

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

Regular Business Meeting

June 13, 2023

4:30 PM

APPROVED POST SUMMARY MINUTES

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

REGULAR CALLED BOARD MEETING

1. *Chair called the meeting to order.*

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 Regular Business Meeting on June 13, 2023 as printed. Vote 4-0. Motion Carried. Absent: Vice-Chair Johnson.

4. Approval of Board Minutes for May 9, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion made by Secretary Walker; seconded by Board Member Hope to approve the Minutes for May 9, 2023 Regular Business Meeting. Vote 4-0. Motion Carried. Absent: ViceChair Johnson.

Public Comment(s)

There were no public comments.

6. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

7. New Business:

A. Director's Report & 2023 Election Updates.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of June 1, 2023, there are 211,253 (184,936 Active: 26,317 Inactive) Voters

Director Dozier informed the Board of Elections Dates for the 2023 Calendar Year. Clayton County's Election(s) are not scheduled until November 7, 2023 and if possible a Runoff Date of December 5, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board of the scheduled elections dates from the Secretary of State for the 2024 Election Calendar. The Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) is March 12, 2024 and the General Primary is scheduled for May 21, 2024.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that she reached out to each Municipality to inquire if they were undergoing any redistricting. She is awaiting responses.

Director Dozier informed the Board of the Annual Municipal Roundtable Discussion that is scheduled for June 21, 2023, 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Discussions during the Roundtable are Certifications to conduct their Elections, equipment usage, deputized for Voter Registration, responsibilities for conducting their own elections as well as responsibilities if not conducting their elections, election cost and any other questions or concerns that the Municipalities may have for the upcoming Elections Year.

Director Dozier informed the Board of the Elections Office Voter Education/Outreach & Deputy Registrar Activities. Several Outreach activities were scheduled for the past month and more for the upcoming months. The Voter Registration Education Outreach has been very successful and she is very proud.

Director Dozier informed the Board about the request to the Finance Department concerning support for salary increases and new equipment.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she is awaiting approval of the budget concerning the amount for new equipment and increases for poll workers.

B. Legislative Update

Attorney Reed provided context to the Board concerning **HB 572 -Penalties for Failure to Transmit Local Disclosure Reports.** **Effective July 1, 2023.** The State Ethics Commission may impose fines on Election Superintendent that fail to transmit candidates campaign disclosures reports that are filed within 30 days after the filing grace period. The same is for Municipal officials who fail to file disclosure reports for municipal candidates. The name of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission has changed back to the State Ethics Commission.

Attorney Reed further provided information to the Board concerning HB 572 civil penalties that would occur if the 30 days grace period was violated. The first occurrence is \$1,000, second is \$10,000 and the third occurrence is \$25,000. These penalties would be paid by the Board of Elections and Registration as a body through the County.

Attorney Reed provided context to the Board concerning **SB 129- Time Off for Voting and Other Elections Changes.** **Effective July 1, 2023.** Employers must allow employees at least two hours of leave to vote on election day and advance in-person voting days. The legislation makes it eligible for other county members to serve on election board panels that are members of other county boards of elections/boards of elections and registration. Absentee ballot applications sent

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to voters by third-party organizations will require specific wording and identification of the organization. Local election superintendents will now have until 11:59pm (currently 10:00pm) on election night to transmit to the Secretary of State and post the total numbers of ballots cast and absentee ballots received. Local election superintendents will be required to select one (1) race for an RLA (Risk-Limiting Audit) in any election that contains a state or federal race.

Attorney Reed stated he would provide further information to the Board on SB 129 concerning other county members and how many could serve on a review panel.

Attorney Reed provided context to the Board concerning **SB 222- Prohibition on Third-Party Elections Funding**. Effective upon Governor's approval. No county, municipality, election official, or government employee may solicit or accept any contribution, donation, service, or thing of value from any person for conducting and election or election duties. Also, authorizes the creation of an Executive Director for the State elections Board.

Attorney Reed provided context to the Board concerning **HB 475- Errors in the Law**. Corrections will be made to any typing or punctuation errors.

Attorney Reed provided context to the Board concerning **HB 254 – Changes Concerning Notice Requirements**. If a notice is sent to a legal organ and not posted timely it gives an alternative method to publish it on the county website. If the legal organ posts the change within a certain time it is deemed as being posted and covers any untimely errors.

Attorney Reed provided context to the Board concerning Bills that were introduced but did not pass however, could be brought back up next year.

HB 17 -Security of Elections relating to drop boxes, paper, change of custody for ballots. However, it did pass the House. SB 124 – County Government Authority concerning counties setting their own redistricting. Only the State can set redistrict. SB 138-Office of the Sheriff would change if there was six (6) month left in term and a special election was called. This bill would create a succession plan if a vacancy then the Chief Deputy would become Sheriff. If no Chief Deputy then the Superior Court Judge would make the appointment for Sheriff. This would overrule any local law that states anything different. This new ruling, if passed, would only occur if the vacancy is permanent.

C. Recommendation for Intergovernmental Agreement to Conduct the Municipal Election for the City of College Park.

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Motion made by Vice-Chair Johnson; seconded by Secretary Walker to approve the recommendation for an Intergovernmental Agreement to Conduct the Municipal Election for the City of College Park. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

D. Recommendation for Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Forest Park for the usage of Voting Equipment.

Motion made by Secretary Walker; seconded by Vice-Chair Johnson to approve the recommendation for the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Forest Park for the usage of Voting Equipment. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

E. Recommendation for Intergovernmental Agreement to Conduct the Municipal Election for the City of Jonesboro.

Motion made by Secretary Walker; seconded by Vice-Chair Johnson to approve the recommendation for the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Jonesboro to Conduct the Municipal Election. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Secretary Walker; seconded by Vice-Chair Johnson to authorize the Director to go to the July 2023 City of Jonesboro Meeting to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement to Conduct the Municipal Election. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

F. Hearing to Remove Felons from the Elector's List (if necessary)

There were no Felons.

G. Removal of Deceased from Elector's List (if necessary)

Motion made by Board Member Wesley; seconded by Board Member Hope to remove the 132 names listed as deceased voters from the Clayton County Elections and Registration Elector's List for June 2023, as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

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

Motion made by Chair Foster Hall; seconded by Secretary Walker to go into Executive Session to consider personnel at 5:18 PM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Board Member Wesley; seconded by Board Member Hope to accept the Five (5) Standards of Conduct for Vice-Chair Johnson as it relates to her directives from the

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Board of Registration and Elections on how Vice-Chair Johnson shall interact with Director Dozier.

1). Vice-Chair Johnson may only come to the Election Headquarters, Bunker, or other related election locations by email invitation only from Director Dozier or someone she designates to reach out for the invitation. The Invitation should include the entire Board and specifically outline the reason and duties during the invitation.

2) No oral communication or text messages between Vice-Chair Johnson and Director Dozier outside of Regular or Special Called Board Meetings.

3). The Board directs Attorney Reed to write a letter to be sent under the Chair's signature to the Clayton County Human Resources Department removing the June 2023 negative evaluation done by Vice-Chair Johnson from Director Dozier 's Performance Evaluation and to seek advice from Human Resources on how the Performance Evaluation would be done for the reporting period.

4) The Chair will periodically check with Director Dozier and staff to ensure the guidelines are being followed. Staff should report any infractions to the Director, who will pass the information, with appropriate support, to the Chair.

5) If any of these guidelines are broken; the Board would seek a hearing to remove the ViceChair.

Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

9. Adjourn.

Motion made by Board Member Wesley; seconded by Board Member Hope to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at 6:18 PM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

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DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, CHAIR

DARLENE JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR

ARVIS WALKER, SECRETARY

CAROL WESLEY, BOARD MEMBER

DANNY HOPE, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

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TAYLOR, REGISTRAR

AUNTAVEE