vice-Chairman Pullar asked Director Dozier if use of two or three different rooms in the Election Center where everything is centralized instead of two different so as not to lend to confusion in terms of who is going where. Also, to contain election materials in one location. Ms. Pullar stated she thought there were enough rooms in the Election Center.

Director Dozier stated that she did look into Ms. Pullar's suggestion, but the parking and rooms are not conducive to a check-in location. Also, Ms. Dozier stated that an officer would escort election materials to the Election Center. Director Dozier explained that she has had substantial experience with satellite locations in Fulton County.

Board Member Osborne stated that he shared in some of the concern Ms. Pullar has expressed. However, he believes that the Elections Director has a very unique perspective as a result of her background and her experience with having a number of different check-in centers through her experience in Fulton County. Mr. Osborne is satisfied that Ms. Dozier has evaluated the pros and cons, come to a decision, and he supports that decision.

Chairman Hall stated she supports Ms. Dozier's decision as well.

Secretary Ash stated she supports Ms. Dozier's decision too.

Vice-Chairman Pullar recommended a walk-through before the election.

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13. Director Dozier stated that Early/Advance Voting will begin July 5, 2016. The office is in the process of preparing advance voting staff for training.

14. In regards to the November General Election, Director Dozier stated there have been two inquiries for Special Elections in conjunction with the General Election. One with the City of Jonesboro to fill the vacant City Council seat of Mr. Wallace Norrington and one with the City of College Park to add a referendum on the ballot for the General Election.

Ms. Dozier explained that Inter-Governmental Agreements have been prepared and polling precincts will be temporarily changed to coincide with the November municipal and county election. The City of College Park will present the Inter-Governmental Agreement to their Board July 18th.

15. Director Dozier stated that the qualifying period for Independent Candidates will begin June 27th and go through July 1st. It is possible the office will receive nomination petitions which are due by July 12th.

16. Director Dozier stated that the EasyVote pilot program received high reviews from voters and precinct staff. The office will move forward with purchasing the application and will fully implement EasyVote for the July 26th Run-Off and the November General Elections.

17. Vice-Chairman Pullar stated that the Inter-Governmental Agreement with Jonesboro may need to be reviewed for language to clearly establish who will conduct the city qualifying.

City of Jonesboro Administrator Ricky Clark informed Ms. Pullar of the proper language reflected in the agreement which delineates the duties of the city and county. The City of Jonesboro will conduct the qualifying for the Special Election to be held in conjunction with the November General Election.

18. Director Dozier requested an Executive Session due to personnel reasons.

19. Motion by Board Member Osborne, second by Secretary Ash, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Inter-Governmental Agreement with the City of Jonesboro to conduct a Special Election in conjunction with the November 8, 2016 General Election. Vote unanimous.

20. Motion by Board Member Osborne, second by Secretary Ash, to authorize and empower the Elections Director to communicate to the Board of Commissioners the Board of Elections and Registration's recommendations for Saturday Voting for the July 26, 2016 General Primary Run-Off and the approval of the Inter-Governmental Agreement with the City of Jonesboro. Vote unanimous.

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21. Motion by Board Member Osborne, second by Secretary Ash, to approve the recommended list of Managers and Assistant Managers for the July 26, 2016 General Primary Run-Off Election.

22. Motion by Vice-Chairperson Pullar, second by Board Member Osborne, to approve the list of felons to be removed from the electors' list by Board hearing. Vote unanimous.

23. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Chuck Ware of Clayton County, Georgia asked if a person or candidate is eligible to be placed on a Non-Partisan or Republican ticket for the November General Election and what would be the criteria. Also, are there a number of signatures to qualify or can they just be placed on the ballot and is there a Non-Partisan party.

Vice-Chairman Pullar asked if Mr. Ware was referring to Write-In candidates. Ms. Pullar asked that Director Dozier explain the process to Mr. Ware.

Director Dozier clarified if Mr. Ware was inquiring about a Write-In candidate or an Independent candidate.

Vice-Chairman Pullar stated an Independent candidate.

Director Dozier explained that Independent Candidates must submit a nomination petition signed by a number of voters equal to 5 percent of the total number of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2012 General Election. The deadline to submit the petition is July 12th. Qualifying is June 27th through July 1st.

2. Mr. Ivan Pitts expressed his concern regarding the Secretary of State's investigation into secured memory cards. Mr. Pitts stated that he had spoken with Mr. Chuck Smith of the Clayton County Information Technology Department regarding this matter. Mr. Pitts stated this has been in the news and that he believes that Ms. Dorsey should be suspended pending the investigation.

Board Member Osborne stated that he has a great deal of respect for the media but they do not determine whether the Board of Elections and Registration suspends the Elections Director.

Chairman Hall asked Mr. Pitts what his evidence was regarding the investigation.

Mr. Pitts stated that he had spoken with Mr. Chuck Smith of the Information Technology Department.

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Chairman Hall confirmed that Mr. Pitts' evidence was a conversation between himself and Mr. Chuck Smith.

24. The Board of Elections and Registration adjourned to Executive Session at approximately 4:40 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel.

25. The Board of Elections and Registration continued with the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 5:37 p.m.

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There being no further business, motion by Vice-Chairman Pullar, second by Secretary Ash to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 5:37 p.m. Vote unanimous.

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DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, CHAIRMAN

PATRICIA PULLAR, VICE-CHAIRMAN

RUTH F. ASH, SECRETARY

VACANT

HARRY A. OSBORNE, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

ALLISON R. RUOTOLO, CLERK