

Sumter County Board of Elections Meeting October 5, 2021 at 4:30 pm

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Gaston at 4:30 pm.

II. Roll Call

a) Board Members: Chairman James Gaston, Dr. Shirley Latimore, Rhonda Reddick, and Carson Walker. Marty McDonald arrived at 4:47 pm.

b) County Attorney: Kimberly Reid

c) Staff: Randy Howard, Lois Phillips

d) Visitor: Rayetta Volley, County Clerk

III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Rhonda Reddick moved to adopt the agenda.

Dr. Shirley Latimore seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

IV. Motion to Approve the Minutes of September 7, 2021

Dr. Shirley Latimore made a motion to approve the minutes.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

V. Discussion of the Upcoming City Election

Randy Howard handed out the Shopper with two pages of information concerning the upcoming election. The Times Recorder newspaper will also have the same information later this week. And both will soon have copies of sample ballots printed there as well.

We have completed the Logic and Accuracy of the equipment. We will begin setting up for Early Voting this week. Early Voting will be at the Country Club during October 12 to 29, including the two Saturdays, from 8 am to 5 pm. Voting on Election Day, November 2, will be at the three precincts in Americus – GSW Conference Center, Recreation Department, and Reese Park.

We are keeping Americus up to date as to what is happening. Various local clubs have requested email and phone numbers to give to the public. There are candidate presentations

and forums scheduled at places like the Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club. Everything is going well so far.

Some discussion followed regarding the number of machines at each precinct, and the community reach of newspapers.

VI. Discussion of Future Election of Commissioner for District 3

Mr. Howard stated that it is because of unfortunate circumstances that we have to prepare for a special election. Mr. William Reid was a fine fellow, and he was well thought of in the community.

Attorney Kim Reid has been researching the law pertaining to having a special election.

Kim Reid gave a thorough overview of the laws and statutes pertaining to a special election. These laws outline the requirements and time frames that are needed before an election can be held. Taking this into account, and also in discussion with the Secretary of State's Office, this special election will not be able to be held at the same time as the upcoming election on November 2nd. Therefore, in order to satisfy the requirements and time frames of the laws and statutes, the earliest date available to hold this special election (to elect a District 3 Commissioner to fill the remainder of the unexpired term) would be Tues, March 15, 2022.

Discussion followed for clarification of the requirements and time frames in the laws.

VII. Budget Discussion

Mr. Howard will meet with the new Finance Director to discuss the current budget. He will soon be able to view more details of each line item in the budget.

VIII. Executive Session

None needed.

IX. Board Members Remarks

Marty McDonald apologized for being late to this meeting.

Dr. Shirley Latimore thanked Attorney Reid and Randy Howard for the information regarding preparing for the Special Election. The community is asking questions, and this information confirms that we are working within our procedures and protocol.

Attorney Kim Reid stated that she explains to any citizen that contacts her that the correct way to handle their questions is to go through the Board of Elections.

James Gaston reminded everyone to view their pictures on the new website.

Carson Walker reported that a community member said that our new website exceeded his expectations, and he is very pleased with the information found there.

X. Adjourn

Marty McDonald made a motion to adjourn.

Rhonda Reddick seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Phillips
October 6, 2021