

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 12, 2005

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairperson Avila called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8:00 a.m. on December 12, 2005, at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 514 East 4th Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: Chairperson Avila Pledge of Allegiance: Secretary Quinn

Present at Meeting:

Secretary Quinn, and Commissioners Eddington and Lee were present at the meeting. Attorney Jerry Summers and the staff of the Election Commission were present as well. Also present were members of the community, as well as members of the media as shown on the attached sheet.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Secretary Quinn that the minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Eddington seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business:

Personnel Manual

Secretary Quinn read the memorandum from chairperson Avila.

SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Eddington stated that recently they had found an old copy of the manual, it addresses everything and it is brief and not overpowering.

Administrator Knowles stated he was against the statement in the current manual (pg 15) that all employees who are terminated will forfeit their leave. He also stated that he wanted there to be an appeals process.

Commissioner Eddington preferred the old one, Administrator Knowles likes both with a few changes in each, and Secretary Quinn prefers the current one. Commissioner Lee hasn't read the old one and has no opinion as yet.

Attorney summers stated that all the commissions with the exception of commissioner Walden who has been consistently vocal on wanting to go under the county manual has been opposed to going under that. I think the present manual serves the purpose without having to make a major change, bear in mind that 2-12-201 does complicate it a bit, but, we can address both issues. The running of the office is still the main function of the administrator. You don't get an appeal for oral or written warnings. It start sat the suspension process.

Secretary Quinn stated that we are operating under the frame work of Tennessee law and it says "we appoint the administrator "and once that is done he "shall" be Responsible for all day to day operations including the employment of all office

Personnel. My concern is that we are headed down a path that usurps some of Mr. Knowles authority. I think if we put the right person in that position these matters should take care of themselves, and we shouldn't have all these issues. If we do our job and make sure the administrator is doing his job the amendments won't be necessary and if we find he isn't doing his job then it uncombed us to make sure we put the right person in the position.

Chairperson Avila stated that she agrees that Mr. Knowles does have authority but that she had sat down with him and these were some of his concerns too. The current manual is written like a fear tactic and the employees shouldn't be afraid.

Commissioner Eddington stated that she didn't care which manual was used as long as she got the appeals process in there.

Attorney summers asked if what he proposed was satisfactory to Commissioner Eddington.

Commissioner Eddington stated that she was satisfied with it.

SEE ATTACHED

Chairperson Avila stated that she thought they should look at the appeals process Attorney Summers submitted and also what she submitted.

Commissioner Eddington made a motion to accept the appeals process and Commissioner Lee seconded it.

Commissioners Eddington and Lee voted to accept.

Secretary Quinn was opposed.

Chairperson Avila was in favor of accepting.

Commissioner Eddington made a motion to accept chairperson Avila's amendments.

There was no second.

Administrator Knowles asked the commission to vote on sending an audit card to change an address from the yellow stickers from the post office.

Secretary Quinn made a motion to approve and Commissioner Eddington seconded it.

It was unanimously approved.

He also gave out his monthly progress report.

Attorney summers stated that the appeals process would be effective today Dec. 12, 2005.

Chairperson Avila asked if there were any comments from the audience.

Floyd Kilpatrick with rainbow push spoke. He said he wanted to commend the commission for moving the downtown pct back that it showed a magnificent gesture on the part of this commission and it was well received by the people of that community. He also said he wanted to commend Mrs. Patterson and Miss Tate and Commissioner Lee for attending the function that was held Sat. Oct. 29, 2005. I am glad you are moving in a positive direction.

Legal Matters:

Attorney summers stated: Still no decision made on the Dist. 4 issue as yet.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2005 @ 8:00 am

Adjournment:

Secretary Quinn made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Lee seconded.

J. Bartlett Quinn Secretary

APPROVED:

Linda Morris –Avila Chairperson

Dorothy Eddington Commissioner

Karen M. Lee Commissioner

Michael S. Walden Commissioner