

April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on April 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Board of Elections by the Chair.

Present: Helen Nelson - Chair
Linda Devore - Member
Irene Grimes - Secretary

Billy King - Member
James Baker - Member

Staff: Angela Amaro, Vicki Hillburn, Mitzie Roberts

Guests: Amanda Turnmire, Sandra Walker, Peter Apone, Harlan Devore, Jeremy Reinoehl, Donna Davis, Jackie Warner, Charles Ferguson, Matthew Davis, Joy Potts, Bobby Swilley, Brooke Hunter, Bree Eldridge, Susan Chapman, Nina Morton, John Zimmerman, Kim Zimmerman, Amy Cannon, Susan Mills, Mildred Bowl, Shamike Bethea, Diane Wheatley, Rudy Smart, AnnMarie Swilley

ACTION: Member King moves that the Board approve the agenda.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Unanimous in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT: (each speaker has 2min 30sec.)

Jerry Reinhold, 516 Deerpath Drive, Fayetteville, NC: compliments the Board on publishing the campaign finance reports for candidates. Wants the voter database updated to reflect the correct birth date for all voters and especially candidates rather than the "legacy date" of 1/1/1900.

Donna Davis, 7653 Spurge Drive, Fayetteville, NC: Was made aware that the Board is seizing the invocation; she thinks the invocation should continue, there are many denominations in the community and the invocation should continue. Sitting in silence you could be thinking about your grocery list or are you thinking about the meeting.

Jackie Warner, 4333 Legion Road, Hope Mills, NC: Since 2011 has been Mayor of Hope Mills; came to the meeting tonight because of the concern about invocation. As Mayor of Hope Mills we have prayer at every meeting; we have prayer at every function; there was a concern back in 2011 and one pastor in Hope Mills organized a pastor's coalition and pastors rotate; it is every denomination and every time there is a function it is lead by a pastor. We have Rabbis, Latter Day Saints, United Methodists, Catholics, Baptists, Church of God, Pentecostal Holiness. In a small community the best way to get information out in a time of need is the pastors. Prayer at the opening of meetings is critical; that should not be the one thing we take away. I would not normally come to this meeting but I felt so strong about this tonight.

Joy Potts, 2940 Bakers Mill, Fayetteville, NC: I am Buddhist and I do not want prayer taken out of this meetings because we need something that is holy.They do it at all government proceedings and I enjoy it; they even do it at City Council. We need to be able to unify, I am mortified.

Bobby Swilley, 18904 Nantucket Court, Fayetteville, NC: As past member of this Board I am appalled; I can't believe we are here to discuss this. It is not the responsibility of this Board, which is the Board make sure we have fair and transparent and honest elections, you need to stay out of the God business and I am asking you, I am against removing the invocation for a public meeting and I sincerely hope you take this seriously.

Bree Eldridge, 953 Pecan Road Loop, Hope Mills, NC: I am speaking for the inclusion of the invocation. When you start a meeting with a prayer it sets the tone and provides a moral compass. I find comfort when I know that people take a moment and when that is how we start our meetings.

New Business:

Interim Director Amaro says that there are two precincts (CC08, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church & CC21, Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints Church on Scotty Hill Road) have requested that no political signs be placed at those locations. Staff has a letter to be sent to NCSBE asking that an agreement be entered into that no political signs be placed there; we have no other suitable sites for these precincts. The letter will need Board approval and the Chair's signature.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to submit the letter to the State that both sites will not have political signs posted on their premises.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Interim Director Amaro informs the Board that there is a vacancy in the office and she is working with Human Resources to update the job description so the vacancy can be posted.

Discussion among the Board members on invocation.

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board returns to the meeting next month with recommendations for a policy to consider regarding the invocation.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: 3/2 (in favor: Devore, Baker, Nelson/opposed: Grimes, King) in favor.

Staff Member Hillburn presents eight absentee ballot envelopes to the Board.(3 Civilian, 2 Military, 3 Overseas). Of those, seven are recommended for approval and one should be looked at by the Board for a determination whether it was properly executed.

Board Members inspect the questioned ballot envelope.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves for the ballot envelope to be accepted as submitted by the voter.

Second: Member King

After discussion, Member King withdraws his second.

Chair Nelson seconds the motion.

Vote: 2/3 (in favor: Grimes, Nelson/opposed: Devore, Baker, King) - does not pass.

According to staff member Hillburn the voter will be issued a replacement ballot.

ACTION: Member Devore moves to accept the remaining seven ballot envelopes as recommended by staff.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous in favor

ACTION: Member Devore moves that the Board go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Board moves into closed session at 5:46pm

The Board returns from closed session at 6:31pm

Chair Nelson states that there is nothing to report from the closed session.

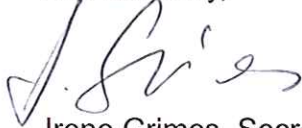
Adjournment

Motion: Member Grimes

Second: Member King

Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

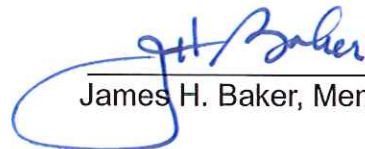
Submitted by,



Irene Grimes, Secretary



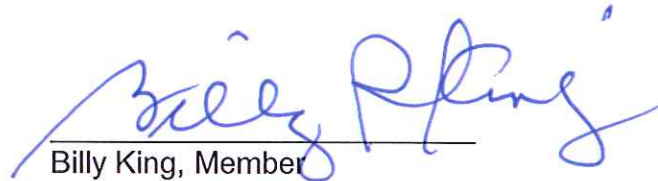
Helen Nelson, Chair



James H. Baker, Member



Linda Devore, Member



Billy King, Member