

MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Call to order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8 a.m. on June 11, 2014 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Clem**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Chairman Walden**

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Summers, Clem, and Scott were present at the meeting, as well as County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, staff of the Election Commission, and members of the public.

Approval of Minutes:

Secretary Summers made a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Clem seconded.

All present approved.

Secretary Summers said he wanted to clarify that his action on the alleged irregularities [of the Anderson recall petition] was by him individually. He thought there had been a motion and a second, but there had not. He misspoke when he said it was the commission, but he corrected that. But he did it and he'd stand by it.

New Business:

Approval of the poll workers list for the August election

Chairman Walden asked if anyone had any questions about the workers or the training.

Commissioner Scott asked how the poll workers were picked. What are the criteria for narrowing down the list?

Commissioner Clem said it's not narrowing down so much as recruiting to get everyone that is needed.

Chairman Walden said it is people interested in public service and active in their communities.

Commissioner Scott said so anyone can be a poll worker, they just need to sign up with the Election Commission?

Chairman Walden said there are some guidelines per the TCA, such as no candidates, but yes, other than that, anyone is eligible and we need poll workers.

Commissioner Scott said he has received a few phone calls from people wanting to work.

Chairman Walden said he would think the office would like to have those names.

Commissioner Scott said he went to several poll locations on Election Day and everything went smooth.

Chairman Walden said when you think of all the interactions these 700 poll workers have with the thousands of voters, many of which have address changes or other issues to work through, the potential for something to go wrong is pretty good and these guys do an outstanding job and have done so the 15 years he's been on the commission. There haven't been a dozen complains the 15 years he's been on the commission.

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Commissioner Scott made a motion to approve the poll workers as presented.

Commissioner Clem seconded the motion.

All present were in favor.

Write-in candidates

Commissioner Clem said because we have a write-in candidate, Rhonda Thurman, who will be very aggressive in getting out and campaigning hard, he wants to make sure we are ready for any write-in issues and aren't caught off guard during Early Voting and on Election Day. If someone has a question, he doesn't want the workers to give too little help, but he also doesn't want them giving too much help.

Chairman Walden said it would be a good idea to have an explanation sheet ready for officers so all poll workers can give a consistent explanation if a voter asks how to cast a write-in vote. The sheet needs to be the same wording as the write-in instructions at the top of the ballot.

Commissioner Scott asked if we should include information in the newspaper about write-in candidates because the public won't know there is a write-in candidate.

Chairman Walden said that is not our responsibility.

Commissioner Clem added that is the responsibility of the write-in candidate's campaign.

Attorney Taylor said he assumes the candidate's whole name must be written in order for it to count.

Commissioner Scott said at last week's TACEO meetings the state explicitly said a first and last name must be included in order to count a write-in candidate.

Wine and grocery referendum

Administrator Steelman said he brought in information on the wine and grocery referendum as an FYI. The Red, Wine, and Food group have expressed their intent to go through with a referendum in Chattanooga.

Commissioner Clem said so you'll be counting another petition drive?

Administrator Steelman said yes, they will have to have a minimum of a little over 3,800 signatures.

Chairman Walden asked if it was city or county.

Administrator Steelman said City of Chattanooga.

Early Voting hours and locations.

Administrator Steelman said the locations will remain the same. Hours will be 8 a.m.-7p.m. Monday-Saturday at the main office and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the satellites.

Chairman Walden said it's been a long-standing policy not to confuse the voters by playing with the voting times and locations.

Secretary Summers made a motion to approve the hours and locations.

Commissioner Clem seconded.

All present were in favor.

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Ballot approval

Assistant Administrator Allen said that the actual ballot would be 8 ½ by 17 inches.

Administrator Steelman said that was the only way to fit all the information on the ballot for this election.

Chairman Walden asked if the typeset on the ballot was by statute.

Assistant Administrator Allen said yes, the minimum is 9 point type, but we try to stay around 10 or 11. The font is Times Roman Narrow; that's what the state requires.

Administrator Steelman said there would be 203 ballot styles this election.

Commissioner Clem asked if the Chattanooga City Attorney had approved the summary of the Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

Assistant Administrator Allen said the City Attorney wrote the summary used on the ballot.

Chairman Walden asked if Red Bank would need a special election.

Administrator Steelman said no, by their charter they have to have at least two vacancies before they have a special election.

Commissioner Clem made a motion to approve the ballot.

Secretary Summers seconded.

All present were in favor.

Legal matters:

Attorney Taylor said there is nothing new to report. The recall lawsuit has not yet been dismissed.

Administrator Steelman said there has not yet been any word from TBI on the recall petition.

Adjournment:

Chairman Walden announced adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned without objection.

The next meeting will be July 9, 2014 at 8 a.m.

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APPROVED:

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Chris Clem

Commissioner

Kelvin Scott

Commissioner