



Richland County Council
Special Called Meeting
September 1, 2021 – 1:00PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston Chair, Yvonne McBride Vice-Chair, Bill Malinowski, Derrek Pugh, Allison Terracio, Gretchen Barron, Overture Walker, Jessica Mackey, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Tamar Black

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Newton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Newton stated the discussion and rating of the candidates should also be in Executive Session because it is a personnel/contractual matter. She also noted for transparency they should discuss next steps in open session.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Barron, to adopt the agenda as amended.

In Favor: Malinowski, Pugh, Livingston, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, English and Newton.

Not Present: McBride, Terracio, and J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **COUNTY ATTORNEY INTERVIEW [EXECUTIVE SESSION]** - Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Barron, to go into Executive Session.

In Favor: Malinowski, Pugh, Livingston, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, English and Newton.

Not Present: McBride, Terracio, and J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***The Council went into Executive Session at approximately 1:10 PM
and came out at approximately 7:12 PM.***

4. **DISCUSSION/RATING OF CANDIDATES** – Ms. Newton stated Council should rank the candidates from highest to lowest in order to narrow the candidates down, and allow Ms. Frank to tabulate the votes.

Mr. Malinowski stated he did not like the idea because it appears Council is taking a secret vote. He noted, if they want to go back into Executive Session to discuss the ranking of candidates, they should, but he did not want the public to think they were taking a secret vote.

Ms. Newton inquired about how many candidates they wanted. She noted the recommendation was to rank

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the candidates from 1 -5 in the order they were received in the book.

Ms. Mackey inquired about how many votes each Councilmember could cast.

Mr. Malinowski responded three votes.

Mr. Livingston stated the thought was to take all the candidates, and pick the 3 with the highest rankings to get an idea of the scores.

Mr. Malinowski stated he was not sure if that could be done legally with a secret ballot during open session.

Mr. Livingston noted it was not a secret ballot. It was just a ranking, since they were not making a decision on anything.

Mr. Malinowski inquired how the public would know they voted for certain people.

Ms. Frank responded she would keep a record.

Mr. Malinowski stated the public needs to know the Councilmembers' rankings.

Mr. Livingston stated this was a personnel matter, and that would not be fair to the candidates.

Ms. Barron noted when they did the Clerk search they went through each candidate and gave feedback and then ranked them.

Mr. Pugh stated when they did the Clerk search they discussed them in Executive Session and gave each candidate a number. When they exited Executive Session, the Interim Clerk called the vote and everyone gave the number of the candidate they preferred.

Ms. Barron stated she felt like they were rushing the process, and may need to go back into Executive Session to speak candidly.

Ms. Newton noted they have not had an opportunity, as a body, to discuss the candidates.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if the purpose of going back into Executive Session was to discuss the candidates, not to rank them until they exited Executive Session.

Ms. Newton responded in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if they needed to go back into Executive Session if everyone felt confident in their top 3 candidates.

Ms. Newton responded she might not be as confident as others.

Ms. Terracio stated, as the only person who missed an interview, going back into Executive Session might be beneficial for her.

Ms. Frank inquired if they could discuss the candidate by number and not use their name in open session.

Ms. Terracio noted she would not feel comfortable with that since it would become public record.

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Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey, to go into Executive Session to further discuss the candidates.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, English

Opposed: Malinowski

Abstained: McBride and Newton

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in was in favor.

***The Council went into Executive Session at approximately 7:25 PM
and exited at approximately 8:07 PM.***

5. **NEXT STEPS** – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Barron, by the close of business (5:00 PM) tomorrow to rank all 5 candidates from 1-5, with 1 being the highest, and provide the ranking to Ms. Frank. After the ranking, they will decide if they need to conduct a 2nd interview.

In Favor: Malinowski, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton.

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:18PM.