



Richland County Council  
Rules and Appointment Committee  
**MINUTES**  
November 14, 2023 – 3:30 PM  
Council Chambers  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Gretchen Barron, Chair, Jason Branham, and Allison Terracio

OTHERS PRESENT: Derrek Pugh, Don Weaver, Michelle Onley, Anette Kirylo, Angela Weathersby, Wayne Thornley, Stacey Hamm, Tamar Black, Jennifer Wladischkin, and Ashiya Myers

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Gretchen Barron called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. November 7, 2023 – Ms. Terracio moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, and Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** – Ms. Terracio moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, and Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

a. Midlands Workforce Development Board – One (1) Vacancy (The applicant must represent the Labor Industry) – Ms. Barron noted there was a request made by the Midlands Workforce Development Board to make an additional appointment. The Committee requested the County Attorney to discuss the request with the Midlands Workforce Development Board and their staff to ensure this was in line with State and Federal guidelines. There have been some changes, and the Committee can appoint an additional person. She noted we will have to update the board's description. The matter before the Committee is whether to appoint the applicant who interviewed in September or re-advertise for the vacancy.

The Clerk to Council, Anette Kirylo, stated the applicant would have to meet the criteria for the position; therefore, we cannot re-advertise for the position.

Ms. Barron stated for clarification, this is one of those positions that comes with a recommendation.

Ms. Terracio moved to appoint Ms. Debra Stripling, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Branham inquired where we got the applicant's name and recommendation.

Ms. Kirylo responded the vacancy was advertised during the last notice of vacancies advertisement. The Clerk's Office received three applications. One of the applicants was appointed to the Private Sector position, and the other was appointed to the Richland County Library Board. The recommendation to appoint Ms. Stripling to the Labor position came from the Midlands Workforce Development staff.

Mr. Branham inquired if the application came from the general public advertising.

Ms. Kirylo stated that historically, the Rules and Appointments Committee sets the advertisement for all boards and committees with a vacancy, even if they come with a recommendation. Anyone can apply for the vacancy, but certain positions must meet specific criteria (i.e., Adult Education, Labor).

Ms. Terracio inquired about Ms. Stripling's qualifications for the position.

Ms. Kirylo responded Ms. Stripling would meet the labor representative criteria.

Ms. Barron noted this board has certain groups we have to appoint. In this case, it is labor. Other members must come from particular agencies; those positions are "appointed" by the Midlands Workforce Development Board. Those "appointments" come to the Committee as an applicant. This does not apply to this vacancy, and she is not opposed to re-advertising.

Mr. Branham indicated we are referencing State Instruction 14-03, Change 1, from the Department of South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. This State agency is issuing this policy to elected officials in local workforce development areas. This committee plays a role in making recommendations to Council. Under the section entitled "Board Composition," there are two references to labor organizations: (B)(i): "shall include representatives of labor organizations who have been nominated by local labor federations; (B)(ii): shall include a representative, who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director, from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or if no such program exists in the area, such representative of an apprenticeship program in the area, if such a program exists.

Ms. Barron stated the Midlands Workforce Development Board originally had 12 members. She noted we do not want to rush the appointment as this is an organization that we will need in the coming months as we look to strengthen our workforce development and prepare for Scout Motors. The question before the committee is whether we want to appoint Ms. Stripling or re-advertise and include Ms. Stripling and then make an appointment.

Ms. Terracio indicated it is her general practice to have a choice, so there is another person we can weigh out the qualifications of the candidates.

Ms. Barron inquired if there were additional applications on file for the board.

Ms. Kirylo responded there were no additional applicants.

Ms. Terracio withdrew her motion.

Ms. Terracio moved to re-advertise for the vacancy, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, and Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. I move that Council establishes written guidelines regarding the number of proclamations and acknowledgement resolutions that can be presented at County Council meetings [WEAVER and TERRACIO] – Mr. Weaver stated his concern, after speaking with staff, is the number of resolutions and proclamations keep growing. It was a shock to him that there are no rules regarding this; therefore, he felt the committee could develop rules related to this matter. His suggestions were:

- A maximum number of resolutions/proclamations (i.e., three);
- Request information from the Association of Counties as to best practices;
- Minimum notice to Council members when a resolution or proclamation is requested;
- Time limit for speakers;
- If the maximum number of resolutions/proclamations is reached, the others would roll to the next Council meeting.

Ms. Terracio noted there was a time when we did not do a photograph or allow the recipients to speak. The process has evolved, and we have tried to streamline it.

Mr. Branham stated there is value in the proclamations and resolutions. We like having the opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations. He suggested only reading the first and last paragraphs of the document. In addition, he would like to know that at least one Council member felt strongly enough about it that they wanted it to be on the agenda.

Ms. Barron agrees with Mr. Branham that it is great to be able to highlight the work and success of the citizens of Richland County. She believes we need some guidelines but does not know if she supports limiting the number of resolutions and proclamations.

Ms. Barron moved to direct the Clerk's Office to research SCAC's best practices and bring it back to the committee, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Mr. Pugh stated he understands wanting to have guidelines, but we do not want to give citizens the impression that we do not have time for them.

Mr. Branham noted that not every proclamation is presented at a Council meeting.

Mr. Pugh stated Council members could also coordinate with PIO to visit the recipients at their organizations.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, and Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Terracio moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, and Barron

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:03 PM.