



Richland County Council  
Rules and Appointments Committee  
November 5, 2019 – 4:00 PM  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia 29204

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Kimberly Williams-Roberts

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Newton called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. October 1, 2019 – Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the minutes as distributed.  
  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adopt the agenda as published.  
  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **INTERVIEWS**
  - a. East Richland Public Service Commission – One (1) Vacancy – Ms. Jennifer Creed was interviewed for the East Richland Public Service Commission.
  - b. Procurement Review Panel – Two (2) Vacancies (One applicant must be from the public procurement arena & one applicant must be from the consumer industry) – Dr. Regina N. Givens was interviewed for the Procurement Review Panel.
  - c. Accommodations Tax – Two (2) Vacancies (1 applicant must have a background in the lodging industry & 1 applicant must have a background in the cultural industry) – Mr. R. Lee Snelgrove was interviewed for the Accommodations Tax Committee.
  - d. Airport Commission – Three (3) Vacancies – Ms. Kaela Bailey and Mr. Thomas J. Callan was interviewed for the Airport Commission.
5. **NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS**
  - a. East Richland Public Service Commission – 1 – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to

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appoint Ms. Jennifer Creed to the East Richland Public Service Commission.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Procurement Review Panel – 2 – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to appoint Dr. Regina N. Givens and re-advertise for the remaining vacancy.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. Accommodations Tax – 2 – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to re-advertise the vacancies.

Ms. Newton inquired as to why Mr. Malinowski would not want to appoint Mr. Snelgrove.

Mr. Malinowski stated Mr. Snelgrove is a resident of the City of Columbia. Richland County residents do not get the opportunity to participate on any municipality boards, and these taxes are collected strictly in the unincorporated, and to be primarily used in the unincorporated area, so to have someone from a municipality on this committee he does not believe would be proper.

Ms. Newton stated, from her perspective, she can see that point and understands with County specific committee, but with other committees she finds it unnecessary and unfair. She would say if this is an applicant, who can still bring value and have County perspective the person should be seriously considered. Moreover, if there are committees that we are only going to consider people, if they live in Richland County, that needs to be something that is communicated on the application. There is not a way for a person that applies, in good faith, to understand they are going to go through the interview process, and not be considered. If that is going to be a rule, then it needs to be a rule that is approved by Council.

Mr. Malinowski stated he was told by Legal that we cannot make a rule that precludes anyone because the applicant still lives in Richland County. However, we, as Council members, can decide when it comes time to take a vote. People can still make applications, but we, as a Council, can decide who to and who not to appoint, based on reasons individual Council members may have. He feels it is important that the people, on this board, who make recommendations, on how to spend monies, collected in the unincorporated, should be from the unincorporated area.

Ms. Newton stated, in terms of Mr. Farrar's point, she would like to clarify with him that this is not something, across the board, you could say, but where there are specific areas (i.e. the Board of Zoning Appeals). Again, if this is a rule, she thinks it is patently unfair because it would mean, for example, Ms. Terracio would never have a constituent serve on a board or commission.

Mr. Malinowski stated he could never have a constituent that would serve on a board in the City of Columbia.

Ms. Newton stated it is an utter waste of time if you know you are never going to consider the applicant for appointment.

Ms. Kennedy stated we were continuously getting applications for residents in the City instead of residents that lived in the unincorporated area; therefore, we made the decision not to appoint residents of the City.

Ms. Newton stated she would love to see that. Regardless, if there is a rule, and it is a rule, then it needs to be communicated, and that the rule is fair. For her the question is, how can we help move these organizations forward. She is totally, if we want to have a preference, and say, "All things being equal, we want someone who lives in unincorporated Richland County, but to say we had a perfect candidate, for something specific, who was going to help make an organization amazing, because they are exactly the expertise that they need. For her to say, "You would be amazing. No one else would do as good a job as you, but solely for the fact that you, Richland County taxpayer, do not live in the unincorporated part of the County, you cannot serve." She does not think it serves our objective.

Ms. Kennedy stated that is why we have been looking at addresses, and that the applicants were going to live and work in the County.

Ms. Newton stated she has never seen that written, so to her there is a difference between a custom, a practice and a rule.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to call for the question.

The vote in favor was unanimous to call for the question.

The vote was in favor to re-advertise the vacancies.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. **Boards, Committees and Commissions Descriptions and Duties** – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to hold in committee and forward current descriptions of the Boards, Committees and Commissions to the Rules and Appointments Committee members.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM.