

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Special Called Board Meeting

March 09, 2024

1:00 P M

*APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES*

PRESENT: Chair Walker, Vice-Chair Hope, Secretary Johnson, Board Member Wesley, Board Member Foster Hall, Director Dozier, Deputy Director Brown, Attorney Reed, and Administrative Assistant Taylor.

1. Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
2. Moment of Silence observed.
3. Adoption of Agenda.

**Motion made by Board Member Hope, seconded by Board Member Wesley to adopt the Agenda for the Special Called Meeting on March 9, 2024, as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

4. Public Comment: Citizens will be given a three (3) minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Elections and Registration about various topics, issues, and concerns. Public comment 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 the citizens who have signed up to be heard at the next regular business meeting.

**There were seven (7) public comments.**

**1. Orlando Gooden-** Two (2) issues that he needs the Board to address. First(1<sup>st</sup>), he sent out several letters to several entities. One was Darlene responded. It had to do with The Affidavit of Candidacy and falsification. What he stated on there was that Commissioner Franklin actually lied on her application. She owed two (2) liens at the time that she filled out the application and said she didn't. He has not gotten a response other than Darlene's response. But it says specifically on the application, under the criminal penalty of the law. It seems that Tasha Mosely has not addressed it, the Solicitor General has not addressed it and this Board has not addressed it. And that was a falsification for March 2020 when she lied on the application and nothing was done. The other one is, Tashe Mosely, it seems like...Allen ...sorry...who is Mosely? Tashe Allen...I just left another meeting, so OK. It seems that her residence, her principle residence is in District 1, not District 3, that she is running for. And it shows that it doesn't have the right name on it but she is running for Commissioner District 3. Now, my question is, when people filled out these applications is there any verification, does anybody proof it to valid to make sure the information on there is valid or can the person be disqualified if they falsified the affidavit? Do you need a copy of this? I'm sorry. Are you aware of it? It's like the Board of Education, you can speak but nobody responds. Is this what we are doing here today? I want to bring it to your attention today to get a response. If I want to give a speech, I can talk to myself. Ok. Thank you.

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**2. Theresa Talley** – I have a couple of concerns. The first one is.

Yesterday, when I went to vote, I honestly didn't know if I was going in to vote. They post, the county post, if they are having a party, when they are having an Easter Function, when they are having a raffle, but when you need to post about an election, we got to do better. A lot of resident did not vote early voting because they didn't know what they were voting for, because I'm one of them. When I went in, I was in and out. No one voted and we were voting for the Presidency. So, that's a lack of communication. And it's been like this for a while.

The second thing – There are so many candidates that want to be, I'm in District 3, a lot of people want to be District 3 Commissioner. My main concern too is, whoever this Juong person is, I don't know. I don't know anything about this person. But he has some big signs out. He has a criminal background. I don't care if it is a felon, misdemeanor, it's criminal. He shouldn't even be running. So, what is the qualification, what because it happened ten (10) years ago or fifteen (15) years ago or because he wasn't convicted. Criminal is a criminal. We don't want him even running for office. And then, Allen. Her name is not Allen, her name is Tashe Talley, out of District 1. How is she able to run for District 3? She paying homestead taxes in District 1. You got to do better. If these individuals are found liable, we want them disqualified asap and we want their signs removed asap. We don't want you all to think about it or nothing. You all need to do ya'll job and find out what is going on with Juong and Allen/Talley, whichever name it is. Thank You.

**3. Gwen Gooden** – My concern is the same thing. How can someone run in District 3 living in District 1? We want those signs and removed from the ballot and all those signs taken off the streets. Thank you.

**4. Timothy Vondell Jefferson** – Yes Ma'me, Good afternoon Board. I want to get a little more clarity on Section 4309. In reference to the Special Election, whence a candidate qualifies for a seat other than the one they hold, they are supposed to resign. So, hopefully we get some clarification on that this morning. I assume. But, I'm like Mr. Gooden now, I guess we have to wait until you all have your meeting. I assume. Is that the process? Miss William is that the process? The agenda does not state what you guys are going to discuss. So, I don't know if I'm premature in regarding that question? Or have to wait until you all do ya'll deliberation. Is that what the process is? On the agenda you have one (1) issue. That's the Special Election for District 1. There's nothing on here regarding the candidate qualifying for another position has to resign. That's not on the agenda, that's why I'm asking the question. Thank you.

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**5. Eddie Gordon-** I'm going to actually pass on my question.

**6. Brenda Harrison** – Good afternoon, Board and Citizens. I had a question, but since it will be on the agenda, I hope that it will be discussed. What is the timeline for the Special Election and for qualifying in District 1? So, I'm hoping that will be addressed since it is an agenda item. Thank you.

**7. Drew Andrews** – Good Afternoon, Board and community. I'm here also for point of clarification. We are kind of confused in the community. We are hearing that there are three (3) members of our Board of Commissioners who possibly should be resigning, and we need to get clarification on that first. If it's all three (3) or if it's one (1)? We need clarification on that. And if they must resign, if they already qualified, should they had resigned already or is that a resignation coming forthwith? And will it be public, so we all would know. Would it be public acknowledgment or resignation? And doing a little research, we see that even your Board Chair, Madame Chair is running for District 1. And so, would your Board Chair have to resign from this position to run? Or is that permissible? It's just that we don't know, and all we want is some clarification. Thank you.

**8. Alaina Reaves** – No, I didn't sign up for public comments.

**5. New Business:**

**A. Call for Special Election: County Commission, District 1.**

Director Dozier informed the Board that she requested a Special Board Meeting because on March 7, 2024, we had an Election Official qualify for a different office; as a result, according to the Constitution, this seat is now vacated in County Commission District 1.

Director Dozier informed the Board that a recommendation has been made for the Board to Call a Special Election to fill that seat for the unexpired term, which is in 2026.

Director Dozier informed the Board that upon calling the Special Election, it would be held on May 21, 2024.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the qualifying dates are Wednesday, March 27, 2024, through Friday, March 29, 2024.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that the qualifying times would be Wednesday, March 27, 2024, through Thursday, March 28, 2024, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Friday, March 29, 2024, 9:00 AM to Noon.

Director Dozier informed the Board that qualifying would be held at the Clayton County Elections and Registration Office.

Director Dozier informed the Board the Voter Registration deadline would be April 22, 2024 for the Special Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board should there be a Runoff it would be June 18, 2024.

**A motion was made by Secretary Johnson, seconded by Board Member Foster Hall, to accept the recommendation to have the Special Call Election for the County Commission District 1 seat to be held on May 21, 2024, with qualifying dates of Wednesday, March 27, 2024, through Thursday, March 28, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday, March 29, 9:00 AM to Noon. Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried**

Director Dozier informed the Board that the first day of the Call would be when it is published in the legal organ, which would be March 20, 2024.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Board of Commissioners will set the qualifying fees on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Chair Walker asked Attorney Reed to address some concerns or questions asked.

Attorney Reed addressed: Will there be any other vacant seats because of qualifying?

The Constitution says that when a person qualifies for a seat that begins more than thirty (30) days after the termination of the current seat, that seat becomes vacant immediately upon qualifying. There are no other people on the Board who are running or qualify for seats that begin thirty (30) days after their current seat ends.

Chairman Turner's term ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. If he wins the Election for Sheriff, his term will begin on January 1st, 2025.

Commissioner Franklin's term ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. If she wins the Chair seat, her term will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

This is why their seats don't become vacant because they serve out the rest of their term.

Commissioner Anderson's seat ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Because she qualified, her seat became vacant then. The Board did not set qualifying fees until she qualified. When Commissioner Anderson qualified, everything started going in motion. As of Thursday, March 7, 2024, that seat became empty.

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Chair Walker asked Attorney Reed to address Challenging a Candidate.

Attorney Reed addressed Challenging a Candidate.

For any candidate that has qualified, State Law provides the process to challenge their qualifications. Attorney Reed stated that he could not tell them the process or the details of challenging. Attorney Reed further stated that you would have to look at the State Law and follow the process of challenging anyone's qualification.

6. Executive Session: to consider personnel and /or litigation as necessary.

**No Executive Session**

7. Adjourn

**Motion made by Board Member Foster Hall, seconded by Vice-Chair Hope to adjourn the Special Called Board Meeting at 1:31 PM. Vote Unanimous Motion: Carried**

**NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD MARCH 15, 2024**