

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 09, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling (arrived at 4:39 p.m.); Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioner Patricia D. Collins; Commissioner J. Michael Fussell; and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulse. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette P. Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Acting Chairman Hulse and a quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Fussell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and the motion passed 4 – 0 with Commissioners Collins, Fussell, Hulse and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed up for public comments.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the June 13, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0 with Commissioners Collins, Fussell, Hulse and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

A motion to approve the June 13, 2023, Executive Session Meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0 with Commissioners Collins, Fussell, Hulse and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There were four appeals presented to the Election Commission.

The applicant (VR) when attempting to register to vote checked "Yes" to the "Have you been convicted of a felony?" declaration question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant who returned the form as having inadvertently checked "Yes" to "Have you been convicted of a felony?"

All Commissioners present reviewed the appeal documentation presented. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to find the registration application of VR sufficient to allow the applicant to properly register to vote. The motion passed 4 – 0 with Collins, Fussell, Hulseley and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

The applicant (PS) when attempting to register to vote checked "Yes" to the "Have you been convicted of a felony?" declaration question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant who returned the form as having inadvertently checked "Yes" to "Have you been convicted of a felony?"

All Commissioners present reviewed the appeal documentation presented. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to find the registration application of PS sufficient to allow the applicant to properly register to vote. The motion passed 4 – 0 with Collins, Fussell, Hulseley and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

The applicant (EC) when attempting to register to vote checked "Yes" to the "Have you been convicted of a felony?" declaration question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant who returned the form as having inadvertently checked "Yes" to "Have you been convicted of a felony?"

All Commissioners present reviewed the appeal documentation presented. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to find the registration application of EC sufficient to allow the applicant to properly register to vote. The motion passed 4 – 0 with Collins, Fussell, Hulseley and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

The applicant (DD) when attempting to register to vote checked "Yes" to the "Have you been convicted of a felony?" declaration question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant who returned the form as having inadvertently checked "Yes" to "Have you been convicted of a felony?"

All Commissioners present reviewed the appeal documentation presented. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to find the registration application of DD sufficient to allow the applicant to properly register to vote. The motion passed 4 – 0 with Collins, Fussell, Hulseley and Shepherd voting in the affirmative.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

- Commissioners inspected 133 voter registration applications out of 1,322 new voter applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Division of Elections.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- FACILITY UPDATE

- AOE advised the matter is still unresolved and the SCEC continues to operate in two separate locations.

- BUDGET UPDATE

- AOE stated the budget committee recommended to the County Commission and the County Commission approved an SCEC budget (not the one approved and submitted by the SCEC, but the previous year's SCEC budget 2022 -2023) and that budget passed. AOE does not believe it will be sufficient.

- VOTING MACHINE CASE UPDATE

- AOE reported that the voting machine cases are scheduled to arrive in the first weeks of September.

- OTHER

- AOE stated that she understood Chairman Ehmling and Commissioner Hulseley were going to be unavailable for the next regularly scheduled SCEC meeting on September 12, 2023. After discussion, the meeting was rescheduled to September 18, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

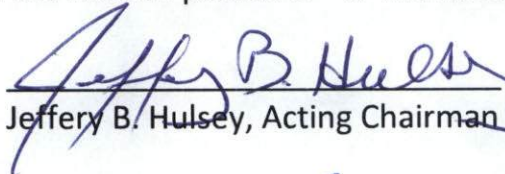
- No Report

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Collins advised that she is still working with Dr. Yawn and the Sumner County School Board to have the required high school registration program permanently added to the school calendar.
- Following general discussion regarding the public comments policy currently in place, Commissioner Fussell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ehmling to require those wishing to speak (up to five) to sign up online in advance of each SCEC meeting. Commissioner Collins and Shepherd voiced concerns of those who possibly wanted to speak but did not have internet access or were not computer savvy. Chairman Ehmling offered an amendment to allow three people to sign up online and allow two slots available for in-person sign up on the day of the SCEC meetings. AOE noted that the Commissioners could always vote to suspend the rules and allow additional speakers. Commissioner Fussell agreed to the policy as amended to allow three (3) people to sign-up online to speak in advance of a noticed SCEC meeting and two (2) people to sign up the day of the SCEC meeting, and that if no one or less than three (3) signed up online, the balance of five (5) people total could sign up the day of the SCEC meeting with the in place time allotment of two minutes, and the motion as amended passed 5 – 0.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.



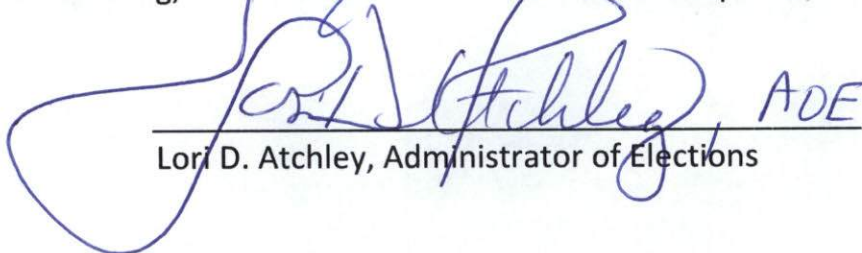
Jeffery B. Hulsey, Acting Chairman (prior to arrival of M. Allen Ehmling)



M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman



Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections