

March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Invocation - James Baker

The meeting was called to order on March 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Board of Elections board room by the Chair.

Present: Helen Nelson - Chair
Billy King - Member
James Baker - Member
Irene Grimes - Secretary
Linda Devore - Member

Staff: Angie Amaro, Vicki Hillburn

Guests: Roberta Waddle, Charlie Grimes, Peter Apone, Sharon Johnson

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

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Public Comment:

Roberta Waddle, 3941 Gainey Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306: Board members are doing a very important job making there are free and fair elections, understands that there is some discussion about combining precincts. Does not think now is the time to combine precincts.

Secretary Grimes presents the meeting minutes for the meetings on July 19, August 16, September 13, October 4, November 7, November 8, December 13, 2022 for approval.

Chair Nelson asks which meeting minutes are missing; missing are January 10, 2023 minutes.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to approve the minutes for the meetings on July 19, August 16, September 13, October 4, November 8, December 13, 2022.

Second: Member King

Member Devore says she has concerns with the July 19, November 8 and December 13 meeting minutes.

ACTION: Member Baker moves to approve the minutes for the meetings on August 16, September 13, October 4.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Member Devore says that as it pertains to the motion for the Early Voting Plan(s), the votes were 3 (for) and 2 (against) and that the motion is listed as Fail in the minutes. Member Devore says that while it is true (as stated in the next paragraph in the minutes) that the matter has to go before the State Board of Elections because the vote was not unanimous, the motion itself did not fail - the word "FAIL" should be taken out of the minutes.

ACTION: Member Devore moves to remove the word "FAIL" from the motion pertaining to the Early Voting Plans in the July 19, 2022 minutes.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Passed (in favor: Nelson, Baker, Devore, King; opposed: Grimes)

ACTION: Member Devore asks that the statement she made on July 19, 2022 regarding early voting in Spring Lake be included in the minutes.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Passed (in favor: Devore, Baker; opposed: Nelson, King, Grimes)

ACTION: Member Devore moves that a statement be included in the November 8 and December 13, 2022 meeting minutes that there were no public comments.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Fail (in favor: Devore, Baker; opposed: Nelson, King, Grimes)

ACTION: Member Devore moves that a statement in regards to training for the new Director on December 13, 2023 be included in the minutes for that meeting.

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Pass (in favor: Devore, Baker, Nelson; opposed: King, Grimes)

ACTION: Member King moves to approve the corrected minutes for the meetings on November 8, 2022.

Second: Secretary Grimes

Vote: Passed (unanimous)

ACTION: Member King moves to approve the corrected minutes for the meetings on July 19, 2022.

Second: Secretary Grimes

Vote: Passed (in favor: Nelson, King, Grimes; opposed: Devore, Baker)

ACTION: Member King moves to approve the corrected minutes for the meetings on December 13, 2022.

Second: Secretary Grimes

Vote: Passed (unanimous)

Member Devore asks that minutes for the closed sessions be brought in and voted on. Chair Nelson asks that they be provided to Board Members for the next meeting.

Director Amaro requests that Lake Rime polling station be moved because Fire Station activities (starting the fire trucks inside the bay and washing the trucks in the driveway) disrupts voting. The new polling location is less than a block away from the old one.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves that the polling location for Lake Rim precinct be moved from Fire Station 11(Raeford Road) to Bill Crisp Senior Center as requested by staff.

Second: Member Devore

Vote: Passed (unanimous)

Director Amaro requests that the Board combine Cross Creek 11 (Massie Hill Recreation Center) precinct and Pearce's Mill 3 precinct. Pearce's Mill 3 was located at the Board of Education but is still under construction, resulting from a fire in 2020. Pearce's Mill 3 precinct is really hard to staff. A decision has to be made 90 days before the election. The precinct is temporarily located at the Crown.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to table the combination of the two precincts until the availability of the Crown has been explored.

Second: Secretary Devore

Vote: Passed (unanimous)

Member King voices his concern over combining precincts. Member Devore explains that some of the precinct combinations that have been made in the past were made for very valid reasons.

Director Amaro says she forwarded a letter to the Board members (from Common Cause) asking to make our meetings more accessible.

Secretary Grimes says she has always welcomed more visibility. Member Devore also welcomes broadcasting our meetings. Sally Shutt (Asst. County manager) says electronic sign up to speak is possible through an ITS request, but members of the public would still have to come in in person to speak.

ACTION: Member Devore moves to include audio recordings of our meetings on our website (subject to confirmation that the website can do this).

Second: Member Baker

Vote: Passed (unanimous)

Director Amaro states that the staff has mailed out 3,587 NCOA (National Change of Address) cards. Director Amaro also states that she has included a copy of the proposed budget and will provide the Board with the final budget when she receives it.

ACTION: Member Grimes moves to approve the budget as presented by the Director.

Second: Member King

Vote: Passed (in favor: Baker, Nelson, King, Grimes; opposed: none; abstain: Devore)

Member Devore wants the Board to have a work session to determine the budget. Director Amaro states that the budget has already been submitted, in keeping with precedence from previous years and that most of the budget is determined by county leadership.

Director Amaro reports that the staff's goal is to recruit precinct officials; they are going out to several events in the public to get the word out. The Director says that the recruitment goal is 1,200 citizens. Member Devore points out that the Board of Elections only used 800 in the last election. The Director says having the exact amount we need is putting a strain on the system and they would prefer to have additional people.

The Director also reports that staff is reconsidering splitting Alderman precinct into either two or three precincts as the precinct is quite large and continuing to grow.

Chair Nelson presents the other Board members and the Director with her resignation as Chair and as a member of the Board; she has accepted a position in the County Attorney's office that conflicts with her position on the Board.

Adjournment

Motion: Member King


Second: Member Baker

Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 06:22 p.m.

Submitted by,


Irene Grimes, Secretary


Helen Nelson, Chair


James H. Baker, Member

Linda Devore, Member


Billy King, Member