

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Regular Business Meeting
4:30 PM

March 10, 2020

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Wesley, Vice-Chair Foster Hall, Secretary Johnson, Treasurer Givens, Board Member Pullar, Director Dozier, Supervisor Houston, Attorney Reed, and Elections & Registration Assistant Garrett.

REGULAR BUSINESS BOARD MEETING

1. *Chair called the meeting to order.*

2. *Moment of silence observed.*

3. *Adoption of Agenda:*

Motion made by Treasurer Givens, seconded by Board member Pullar. Absent: Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

4. *Approval of February 11, 2020 Regular Business Meeting minutes.*

Motion made by Board Member Pullar, seconded by Vice-Chair Foster-Hall to approve the February 11, 2020 Regular Called Board Meeting Minutes with corrections as noted. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried.

5. *PUBLIC COMMENT:* Citizens will be given a three-minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections and Registration about various topics, issues, and concerns. Public comments will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. Following thirty minutes of hearing from the public, the Board of Elections and Registration will allow the remainder of citizens who have signed up to be heard at the next regular business meeting.

Lana Babay

Lana Babay stated: I have an issue that was brought to my attention by a friend of mine. He is Vietnamese and last Tuesday when he went to vote, he votes independent and when he turned in his card the lady told him you cannot vote independent, you got to vote democrat and he said I want to vote independent. She said, no you have to vote democrat and he took the paper, marked republican and (and he told me) that she was so mad and grabbed the paper out of my hand and he was just highly insulted because and I don't know how it came about that she thought maybe he was on welfare and therefore voted democrat and he said I want you to know I'm not and I said I know you weren't but he was high highly insensitive that he would be treated in that matter. So I just don't, I think it was just a mistake that normally does not, does not happen and I voted Friday and there weren't an issue so perhaps it was resolved and she didn't understand, it was a Tuesday and early voting had just started so I hope that that was kind of cleared up and another question that I have: When we had voting last year, one of our council members that was running for council owns property in Morrow, but does not live there and people knew this when she was running that she was living with her fiancé in Atlanta and I came over here to ask what do I do when I know that she you know, you have to, when your doing your packet have to say that you are living in the city of that you're running for council member and I never got a response so I was wondering if we could have information put out that if you think that there is a discrepancy, where can you go

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to report information like that. And one thing that I did notice may have been resolved when I came over here; we had a Vietnamese lady in the parking lot and when the Vietnamese people would come out or any oriental Asian looking person, she would walk up to them and if they were Vietnamese she would escort them into the building saying that she was their interpreter. I noticed Friday when I was voting that they had seats that if you're escorting someone into the building, you cannot go beyond this line. So I think that was resolved from last year because it was a real mess, she would walk to you know vote with these people and some of them even didn't want her she just went in there and a friend of mines told me that she said you got to vote for this person. And so it was a real issue that I came over here and reported it and I think that was resolved this time. Thank you.

Lana Banay informed the Board that she wants information put out to the public in regards to reporting candidates that falsify information about their living arrangements.

Drew Herman Andrews stated: Good afternoon, thank you for allowing me to speak. Pretty much of all of what you just said, I want to bring to the attention of this Board that one of your candidates that recently qualified is not living at the address that is listed with the Secretary of State's voter registration party as of February 18, that's 21 days ago. This address is currently vacant. I know because of how I just visited the property with the landlord and walked inside. There's no one there, and I asked the landlord how long has it been available and he said approximately 21 days. So I'm here to challenge his residence, so just like my fellow citizen here, what is the process or is that something you as a Board do on your end?

Chair Wesley asked Director Dozier to respond.

Director Dozier informed Mr. Andrews that any challenges to a residency need to be in writing stating the name of the challenger, the name of the person being challenged, and the reason for the challenge, including the date and signature on the document. Once the office receives the challenge, they will contact the challenger and the person being challenged to set up a hearing for both parties to present before the Board of Elections.

Director Dozier informed Mr. Andrews that the letter may be submitted in person, postal mail, or email.

6. Old Business:

A. Board Directives, as necessary

There were not any Board Directives to present.

B. By Laws Review

Attorney Reed presented an overview of the By-Laws draft that was presented to the Board during the February Regular meeting.

Article 7.1: Omitted: Treasurer

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Article 7.2: Revised: No officer shall serve more than __ consecutive terms. (Board direction needed)

Article 7.5: Omitted: The officer of the Board shall be a Chairman.

Revised: The person of the Board shall preside all meetings at the Board.

Article 7.7(g) Omitted: Chairman (gender specific)

Revised: Chairperson (made uniform throughout the document)

Article 9.1 Grammatical Error: 'Suite' corrected to 'suit'

Attorney Reed informed the Board that those were the changes made to the By-Laws and inquired on any questioning.

Board Member Pullar inquired on Article 7.7(b) regarding the keeping of books and financial records of the Board being kept by the Director.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that those were present in the previous by-laws and that it interprets that if the Board handles financial records, the Director would be the keeper of such records.

Secretary Johnson inquired on if the Board needs to insert language regarding financial records.

Board Member Pullar inquired on the Board adding language that establishes a policy that the Elections' Director reviews the Budget with the Board prior to submittal to the County Chief Financial Officer.

Board Member Pullar informed the Board that the policy was voted on in 2015 during the tenure of the previous Elections Director, Annie Bright.

Secretary Johnson expressed that she is in agreeance that the policy should be reestablished.

Treasurer Givens expressed that if the policy is in place, then it should not be placed in the By-Laws.

Secretary Johnson stated that the By-Laws and policy documents should be kept and passed to oncoming Board members in the future.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she was not given any policy related material upon the commencement of her tenure; however, she will conduct further research to obtain information from previous leadership.

Chair Wesley inquired on tabling the discussion until further research is conducted.

Treasurer Givens inquired on the modification of the By-Laws for modern communication for Board members' to participate via media communication.

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Attorney Reed expressed that he would revise the By-Laws to include language that allows for electronic meetings.

Board Member Pullar inquired on compensation for every meeting attended instead of only monthly compensation.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that some of the compensation policies are dictated by state law and that he would conduct further research.

Secretary Johnson inquired on the attendance policy for the Board meeting regarding the amount of allowances for missed meeting.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that the county ordinances currently states that two consecutive missed meetings are subject to removal.

Attorney Reed clarified that the language of Article 7.4 of the By-Laws states that the Board can vote to remove an officer from the Board but not remove a person from the Board.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that a person could be included in a quorum via electronic communication and inquired on if the Board wants to impose limitations on the usage of electronic communication.

Board Member Johnson expressed imposing a limit of three.

Attorney Reed informed the Board the draft will include the limit of three and further direction can be received from the Board if indifferent.

Chair Wesley tabled the By-Laws discussion until the new draft is presented.

7. New Business

A. Director's Report

Director Dozier informed the Board informed that her tardiness was due to Mandatory Directors' meeting for the county regarding the Coronavirus pandemic in which the county is working to put policies in place should the County have to make amendments to services.

Director Dozier informed the Board that all of the Advanced Voting sites have hand sanitizer and that there is currently a backlog on sanitizing supplies that are within regulation of usage on the voting equipment.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Logic & Accuracy Testing, Early & Advanced Voting, Poll Working Training and Qualifying for the Nonpartisan General Primary Election has commenced.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Advanced Voting commenced on March 2, 2020 and that as of March 10, 2020 there have been 5,108 casted ballots. A 67% voting rate has currently been

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reached in comparison to 2016 in which 8,819 ballots were casted. The overall turnout in 2016 was 35%.

Director Dozier reminded the Board that Saturday and Sunday voting would take place on the upcoming weekend, March 14-15, 2020 and that the hours of the last week of voting will be extended until 7:00PM.

Director Dozier informed the Board that all legacy equipment was picked up by February 20, 2020, however due to the delay of pickup the start of Logic & Accuracy Testing was delayed because there was not enough space to conduct testing in the bunker. The State Elections Office was notified of this situation and scheduled pickups at random over a course of weeks.

Director Dozier gave accolades to Board Member Pullar for assistance with contacting the Secretary of State to have pick-ups expedited.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Poll Worker training commenced January 28, 2020 and is scheduled to be completed by March 19, 2020.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of March 1, there are 196,091 (182,308 Active; 13,783 Inactive) voters in Clayton County.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Voter Registration deadline for the Presidential Preference Primary Election was on February 24, 2020 and that all applications have been processed.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration, Democratic Party and the Republican Party conducted qualifying for the 2020 May Primary, March 2, 2020 – March 6, 2020. The Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration collected \$39,860.73 in qualifying fees.

Board Member Pullar informed the Board that there will be an adjustment from the Democratic Party due to disqualification.

Director Dozier provided to the Board a copy of the list of Clayton County Qualified Candidates.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has been making great strides to conduct voting machine demonstrations throughout the county as reflected in the Director's Monthly Operations Report.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she was invited by Board Member Givens to the Perry Learning Center for their Black History Program in which Voter Registration Education and the 15th Amendment speech was presented in honor of the 115th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment.

Director Dozier informed the Board that scheduled upcoming events have been placed on the Clayton Elections website's calendar for the public to view.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that April is High School Registration Month. Deputy Registrar training was conducted on February 27, 2020 for Clayton County Public Schools and Clayton State University.

Director Dozier informed the Board that teen voter education will be presented at a Teen Forum on September 12, 2020 hosted by Commissioner Gregory.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she has been in contact with Regina Wallace to arrange for each Clayton County High School to come and receive voter education as well as cast a vote independently if eligible. They will also be provided an opportunity to complete poll worker applications to serve as a poll worker on Election Day.

Board Member Pullar inquired on training for Advanced Voting staff (referring to public comment) in reference to understanding the party preference upon the administering of a ballot.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the staff received extensive training in regards to asking the voter the party preference upon issuing a ballot.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would like to have a follow up phone exchange with the voter to follow up with the proper staff member to provide proper information.

Board Member Pullar inquired with Director Dozier on the confidence that she has that all staff has received proper training.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she is confident that proper training and understanding is provided to the staff.

Director Dozier informed the Board that on February 21, 2020, The Georgia Elections Day at The Capitol was held in which Director Dozier was able to observe a resolution from the Senate's Chamber.

Director Dozier informed the Board that 90% of the Clayton County Delegation was present and came to greet Director Dozier.

Director Dozier informed the Board that an Elections' Force Task has been created to assist with any precincts on Election Day. The task force will consist of eleven Clayton County Information Technology Specialist.

B. Board Member Appointment to the Vote Review Panelist – Presidential Preference Primary to be held March 24, 2020

Motion made by Board Member Pullar to appoint Darlene Johnson to the Vote Review Panel as the Board Designee for the Presidential Preference Primary Election to be held March 24, 2020. Seconded by Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Poll Managers and Assistant Managers-Presidential Preference Primary to be held on March 24, 2020

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Board Member Pullar requested that office review the Polling Staff for the Forest Park 6 polling location.

Board Member Pullar informed the Board that she is not certain that the Poll Manager, Carolyn Franklin is ready to be a manager because she understands that she was terminated from the Forest Park City Council Election due to illiteracy of the job qualifications.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would research Board Member Pullar's Polling Official inquiry as stated regarding the Manager of the Forest Park 6 polling location.

Motion made by Secretary Johnson to approve and accept the list of Managers and Assistant Managers with noted vacancies for the March Presidential Preference Primary Election to be held on March 24, 2020. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.

D. Certification Date- Presidential Preference Primary to be held on March 24, 2020.

The Board discussed and agreed to hold the certification of the Presidential Preference Primary Election on March 27, 2020.

Motion made by Board Member Pullar to certify the Presidential Primary Election on March 7, 2020 at 5:30PM. Motion rescinded. Motion not carried.

G. Hearing to remove felon's from elector's list.

There were no felons present for hearing.

H. Hearing to remove deceased from elector's list.

Motion made by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Treasurer Givens, to remove 44 deceased voters with the exception of voter No. 6 from the electors' list. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.

8. Executive session:

Motion made by Treasurer Givens to enter into Executive Session for discussing personnel. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. The Board of Elections began the Executive Session at 5:55 P.M.

Motion made by Treasurer Givens to adjourn Executive Session, Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Foster Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion carried. The Board of Elections ended the Executive Session at 6:24 P.M.

9. Adjourn.

Motion made by Board Member Pullar to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 6:25 P.M. Motion seconded by Secretary Johnson. Vote Unanimous. Motion passed.

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CAROL WESLEY, CHAIR

DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, VICE-CHAIR

DARLENE JOHSON, SECRETARY

DIANE GIVENS, TREASURER

PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

BRIANNA GARRETT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT