

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2003**

**Call to Order.** Upon notice duly given, Chairman Tyrone L. Waller called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2003, at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 514 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Present at Meeting.** Chairman Waller, Secretary Walden and Commissioners Johnson, Kennedy and Kliner were present at the meeting. Commission Appointee Luanne H. DeWitt, Attorney Jerry Summers, Deputy Laura Woods and Administrator of Elections Fran Dzik were present by invitation. Also present were members of the community as shown on the attached sheet.

**Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion by Commissioner Kliner, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the minutes of the meetings held on February 5, 2003, were unanimously approved.

**Collegedale Election.** Administrator Dzik advised the Commission that the only problems experienced throughout the day for the Collegedale election had been continuing street segment issues.

**Red Bank Petitions.** Administrator Dzik advised the Commission that two (2) petitions—one petition for alcoholic consumption off the premises and one petition for alcoholic consumption on the premises—had been filed with the office. The signature verification of the petition for alcoholic consumption off the premises was eleven signatures short of the requirement and the petition supporters had been advised that additional signatures were required. The other petition has not been completed as to verification of signatures.

**Voter Registration Drives.** Administrator Dzik advised the Commission that the office was in the process of conducting voter registration drives at all the high schools (public and private) in Hamilton County. A summary of the drives completed is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

**Legal Issues.** Attorney Summers discussed the pending legal issues with the Commission, as follows:

**Litigation.** Attorney Summers advised the Commission that the brief of appellant, *The Chattanooga Times-Free Press*, had been filed with the Court of Appeals in Knoxville. The reply brief on behalf of the Hamilton County Election Commission will be filed later in the week and copies of both briefs will be furnished to any Commissioner who requests same.

**Personnel Policies Manual.** Attorney Summers advised the Commissioners that the personnel policies manual had been revised to include the changes requested by members of the Commission and is presently being reviewed by the County Attorney and a private law firm who deals with Employment Law. Attorney Summers stated that the manual should be finalized by the next Commission meeting.

**Personnel Issue.** Attorney Summers advised that motions were pending in Chancery Court relative to the lawsuit filed by former employee Rita Jones.

**Investigation by TBI.** Attorney Summers advised the Commission that the investigation was still on-going and at the conclusion of the investigation, the TBI would submit their report to the District Attorney General.

**City of Chattanooga Judicial Vacancy.** Attorney Summers advised the Commission that the Mayor had requested the Commission's assistance in working with the Chattanooga Bar Association to confirm the residency and age requirements of the applicants for the judicial vacancy. A copy of the report prepared by Administrator Dzik and submitted to Attorney Summers is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Upon motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Walden, the Commission unanimously authorized Attorney Jerry Summers to submit a formal opinion to the Chattanooga Bar Association, with a copy to Mayor Corker, advising that based upon information provided by the candidates and a review of our records, all seven candidates meet the residency requirements and age requirements as outlined in the City Charter.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

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Michael S. Walden                      Secretary

APPROVED:

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Tyrone L. Waller                      Chairman

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Linda Johnson                      Commissioner

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William Kennedy                      Commissioner

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Wesley Kliner                      Commissioner

