

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 9, 2012**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8:33 am on May 9, 2012 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, Anderson and Attorney Clem were present at the meeting, as well as staff of the Election Commission, members of the media.

Commissioner Anderson came in late. Commissioner Crangle was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Summers seconded.

New Business:

Voter Registration System

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that the GIS and I T departments have been working diligently to get us a new voter registration system to go along with redistricting. They will be here this morning to transfer it over to our system. We are looking forward to it and it has saved us a lot of time and work. When we pull someone up now it will have the correct precinct, correct state number and districts, everything.

Chairman Walden asked were we going to be able to get all the registration cards out to the voters prior to the election.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that yes we would. The law is all those who have had a change so that will be about 195,000 out of 217,000 registered voters to go out.

Precinct Changes.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that we have had a couple of changes.

Northwoods 1 & 2 will be voting in Calvary Baptist Church Gym on Dayton Blvd. also Eastside 1 & 2 they will be voting at Tennessee Temple High School in the Gym on Vance Rd. She further stated that she had presented the budget on Monday.

Chairman Walden asked Attorney Clem if he was preparing a bill for us for the added expenses right.

Attorney Clem stated yes he was.

Poll Workers

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that if you would vote on the poll workers for the August election, there will be anywhere between 875 and 900 workers

Commissioner Braly asked were these the same workers as before.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated no. We lost some with the redistricting we lost 13 precincts. We are trying to work in the ones who have worked a long time and know what they are doing.

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Commissioner Braly made a motion to accept the polling location changes and the Poll Workers.

Secretary Summers seconded

Chairman Walden stated that he would encourage that the election commission put up more signs. The only complaint he had received last time was some people had some problems locating some of the polling locations.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that she would and that there were going to be signs at the new polling place as well as at the old polling place telling them where to go to vote.

Attorney Clem asked for example there will be a sign at Signal Mtn. town hall telling them to go to Signal Mtn Presbyterian Church.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that yes that was correct. She then asked that the commission set the hours for Early Voting.

Chairman Walden asked where they consistent with what they had been in the past.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that it was. In August it has been 10-6 and 10-7 so whatever you all choose.

Chairman Walden stated that he would like to give as much time that we can so we will make them 10-7.

Commissioner Braly asked when the dates were for Early Voting

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that it was from July 13th-July 28th

Commissioner Braly made a motion to accept the early Voting time

Secretary Summers seconded

New Printer

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that we had to purchase a new printer to print the ballots and the registration cards and that it was located in the computer room.

Budget

Secretary Summers asked if we could go back to the budget, that he had a few things on that. He then asked that he knew we didn't last time but, did this commission ever vote on this budget?

Administrator Charlotte Mullis-Morgan said no sir, but that she had sent it out to everyone and they had not had a meeting since then.

Secretary Summers asked had she already been before the county commission

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that she went Monday and that she was told to go. The County Commission asked why we were over in legal services and I said one word "recall."

She further stated that they asked about workers compensation. I told them we had three elections coming up Aug., Nov., and Mar. and it was the right thing to do to have the money there to pay the workers and the overtime for that.

Secretary Summers stated that with all due respect that he thought this commission should vote on the budget before it is presented to the County Commission We have done that in the past. He then stated that looking at the request on the bottom line of what Administrator Mullis-Morgan did send them was we were asking for \$405,594.70. If my math works the last page of 2012 we asked for \$1,282,258.48 and we requested \$1,687,853.10 and that is a difference of \$405,594.70 is that correct?

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that we are \$168,000 over what we asked last time.

Chairman Walden asked was that due to the additional election?

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Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that the \$ 168,000 comes from the budget, longevity checks which you never know about, a decrease in TN Retirement and the adjusted budget. The requested budget was \$1,687,853.10 and there was an increase of \$ 168,000

Secretary Summers asked that the adopted budget for 2012, second column is that not \$1,282,258.48?

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that yes it was.

Secretary Summers then stated that if you subtract that from the new budget that means it is up \$405,594.70. He further stated that he recognized that we have additional elections and things vary, but I voiced my opposition to a \$ 10,000 increase in Chris's salary and normally I wouldn't object to that, but I'll say this I have an objection to spending money, we've been down this road before, The majority says. I'm not waving anything when it comes to spending any additional money on this lawsuit. I have a document here in front of me that is supposedly written pro se, and if it is then we have some citizens that are smarter than 90% of the lawyers I have. This was written by some law firm or an individual and who that is, is beyond neither my understanding nor my concern. I've stated this before I am against us being involved in the lawsuit

Commissioner Anderson asked to look at the brief.

Secretary Summers stated that should we not no matter the increase vote on this budget before it goes is submitted I think that we should have a chance to discuss this before it goes to the commission. I think next year whoever is here that we vote on the budget in open session before we submit it to the county commission and I'm going to make that motion. Does anyone want to second it?

Commissioner Braly stated that she thought the commission should vote on it before they submit it also.

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that at the time she sent it to the commission she didn't know when I would have to present it.

Secretary Summers stated that he just thought it was a better policy to vote on it before hand.

Commissioner Braly seconded the motion.

Ballot Boxes

Administrator Mullis-Morgan stated that the boxes were ready for the absentee ballots and we need one Democrat and one Republican to stay and lock them.

Legal Matters:

Attorney Clem stated that the re-callers have filed a lengthy brief He further stated he wanted it known that the election commission has never filed a lawsuit or appeals. My answer to this brief was we had no opinion. I did file a brief and told when the dates we have to go by were and that we would prefer a ruling before those dates

Chairman Walden stated that now seven years later, the city still has made no correction in the recall law. If someone came in today and wanted to file a recall, we would be in the same position we were in before (with a disparity between the City Charter and state law on the recall provision)."

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Chairman Walden stated that he has had several calls etc. re: Naming the building and or street after Bud Knowles. He further stated that it is not our responsibility but I have no problem with it.

Secretary Summers stated that we have had a lot of good administrators but to name a building after 1 person, I don't have a problem with it either it isn't up to us.

Chairman Walden stated that it would be up to the County Commission to do so but the people wanted to say they had the support of this commission It is not our place but I would support it.

Adjournment

Commissioner Braly made a motion to adjourn

Commissioner seconded

The next meeting is Wednesday June 13, 2012 @ 8:00 am

APPROVED;

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

James Anderson

Commissioner

Tommy Crangle

Commissioner