

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Board Meeting
7946 North McDonough Street
Jonesboro, Ga 30236

March 14, 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 BUSINESS MEETING

1. *Chair called the meeting to order.*
2. *Moment of silence observed.*
3. *Adoption of Agenda.*

Motion made by Secretary Walker seconded by Vice Chair Johnson to adopt the agenda for the Regular Meeting for March 14, 2023. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

4. *Approval of Board Minutes for February 7, 2023 Regular Business Meeting.*

Motion made by Secretary Walker seconded by Board Member Wesley to approve the minutes from the Regular Called Meeting for February 7, 2023. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

5. Public Comments.

There were no Public Comments.

6. *Old Business.*

The was no Old Business.

7. *New Business.*

A. Director's Report & 2023 Election Update.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of March 1, 2023, there were 210,204 (183,200 Active; 27,004 Inactive) Voters.

Director Dozier informed the Board that on February 6, 2023 the Secretary of State launched the new voter registration system, GARViS, to the counties.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the department is using GARViS for the first time during the March 2023 Special Election.

Chair Foster Hall inquired whether the department has seen any issues with GARViS.

Director Dozier informed the Board that there have been no major issues with GARViS.

Director Dozier informed the Board that there are no updates regarding the renovation of the Election Center.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that the office staff did move back into the main office located at 121 South McDonough Street because of the 2023 March Special Election.

Board Member Wesley informed the Director that when she went to the main office to vote, she did take a tour of the damages in the office.

Board Member Wesley expressed concerns for the health welfare of the office staff because of some of the things she observes, including paint chipping in the hallways and missing titles.

Chair Foster Hall informed the Board that after speaking with several staff members, she understands that effort has yet to be made to replace the carpet.

Chair Foster Hall expressed concerns about the mold and mildew that could be under the old carpet from the water setting for several days.

Vice Chair Johnson informed the Board that a mildew odor was present in the building.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office had requested to have the carpet replaced, and it is her understanding that the carpet would be replaced after the March 21, 2023 Special Election. Yet, if there is a Runoff, the carpet would be replaced after April 18, 2023 Special Election Runoff.

Chair Foster Hall inquired about using humidifiers or purifiers to clean the office's air.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she has expressed and made Director Hopkins aware of some health concerns and some health issues associated with some of the employees that have medical situations that could cause a reaction regarding mold and mildew.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office staff brought their purifiers to help with the office's air.

Chair Foster Hall inquired if mold and mildew testing could be done.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office was told that Building & Maintenance did have a test done at the main office.

Secretary Walker inquired about whether the Board could see the test results.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would request the results done at the main office by Building & Maintenance.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that Building & Maintenance are county employees; therefore, they will not move county employees into an unsafe place.

Secretary Walker inquired about whether Building & Maintenance was responsible for the renovation of the Building.

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Attorney Reed informed the Board that some repairs would require third-party contractors, yet Building & Maintenance is responsible for ensuring that any building issues are repaired.

Secretary Walker inquired into the reason for the delay in repairs being completed.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she is unaware of why it takes so long to repair damages.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Building and Maintenance came in and cleaned up the water damage and as well as assessed the damage.

Director Dozier informed the Board that, from her understanding, the water damage started at the Bell Tower and filtered into the offices.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the last time Building & Maintenance worked on repairs was during the week of February 12-18, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the last time she spoke with Director Hopkins, she was told that Building & Maintenance would get the office ready for staff to move back in for the March 2023 Special Election and repairs would continue after the election was over.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the staff would likely move out of the main office at 121 South McDonough Street, Jonesboro, Ga, and relocate to 1285 Government Circle, Jonesboro, Ga, until renovations are completed after the Special Election is finished.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that the repair delay resulted from the amount of work needed and the procurement process needed to procure the materials for the repairs.

Chair Foster Hall inquired into whether the county has air purifiers that can be brought into the office in opposition to the staff bringing in their own.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would check with Director Hopkins regarding the county providing air purifiers for the office.

Director Dozier informed the Board that as of March 13, 2023, 6,920 had cast their ballot for the March 21, 2023 Special Election during Advance Voting.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the most popular Advance Voting Site is the Election & Registration office located at 121 South McDonough Street, Jonesboro, Ga. The site with minor voter turnout is Forest Park Senior Center, located at 5087 Park Avenue, Forest Park, Ga.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Advance Voting for March 21, 2023, Special Election would end on Friday, March 17, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Election Day is March 21, 2023, and if there is a need for a runoff, the runoff would be on April 18, 2023.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that the Special Called Meeting to certify March 21, 2023, Special Election results are set for March 24, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Chair Foster Hall informed the Board that she would not be available for the Special Called Meeting on March 24, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board that April is High School Registration Month. The Registration office will work with the teachers at each of the County's High Schools to ensure they are deputized and have all the necessary tools to conduct voter registration with their students.

Director Dozier informed the Board that currently, the office is conducting Civic Organization with several County High Schools where students go to a local advance voting site and receive voter education. Also, eligible students can cast their ballot at the Advance voting site.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the 2023 Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials (GAVREO) was held from February 12, 2023 to February 15, 2023, in Jekyll Island, Ga.

Director Dozier informed the Board that at the 2023 GAVREO conference, the Director was sworn in as the President of GAVREO.

Director Dozier informed the Board that because of the 2024 Presidential Election, the 2024 GAVREO conference would be held on December 10, 2023 – December 13, 2023, in Athens, Ga.

Director Dozier informed the Board that included in their Board packets is the list of the 2023 Election Day Judges.

Director Dozier informed the Board that if there is a need for the appointed Election Day Judges, the Director and Attorney Reed will contact them on Election Day.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the City of Lake City had expressed their interest in the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration office conducting their 2023 Municipal Elections to be held November 7, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the City of Lake City had received a draft of the Intergovernmental agreement, and it would be discussed at a work session in March.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would like to request an executive session to discuss personnel.

Secretary Walker thanked Registrar Manager Brown and Administrative Assistant Clemmer for showing her around the main office and the damage caused by the recent water break.

Secretary Walker informed the Board that the damage was extensive and hoped the office repairs would be the top priority.

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Secretary Walker informed the Board that the Forest Park Senior Center staff was exceptional when she went to cast her vote for the March 2023 Special Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that it is a possibility that the office may have to change Precinct Jonesboro 5, located at First Presbyterian Church on 1842 Lake Jodeco Road, Jonesboro, Ga, to the main office located at 121 South McDonough Street, Jonesboro, Ga on Election Day.

Director Dozier informed the Board that while the office was delivering the voting equipment to the Precinct, the office became aware of the location's plumbing problems that may hinder the location from being ready for Election Day.

Secretary Walker inquired into how the information for the emergency precinct change of Jonesboro 5 would be given to the voters.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office would use the county's communication department to get the information out, and the office would send out notifications.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office would be required to post signs at both the old and new locations.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the decision to move Precinct Jonesboro 5 must be made very soon to start getting notifications out to the voters in that precinct.

B. Recommendation of Approval of Poll Manager and Assistant Poll Manager for Special Election to be held on March 21, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Poll Manager and Assistant Poll Managers' list for March 21, 2023 Special Election is in the Board's packet.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the group listed is equipped, and the office recommends approving the Poll Manager and Assistant Poll Managers list.

Motion made by Board Member Wesley seconded by Secretary Walker to approve the recommendation of Poll Manager and Assistant Poll Manager for Special Election to be held on March 21, 2023, per the list provided. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

C. Proposal 1 – 2023 Polling Place Name Changed Lovejoy 8 (LJ8)

Director Dozier informed the Board that the Polling Place Name Change information is in the Director's report.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the church used for Precinct Lovejoy 8, located at 1207 McDonough Road, Hampton, Ga, recently had a name change.

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Director Dozier informed the Board that anytime there is a name change or change in boundary lines, the department will bring it to the Board for approval, so the office can request precinct cards and send our notification to voters within a timeframe of approval.

Director Dozier informed the Board that she would like to request that the Board change Precinct Lovejoy 8 from the Word of God Christian Ministries to the new name, The Church at Hampton.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the number of voters in Precinct Lovejoy 8 is 1,569.

Motion made by Secretary Walker seconded by Board Member Wesley to accept the Proposal 1–2023 Polling Place Name Change of Precinct Lovejoy 8 from Word of God Christian Ministries to The Church at Hampton. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

D. Proposal 2 -2023 Polling Place Permanent Location Change – City of Jonesboro (JB).

Director Dozier informed the Board that on March 2, 2023, the City of Jonesboro submitted its request to change its polling location from Lee Street Elementary School, located at 178 Lee Street, Jonesboro, Ga, to Jonesboro City Hall, located at 1859 City Center Way, Jonesboro, Ga, for the Special Election on March 21, 2023.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office has already sent a request to the Secretary of State's office, and the poll location has been updated in GARViS.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the number of voters in the City of Jonesboro is 2,496.

Motion made by Vice Chair Johnson seconded by Board Member Hope to accept Proposal 2-2023 Polling Place Permanent Location Change for the City of Jonesboro (JB) from Lee Street Elementary to Jonesboro City Hall. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

E. Vote Review Panel for March 2023 Special Election.

Director Dozier informed the Board that the office needs to know who will serve on the Vote Review Panel on March 21, 2023, and March 23, 2023.

Vice Chair Johnson informed the Board that she is available on March 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

Secretary Walker informed the Board that she is available on March 24, 2023, at 3:00 PM.

F. Vote Review Panel for April 2023 Special Runoff Election (if necessary)

Vice Chair Johnson inquired about the April 2023 Special Runoff Election Vote Review Panel date and time.

Director Dozier informed the Board that a Vote Review Panel would be needed on April 18, 2023, and April 21, 2023.

Chair Foster Hall informed the Board that she could serve on April 18, 2023.

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Vice Chair Johnson informed the Board that she could serve on the Vote Review Panel on April 21, 2023.

G. Board of Registration & Elections Discussion on Board Member Representation.

Director Dozier informed the Board that Madam Chair requested to put this item on the agenda to discuss Board Members representing the Board, at events, in public, and discussions representing the Board of Registration and Elections.

Attorney Reed directed the Board to page 6 of the Bylaws of the Clayton County Board of Election and Registration, section 7.7 (g), which states:

The Chairperson of the Board shall act as spokesperson for the Board and may also represent and conduct public relations contacts.

Attorney Reed directed the Board to page 6 of the Bylaws of the Clayton County Board of Election and Registration, section 7.7 (f), which states:

The Election Director shall represent and conduct public relations contacts and shall have general charge of all operating functions and activities of the Board.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that between those two sections, the Chair and the Election Director are at the fore facing members of the Board of Registration and Elections concerning outside activities, such as speaking on behalf of the Board of Registration and Elections.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that it does not stop the Board from assigning other Board Members to speak on behalf of the Board, yet from the Bylaws, the Chair is the primary person who speaks on half of the Board.

Attorney Reed directed the Board to page 5 of the Bylaws of the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration, section 7.5, which states:

The Chairperson of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall serve a chairperson, with right to vote, and make or second motions or nominations.... The Chairperson shall perform such other duties and have such other authority and powers as the Board may from time to time prescribe.

Attorney Reed directed the Board to page 6 of the Bylaws of the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration, section 7.6, which states:

The Vice Chairperson of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson or by the Board, shall, in the absence or disability of the Chairperson, perform the duties and have the authority and exercise the powers of the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform such other duties and have such other authority and powers as the Board may from time to time prescribe or as the Chairperson may from time to time delegate.

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Attorney Reed directed the Board to page 3 of the Bylaws of the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration, section 5.1 (b), which states:

The Board shall have supervision, control, and direction of the management, affairs, and property of the Board and auxiliaries and other groups organized to support and benefits the Board ... The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as shall be deemed advisable.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that independently, the Chair could go out and speak on behalf of the Board.

Attorney Reed informed the Board that as members of the community, Board Members could go out a speak or talk about issues. Still, it is very difficult when people know that a Board Member is part of the Board to separate when one is giving their opinion as a citizen or a member of the Board.

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

There were no felons.

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

Motion made by Board Member Wesley seconded by Secretary Walker to remove the 30 names listed as deceased voters from the Clayton County Elections & Registration Elector's List of March 2023 as printed. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

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

Motion made by Board Member Wesley seconded by Board Member Hope to go into executive session to consider personnel at 5:27 PM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Board Member Wesley seconded by Board Member Hope to come out of executive session at 6:49 PM.

9. *Adjourn.*

Motion made by Board Member Hope seconded by Vice Chair Johnson to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at 6:50 PM. Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried.

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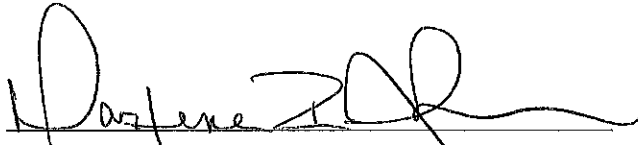
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DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, CHAIR



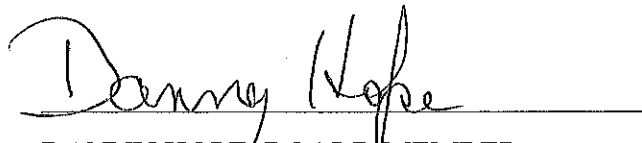
DARLENE JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR



ARVIS WALKER, SECRETARY




CAROL WESLEY, BOARD MEMBER



DANNY HOPE, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:



JENNIFER CLEMMER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT