

City of Newport News Electoral Board
Voter Registrar Office
2400 Washington Avenue, 6th Floor
Newport News, Virginia

Regular Meeting
February 1, 2022

Attending

Deloris Thomas, chair, Peyton White, vice chair, Wendell Barbour, secretary, Vicki Lewis, director of elections, Lisa Dunn, deputy registrar, and Lynn Spratley, deputy city attorney.

Call to Order at 9:08 a.m.

Introduction of Visitors and Guests

Kate Dean, Jenneane Peirce, and Ann Grigorian

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Barbour motioned and Ms. White seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried (Y-3)

Approval of previous minutes

Minutes from January 4, 2022 board meeting were reviewed. Mrs. White motioned and Mr. Barbour seconded to approve previous minutes. Motion carried (Y-3)

Old Business

Mrs. Thomas made a motion to go into closed session for discussion of personnel. Mr. Barbour seconded. Motion carries (Y-3)

Reconvene at 10:13 am

Mrs. Thomas: "I hereby move and certify that, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in our closed session meeting and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the electoral board." (Va. Code § 2.2-3712D)

Redistricting-

Mrs. Lewis spoke about the local redistricting GIS team would like to fix some precincts that are close to 5000 registered voters by moving various precinct lines. The GIS team is focusing on the Fort Eustis area of voters. They currently vote at the Katherine Johnson precinct and is projected to be moved to the Reservoir precinct. Mrs. Spratley recited the code for precinct line boundaries 24.2-307.

Mrs. Spratley stated when precincts are changed it will go through a process of a public hearing or to the Attorney General for a certificate of no objection. The redistricting team suggests submitting to the Attorney General. The City Council will have a final vote. New voter registration notices will be sent to all voters after all local redistricting is complete. The unofficial deadline is March 21, 2022.

AB Reporting, Senate Bill 3

The bill is still in the committee of privileges and elections

Relocating South Morrison precinct

Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Dunn met with Pastor Jamison at Ivy Farms Community of Faith Church to browse the location for the relocation of the South Morrison precinct. The church was deemed to be an adequate place to relocate to. Mrs. Lewis requested that Pastor Jamison send a letter in writing of an agreement for use of the church.

Registrars' report

During the November 2022 General Election there seemed to be some unclear instructions as to where the observers are to be seated while in the precinct. Mrs. Lewis provided copies of the "do's and don't's" to the Board as well as guidance about this topic from ELECT dated September 20, 2021.

Candidate status for the November 8th General Election as of February 1, 2022 are as follows:

Mayor at large

Tina Vick-qualified
Saundra Cherry-qualified
David Jenkins-filed
Phillip Jones-filed

City Council (North)

Curtis Bethany-qualified
Willard Maxwell-filed

City Council (Central)

Cleon Long-filed

City Council (South)

John Eley III-qualified
Yugonda Sample-Jones-filed

School Board (North)

Douglas Brown-qualified

New Business

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Dunn made suggestions to continue to do more outreach in the community for election official recruitment and voter registration. Election official recruitment brochures will be sent to all locations that currently provide voter registration applications.

Correspondence

The Electoral Board and Registrar received letters from Governor Northam thanking them for their service.

Discussion

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. White will be attending the VEBA boot camp on February 5, 2022 in Caroline County.

Mrs. Lewis mentioned that the \$150.00 registration fee for each board member attending the annual VEBA meeting has been rolled over from the 2020 meeting that was cancelled.

The next Electoral Board meeting will be held on March 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.in the Registrars' Office.

With no further business to discuss Mr. Barbour motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:42am
Ms. White seconded. (Y-3)

Submitted by
Wendell Barbour, Secretary