



Richland County Council
Rules and Appointments Committee
June 16, 2020 – 4:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Chair, Chakisse Newton and Gwen Kennedy

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Leonardo Brown, Brad Farrar, Kyle Holsclaw and Ashley Powell

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Malinowski called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. June 2, 2020 – Mr. Malinowski noted that according to the minutes only he and Ms. Newton were in attendance; therefore, Ms. Kennedy could not have voted on an item during the meeting.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve the minutes as corrected.

In Favor: Malinowski and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to reconsider this item.

In Favor: Malinowski and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to amend the minutes to indicate that Ms. Terracio was in attendance at the June 2nd meeting.

In Favor: Malinowski and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski and Newton

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The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **INTERVIEWS**

- a. Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council –1 – Mr. L. L. “Buddy” Wilson, Jr. and Sommer C. Blair were interviewed for the Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council vacancy.

There will be additional interviews on July 14th; therefore, appointments will not take place until the additional interviews are concluded.

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- a. I move that Council work with staff to conduct a comprehensive review of Council rules and recommend changes to streamline the rules to improve the functioning of Council business [NEWTON]

Rule 1.5: DATES/TIMES: (a) Regular Session – A regular meeting is a meeting that is scheduled when Council sets their annual calendar, regardless of the Tuesday that is fall on. If a meeting is scheduled after the annual calendar, it will be deemed a Special Called meeting.

Electronic Participation – Ms. Newton stated she would like to see the language in this section change. Currently, the Rules state we can only have electronic participation during a Special Called Meeting. During COVID, we are having electronic participation during regular meetings. We have worked out a way for security for Executive Session, and she would like to see us add the ability to have to have electronic participation at any meeting, not just Special Called meetings.

Mr. Malinowski responded he can only agree when there are special circumstances. When we go back to face-to-face meeting we will have everyone wanting to call in, and not take the time to appear in person for the meetings.

Ms. Newton stated, for example, there may be times when you are out of town on business, and currently there is no way for you to participate in a meeting, even if you are physically able to do so remotely. She would be happy to revisit this matter, but she would like for us to find a way to accommodate occasional electronic participation.

Mr. Malinowski responded that is why the occasional electronic participation was for Special Called meetings. For regular meetings, he is an advocate of the fact that the Council calendar is set annually; therefore, the meeting dates did not “sneak up” on Council members. He realizes there may be instances where there are matters that take you away (i.e. graduations, anniversaries, business trips), and, if so, you will have to miss that meeting. The reason he is so against electronic participation, for regularly scheduled meetings, is that staff must be present at these meetings, and Council should also be responsible for attending the meetings.

Ms. Newton stated, for example, we reach a situation in August, and Council decides we are going to have in-person meetings. She looks at the data from DHEC and CDC, and, for her personal safety, she does not want to sit less than a foot away from people. Again, she would like for us to find a way to accommodate electronic participation. She believes there are times when people are taken away, and she would hate to have their representation gone.

Mr. Malinowski responded if a Council member is allowed a certain number of time to participate

electronically, he may be able to support that. When it is time for us to return to in-person meetings, we may need to put Plexiglas participation between the Council members.

Ms. Newton stated her ultimate objective is not to specify how we do it, but to acknowledge it. For example, if there is a Council member that is ill, and wants to represent their constituents, but does not want to subject others to their illness. They would not be able to participate.

The committee discussed discussing the remaining proposed changes, and coming back to the matter regarding the Horizon meeting date.

- b. Unless there are truly extenuating circumstances agenda items should not be listed as "Title Only". (Somebody was late getting it to us" is not extenuating.) This only gives the public two opportunities to see an item prior to final approval by Council when in fact there should be three [MALINOWSKI] – This item was not taken up.
- c. Consider moving the Horizon meeting to Tuesday and have delivery of finished agendas to Council members by Thursday close of business [MALINOWSKI, McBRIDE, MYERS, NEWTON & TERRACIO] – This item was not taken up.
- d. Boards, Committees, and Commission Descriptions and Duties – This item was not taken up.
- e. Proposed CMRTA Board Member Qualifications – This item was not taken up.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:01 PM