

## Columbus County Board of Elections

Monday, October 09, 2023

5:00 p.m.

### **Agenda Item #1: Meeting Called to Order**

At 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 09, 2023, Jeffery Register, Chairman called the Columbus County Board of Elections meeting to order.

### **Agenda Item #2: Roll Call**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Jeffery Register, Chairman

Lynn Fairfax, Member

Lynne Thompson, Secretary

Wanda Brooks, Member

Ashley Collins, Director

Frederick Meekins, Member

### **Agenda Items #3 and #4: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

- Invocation – Mr. Fairfax
- Recited – Pledge of Allegiance

### **Agenda Item #5: Board Agenda Approval**

Board member, Mr. Meekins made a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Fairfax seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **Agenda Item #6: Approval of Minutes- September 11, 2023**

Board member, Mrs. Thompson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Mrs. Brooks seconded and the motion passed.

### **Agenda Item #7: Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **Agenda Item #8: Closed Session- G.S 143.318.11(9) Speaking with Sheriff Bill Rogers**

Mr. Rogers was delayed for the meeting, due to participating in the county fair parade. The board agreed to move to item# 9 on the agenda. Once item# 9 is completed, then the board will return to closed session.

At 5:28 p.m., Mr. Fairfax made a motion to go into closed session with Sheriff Rogers; Mrs. Thompson seconded and the motion passed. During the closed session, the board and Sheriff Roger discussed the security of the polling places and employees. At 5:50 p.m., Mr. Fairfax made a motion to return to regular session. Mrs. Thompson seconded and the motion passed.

**Agenda Item #9: Preliminary Hearing to Remove Voter- Robbie Ferguson**

Mr. Register filed a voter challenge on Mr. Robbie Ferguson because, when processing the remove Felony Reports, Mr. Ferguson name was on the report. The office sent him a letter notifying him that he would be removed due to a felony conviction. Mr. Ferguson responded disputing his right to vote. During the preliminary hearing the board members heard the reason that Mr. Ferguson should be removed as a voter. With the information provided to the board, Mr. Meekins made a motion that there was enough evidence to prove that Mr. Ferguson should be removed, and the challenge can go forward to an evidentiary hearing. Mr. Fairfax second and the motion passed. Ms. Collins informed the board that she would get in contact with Ms. Jorgenson the county attorney, to start the process of moving this to superior court.

**Agenda Item # 9: Directors Report**

- Ms. Collins gave the board members a list of the 82 voters removed from the database during the period of September 09, 2023 to October 6, 2023.
- Ms. Collins spoke with the board about giving up the booth at the county fair. Mrs. Thompson made a motion not to have a booth at the fair; Mr. Fairfax seconded and the motion passed.
- Ms. Collins gave a copy of the letter sent to Mr. Bill Rabon and Mr. Brendan Jones requesting that they come to the Board of Elections to discuss Bill 749. Mr. Rabon responded that he would not be available to attend due a scheduling conflict; there was no response from Mr. Jones.
- Ms. Collins gave a copy of the email to the board members that was sent to Mr. Madden, Mrs. Edwards, and Mrs. Prince regarding a call that she received on Tuesday in reference to the commissioner meeting. A commissioner had some questions on the new voter ID laws.

**Agenda Item #10: Adjourn**

With all business having been conducted, Mr. Fairfax made a motion to adjourn, and Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

AC/amc\*