

MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, August 7, 2014

Call to order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a called meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 7 p.m. on August 7, 2014 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Braly**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Chairman Walden**

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Summers, Braly, Clem, and Scott were present at the meeting, as well as County Attorney Rheubin Taylor, staff of the Election Commission, and Christian Bennett and Quinten Howard of Mauldin and Jenkins.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

All approved.

New Business:

Precinct Audit Letters

Chairman Walden directed the commissioners to select three precincts each for auditing after the election. The envelopes were sealed and given to Quinten Howard.

Meeting date to certify August 7, 2014 election

Administrator Steelman said Quinten Howard suggested Monday, August 18 as a date to certify the election.

Due to scheduling conflicts the meeting was set for Monday, August 25 at 8 a.m.

Early Voting Report

Administrator Steelman provided several reports concerning Early Voting numbers. He said during Early Voting the Northgate Early Voting site briefly ran out of ballots for one precinct. One of the problems we had this election was history really wasn't a good indicator – people were voting at Northgate who had never voted at Northgate before and precincts were showing up at Northgate who usually didn't show up at Northgate. IT was able to take the information we had and create a report that tells us specifically which precincts are voting at which Early Voting sites. This report will help us more accurately distribute ballots among early voting sites. It's a challenge, knowing we have to order a limited number of ballots, to have the correct ballots at the correct location.

Commissioner Braly asked how long the Northgate site was without ballots.

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Administrator Steelman said about 15 minutes.

Assistant Administrator Allen said it was the length of time it took them to call us and for us to drive out there.

Chairman Walden asked no one left without voting?

Administrator Steelman said no one left without voting. Everyone had the opportunity to vote.

Commissioner Braly asked was it because more people came to Northgate than normally do?

Administrator Steelman said absolutely.

Commissioner Clem said it was a smaller precinct. It was a precinct that never shows up at Northgate but they voted there this time for whatever reason.

Chairman Walden asked is it feasible to direct people to certain Early Voting sites based on their location?

Administrator Steelman said in theory that could be good, but the attractive thing about Early Voting is a voter can go anywhere it's convenient.

WIG update

Administrator Steelman said we are continuing to get the petitions in. They are due August 21.

Administrator Steelman provided the commission with a report of signatures counted so far, as well as the number of signatures needed in each municipality.

TACEO

Registration forms for the December TACEO meeting were provided.

Chairman Walden said historically any commissioner who wants to go can go.

Legal matters:

Attorney Taylor said Judge Thomas ruled in our favor concerning the Domestic Partnership Ordinance lawsuit. The City of Chattanooga filed a notice of appeal but it has been withdrawn. Last week he received a notice that Corliss Cooper has asked for an appeal. The court hasn't ruled on our earlier motion challenging whether she had standing to file suit.

Chairman Walden said if the ordinance passes, it's a moot point.

Attorney Taylor said the judge only ruled on the language of the ballot. He didn't rule on her standing.

Administrator Steelman said in regard to the issue of John Allen Brooks' absentee ballots applications, TBI came by Wednesday to ask questions.

Other Business:

Commissioner Scott asked if we are going to move locations for the Northgate Early Voting.

Administrator Steelman said the location was filthy when we got there.

Chairman Walden said we're paying to be there and we ought to be able to get a good space.

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Administrator Steelman said there are civic centers all across county and there's no greater civic duty than the election process.

Chairman Walden said talk to the county maintenance department about getting in a building like that. It doesn't have to be at the mall, but it has to be at that area and we need enough time to publicize where it's going to be. Handle that with the county, and then come to us.

Administrator Steelman said he was working on a meeting with Lurone Jennings about the North River Civic Center.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Clem seconded.

All approved.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 25, 2014 at 8 a.m.

APPROVED:

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Chris Clem

Commissioner

Kelvin Scott

Commissioner