

MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
2525 PIO NONO AVE., STE 1200 MACON, GA 31206
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Board Members Present: Dr. Henry Ficklin, Mr. Mike Kaplan, Mr. Herbert Spangler and Ms. Cassandra Powell (Mrs. Rinda Wilson was absent)

Staff Present: Mrs. Veronica Seals, Chief Registrar, Ms. Charlene Maynard, Administrative Assistant and Mr. Thomas Gillon, Elections Officer (Mrs. Jeanetta Watson was absent due to the Student Ambassador Kickoff meeting being held today)

Board of Elections' Attorney: Mr. William Noland

Visitors Present: Charisse Spangler, Claudia Kirkwood, LWV, Maria Bryant, NAACP, Peter F. Taylor, Jr., CGFT & LC and National Voter Registration Day Sponsor, Nick James, USPS, Elaine M. Johnson, Peanut Gallery

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Henry Ficklin, Chairperson, called the regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Spangler made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2019 regular Board Meeting. Ms. Powell seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mr. Kaplan agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Update – Postmaster Committee

Mr. Nick James, Interim Postmaster for the Macon Post Office stated Mrs. Watson invited him to come to speak with the Board concerning more efficient process and delivery of absentee ballots. He is aware of this concern and is working with all postal teams to implement training on how absentee ballots are to be processed and make new mail carriers aware of absentee ballots and their importance. Mr. James further stated he will check whether they can keep count of the number of absentee ballots processed and report back to the Board when information is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A) After the Board reviewed the minutes from the June 26, 2014 Board meeting at which time, the Board did not approve for minutes to be posted on the election's website. After discussion, Mr. Kaplan made a motion to approval posting the Board of Elections meeting minutes on the election's website starting with minutes from June 2019. Mr. Spangler seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
- B) Mr. Kaplan made a motion to reschedule the October meeting for Thursday, October 10, 2019 for approval to move polling locations. Ms. Powell seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mr. Spangler agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- A) Correspondence
- a. Meeting minutes from June 26, 2014
 - b. 2019 National Voter Registration Day information flyer
 - c. Sample Ballot for the November 5, 2019 (E-SPLOST)
- B) Items from the Chief Registrar – Veronica Seals
- Mrs. Seals provided the Board with the following updates concerning voter registration totals as of 9/18/19.
- a. Active 105,213 Inactive – 7,450 Combined Total – 112,663
 - b. ElectionNet Voter Registration Dashboard Report (Registrations to be processed)
 - i. 216 DDS Department Driver Services Applications
 - ii. 2 OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications
 - iii. 183 Pending Voters
 - iv. 0 Verification of Non-Matched Pending Voters
- C) Items from the County Attorney
- a. Mr. Noland stated an email was received at the County Attorney’s office and Commissioner Watkin’s inquired if the Board of Elections would want a long-term extension on the lease in this building as there is a potential buyer for the Westgate Plaza. He responded by expressing the Boards’ concern about outgrowing the current office space.
 - b. Mr. Noland stated in his legal opinion, the Board of Elections like all other boards and agencies in county government created in legislature and are limited to what we can do by what the legislation and election code allows as it pertains elections cost. *(Mr. Noland provided a written opinion by email to each Board member prior to the Board meeting)*
 - c. Mr. Noland stated a written response was provided to Ms. Wimbush regarding her concerns about handicapped accessibility issues at Glorious Hope Baptist Church which is the polling location for precinct Vineville 3. Mr. Noland stated in his reply to Mrs. Wimbush that the polling location was evaluated and found to be within ADA compliance guidelines. The Board of Elections technicians have been made aware to make the handicapped parking signs are clearly marked at the location during voting.
 - d. Mr. Noland stated the Bibb County School Board has asked the Board of Elections to pass and sign a resolution essentially stating that we do what we have already done which is to Call and conduct E-SPLOST election. Mr. Noland further stated that he inquired why they would want the document. The school board attorney replied, if they ever were to act on the part of the ballot question dealing with the ability to issue bonds, there are certain documents they would have to submit. The Board is not required to sign or pass the resolution. The school Board was unaware this document was not submitted along with the other resolutions. It mirrors what is in the original resolution and is a matter of bookkeeping and completing their file. At this time, no action from the Board was made.
- D) Items from the Board
- a. Ms. Powell inquired about the polling location move for precinct East Macon 5. Ms. Maynard explained that there was a revision in *(HB 316 passed in legislation earlier this year)* which affected the amount of time required moving polling locations from a 10-day window to 30 days.
 - b. Dr. Ficklin stated he spoke with Mr. Keith Moffett, CEO concerning the canopy at the personnel entrance not being flush to the wall. Mr. Moffett will make sure this is taken care of.

E) Items from the Supervisor

- a. Update – Please see the new look and feel to the Board of Elections Website. Currently, the website may be accessed via the maconbibb.us webpage; click the departments tab and choose the Board of Elections.
- b. Update – Mrs. Watson is currently in attendance today as a speaker at the Student Ambassador Kick-off program for the 2019-2020.
- c. Mr. Jeffrey Griffin, GIS Manager, has resigned.
- d. A copy of the National Voter Registration Day information flyer which list the activities and sponsors was provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Spangler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Mr. Kaplan seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mrs. Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson