

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Givens, Treasurer Wesley, Secretary Foster Hall, Attorney Reed, Director Dozier, and Office Aide Fayshawne Walker

REGULAR CALLED BOARD MEETING

1. Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Moment of silence observed.

3. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion made by Secretary Foster Hall seconded by Treasurer Wesley to adopt the agenda for the Virtual Regular Called Board Meeting on October 12, 2021 as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Board Member Pullar (absent).

4. Approval of Board Minutes for September 14, 2021 Regular Business Meeting.

Motion made by Secretary Foster Hall seconded by Vice Chair Givens to approve the minutes from the Virtual Regular Called Board Meeting on September 14, 2021 with noted corrections. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Board Member Pullar (absent).

5. Approval of Board Minutes for September 24, 2021 Special Called Business Meeting.

Motion made by Treasurer Wesley seconded by Secretary Foster Hall to approve the minutes from the Virtual Special Called Board Meeting on September 24, 2021. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Board Member Pullar (absent).

6. Public Comment(s)

There were no public comments.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

A. Director's Report & 2021 Election Update.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has been working on items associated with the Primaries from 2020, the November General from 2020, as well as, January 25th 2020 Elections.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is still working on processing voter registration applications, confirmation notices, preparing for the Special Runoff Election, as well as the November General Elections.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as a result of the September 21st Special for County Commission District 1 election, because no candidate received fifty-percent plus one this yields a runoff election on October 19, 2021.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Director Dozier informed the Board that Early Voting for the September 21st County Commission District 1 Runoff Election started today Tuesday, October 12, 2021 and ends on Friday, October 15th 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is in the process of running the Special Election Runoff and the Municipal General Runoff Election for the City of Morrow at the same time.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is contracted to conduct the municipality elections for the City of Morrow and the City of Lake City. All other municipalities are conducting their own elections.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the City of Lake City canceled their election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Early Voting for the City of Morrow's General Election started today Tuesday, October 12, 2021 and will run until Friday, October 29, 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that because the office is running two (2) elections at the same time, there are unique circumstances to consider.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is conducting Early Voting for the Special Election Runoff at the same four (4) locations used in September: Carl Rhodenier Recreation Center, Forest Park Senior Center, Elections and Registration Office, and Morrow City Hall.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is also running Advanced Voting for the City of Morrow General Election at the Morrow City Hall and the Elections and Registration Office.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the unique circumstances are that the office is running both the Morrow General Election and the Special Election Runoff at two (2) Advanced Voting Locations: Morrow City Hall and the Elections and Registration Office while the other two (2) locations, Carl Rhodenier and Forest Park Senior Center are running Advanced Voting for the Special Election Runoff only.

Director Dozier informed the Board that at the last minute the office was made aware that the City of Forest Park decided to use the Forest Park Senior Center to conduct Early Voting for their Municipal Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she contacted the City of Forest Park to remind them that the office would be using the Forest Park Senior Center for Early Voting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she decided to work something out with the City of Forest Park so that the location would be shared with the office for the four (4) days of Advanced Voting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Logic and Accuracy Testing started on Monday, October 4, 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office is conducting a Poll Worker Training Class on Friday, October 14, 2021, this is not included in the Director's Report.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Director Dozier informed the Board that the November General Election for the City of Morrow will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that once Early Voting for the Special Election Runoff ends on Friday, October 15th, 2021 Election Day is Tuesday, October 19th, 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that there was a petition to recall Secretary Raffensperger which requested that the office verify if there were any signers from Clayton County on the petition.

Director Dozier informed the Board that upon reviewing the petition there were no signers in Clayton County on the petition.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office reported to the Secretary of State that there were no petition signers from Clayton County to verify on behalf of the office.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office attended Redistricting Districting Training on Friday, October 1st, 2021 with the Secretary of States' Office.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the training provided insight to what will be happening over the next couple of months.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office was told that Governor Kemp has requested that Session starts on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 to start discussing the redistricting proposals

Director Dozier informed the Board that it is her understanding that the Special Session will go for at least 3 weeks.

Director Dozier informed the Board that at that time the office will know which lines are impacted in Clayton County.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the responsibility of the office is to align the approved lines with the county's polling locations.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office does not have any jurisdiction nor does the office make any determinations pertaining to redistricting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office applies and implements what is approved by the State Legislatures.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of October 10, 2021 the office has 204,293 Registered Voter of which 183,305 are Active Voters and 20,988 are Inactive Voters.

Director Dozier informed the Board that National Voter Registration Day was on September 28, 2021 while the office was hosting Advanced Voting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Elections Technician Mr. Brown along with Elections Assistant Mr. Lovelace conducted voter registration at the Flint River Community Center Job Fair

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

on Thursday, September 28, 2021 in honor of National Voter Registration Day, where roughly 30 poll workers were recruited.

Chair Johnson congratulated Director Dozier, Technician Scott and his team for a job well done.

Chair Johnson inquired about the impact Senate Bill 202 may have on the changing of polling locations due to redistricting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the process of redistricting pertains to the changing of possible districts not polling locations.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office will align polling locations with the districts.

Treasurer Wesley and Secretary Foster Hall complimented Director Dozier and the staff for their work ethic and commitment.

B. Request for Special Called Board Meeting for Special Runoff to be held October 19, 2021.

Director Dozier informed the Board that it is her recommendation to have the Special Called Board Meeting for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 on Friday, October 22, 2021.

Motion made by Vice Chair Givens seconded by Secretary Foster Hall to have a Special Called Board Meeting on Friday, October 22, 2021 at 5:30pm to certify the election results from the October 19, 2021 Special Election Runoff for County Commission District 1. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Board Member Pullar (absent).

C. Request to change Polling Location: City of Jonesboro 2021 November General Election

Director Dozier informed the Board that on October 1, 2021, the office received a request from the City of Jonesboro to change their polling location from the City of Jonesboro Police Precinct located at 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Ga 30236 to Lee Street Elementary School located at 178 Lee Street, Jonesboro, Ga 30236 for the 2021 November General Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro advertised this change on August 18, 2021 and August 25, 2021 in the legal organ.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the city council board meeting to approve this request for a polling place change was held on September 13, 2021.

Director Dozier inquired to Attorney Reed about the City of Jonesboro having met the requirements to approve a polling place change based off of the required timeline.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Attorney Reed informed the Board that O.C.G.A. Code § 21-2-265(f) gives a timeline of 60 days to change the polling location for a general primary, general election, special primary, special election, or runoff.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that this same O.C.G.A. Code states that if there is an emergency or some event that is held that renders the polling location unavailable during that 60-day period, then the polling place can be moved at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that Ricky Clark, City Manager for the City of Jonesboro and Ms. Danielle, Council for the City of Jonesboro are present as attendees to speak on behalf of the City of Jonesboro to determine if the 60-day guideline was met or if the polling location is not available to be used.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that he did not learn about tonight's meeting until about 15 minutes ago, therefore wishes he were more prepared and apologizes in advance if he may sound redundant.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that legal representation Ms. Danielle from Venture Capital is present.

City Manager Clark informed the Board of his appreciation for all that the Board of Elections does to ensure the integrity of elections county wide.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that he understands the importance of the county's roll in elections within the county and within the cities as the county still serves as the Deputy Registrar.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that in 2019 there was a big push, which made national news, with individuals expressing a concern about the City of Jonesboro trying to cause voter suppression by moving its polling location from the Jonesboro Fire Station located at 103 West Mill Street to the Jonesboro Police Department located at 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Ga 30236.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro currently has a new City Center on the way, however at the time of this particular election back in 2019, the fire station was under construction forcing the polling location to be moved.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro had hoped to have its new City Center erected by now, however the COVID-19 Pandemic has hindered that.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that in July of 2021, he had a discussion with Director Dozier where she inquired about changing the polling location and the two discussed several options.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

City Manager Clark informed the Board that as a result of the discussion between him and Director Dozier, the City of Jonesboro continued to seek to find other options for a polling place within the municipality for the election.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro was notified of an increasing black mold issue at the Jonesboro Police Department while trying to find other polling place locations. This report was sent via email to Director Dozier.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the mold remediation cost the City of Jonesboro between \$18,000 to \$20,000 which served as short-gap-fix measure because the City of Jonesboro did not want to invest the dollars to take down all of the walls in the evidence room.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the mold problem occurred due to water seeping inside a crevice along the exterior of the building.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro had to reduce its court calendar drastically based on the increasing number the city was experiencing related to the Pandemic.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro could not cancel court for an upcoming election and is not able to keep up with the place nor properly sanitize the building.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro does not want its residences to be exposed to conditions that make it challenging to track individuals entering and exiting the location.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro made the executive decision that its in the best interest of the city to move to a larger facility as to help control the inflow on Election Day and properly prepare the facility for use; hence the change in location.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that state law requires that publications of a change in a polling place location be ran for 2 (two) meetings in a legal organ.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the council for the City of Jonesboro meets twice a month with the first Monday being a work session and second meeting is a regular meeting in which all actions are ratified.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the Board for the City of Jonesboro discussed another location to possibly hold the election until the City Center was completed in time for the 2023 election.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the Board for the City of Jonesboro concluded that Lee Street Elementary, which already serves as a Clayton County Voting Precinct, would be the best location as it would cause the least amount of impact to voters in that district combo.

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

City Manager Clark informed the Board that state law provides that in order to effectuate a polling place change there must be a period of 60 days.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that O.C.G.A. Code § 21-2-265(f) states that the Superintendent has the authority to approve a polling place location change if there is an emergency situation causing said polling location to be unavailable, hence the change to Lee Street Elementary.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the Board for the City of Jonesboro will come to the Board of Elections much earlier next year to present a more permanent polling place location which will be the new Jonesboro City Center set for completion in June 2023.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that he had not seen the packet of information that was submitted however, it should include the electronic tear sheets showing where both publications ran, as well as, the Citation of Authority by way of an ordinance that the Jonesboro City Council adopted on September 13, 2021.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro has already begun to work on updating voter precinct cards to reflect this polling place change in an effort to cause the least amount of confusion to Jonesboro residence.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that as a precursor, the City of Jonesboro has already published in its newsletter a statement informing residence that the city is seeking to change its polling location. This newsletter goes out to every household and business inside the Jonesboro city limits.

City Manager Clark informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro ask for the Board's kind consideration and approval of this most needed polling place change.

Ms. Danielle Council for the City of Jonesboro informed the Board that the City of Jonesboro realizes that this request is outside of the 60-day limit and is requesting that the Superintendent approve this polling location change request due to the mold existing at the Jonesboro Police Station.

City Council Danielle informed the Board that in September COVID-19 numbers were at an all time high and Lee Street Elementary School provides sufficient space for social distancing to protect both voters and poll workers.

Motion made by Vice Chair Givens seconded by Secretary Foster Hall to approve the request for the City of Jonesboro to move the polling location from the Jonesboro Police Department at 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Ga 30236 to Lee Street Elementary School located at 178 Lee Street, Jonesboro, Ga 30236 as a result of the existing mold in the Jonesboro Police

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

Department and Public Health concerns. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Board Member Pullar (absent).

D. Hearing to remove felons from elector's list (as necessary).

There were no felons.

E. Removal of deceased from elector's list.

Tabled for the next Board Meeting.

9. Executive Session: To consider personnel and/or litigation, as necessary.

There was no Executive Session

10. Adjourn.

Motion made by Treasurer Wesley seconded by Secretary Foster Hall to adjourn the Virtual Regular Called Board Meeting at 5:11 P.M. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried. Board Member Pullar (absent).

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

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CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

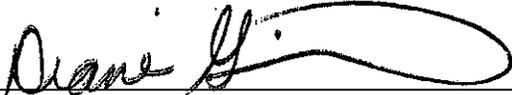
Virtual Regular Business Meeting
Zoom Communication

October 12, 2021
4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION


DARLENE JOHNSON, CHAIR

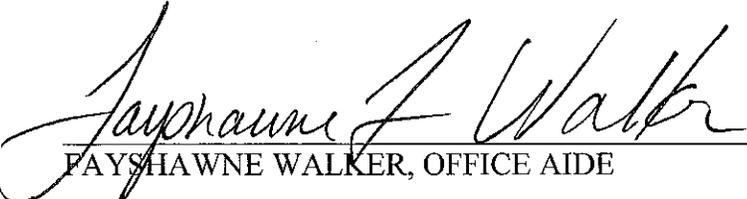

DIANE GIVENS, VICE-CHAIR


DOROTHY FOSTER-HALL, SECRETARY


PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER


CAROL WESLEY, TREASURER

ATTEST:


FAYSHAWNE WALKER, OFFICE AIDE