



Richland County
Rules and Appointments Committee
April 20, 2021 – 3:30 PM
Zoom Meeting
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Chair, Gretchen Barron and Jesica Mackey

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Cheryl English, Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Tamar Black and Andrea Mathis

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Malinowski called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. April 6, 2021– Ms. Mackey moved, seconded by Ms. Barron, to approve the minutes as distributed.

In Favor: Malinowski, Barron and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey to approve the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, Barron, and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **INTERVIEWS**

Mr. Malinowski inquired about the number of applicants remaining to be interviewed.

Ms. Mathis responded there are four (4) applicants remaining.

Ms. Mackey noted she does not believe that is correct. According to the spreadsheet, it appears there are more applicants.

Ms. Onley responded the applicants from the City of Columbia will not be interviewed due to the City of Columbia also appointing to the Community Relations Council.

Ms. Mackey inquired if that is included on the applications for boards, commissions and committees.

Ms. Onley responded it is not included on the applications.

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April 20, 2021**

Mr. Malinowski noted, at the last Rules and Appointments Committee meeting, this matter was discussed. He stated, if the applicants from the City of Columbia have not been contacted, they should be notified as soon as possible.

Ms. Mathis responded the Clerk's Office is in the process of notifying the applicants.

Ms. Mackey stated the application must address this.

Mr. Malinowski responded he believes the application could be amended to direct applicants to review the specific descriptions for eligibility.

Ms. Mackey stated, for clarification, this applies to all boards, committees and commissions.

Mr. Malinowski responded it only applies to those boards, committees and commissions that have appointees from other municipalities.

Ms. Terracio stated, for someone whose district is mostly within the City of Columbia, she would advocate that those residents would be disenfranchised from serving on a Richland County board or commission, if this were upheld. She inquired if this is something being proposed by the Rules and Appointments Committee.

Mr. Malinowski responded the reason for doing this is, if the County appoints 5 people, and the Columbia appoints 5 people, then if the County appoints City of Columbia residents the makeup of the committee would be weighted in favor of the City.

Ms. McLean stated you do not have to exclude the City of Columbia citizens from your boards and committees, but if there is a committee where the City also appoints, it is acceptable to exclude them that particular board/committee.

Ms. Terracio noted, she would assume, anyone that applies from the City of Columbia for the County's boards/committees would advocate on behalf of Richland County as a whole rather than their interest in the City of Columbia.

- a. Community Relations Council – 8 – Ms. Keshia McNeal, Ms. Reenea R. Harrison and Dr. Jeffrey Hunter were interviewed for the Community Relations Council Committee.

There are additional interviews for this committee; therefore, no appointments were made at this time.

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

- a. Boards, Committees and Commissions Recruitment – Mr. Malinowski inquired if Ms. McLean can draft language to include on the applications to address those committees that other municipalities have appointment power.

Ms. Mackey noted, at the last meeting, they discussed developing a schedule for upcoming interviews.

Ms. Mathis responded she and Ms. Onley have been collaborating on this matter. It was suggested that we set aside a day strictly for interviews.

Mr. Malinowski stated interviews have been an issue for years. He noted we have to weigh the Council business vs. the interviews for the boards, committees, and commissions. If we get notice from a committee that they are unable to reach a quorum, then we can move them to them up in the schedule. He inquired, if we have a large amount of applicants, do we have to interview all of the applicants before we make an appointment. One of the reasons he thinks a deadline is a good thing is, once the deadline for applying is reached, those are the individuals that will be interviewed.

Mr. Livingston stated he things a ½ day or day of strictly interviews is a good idea until we are caught up on interviews. Many times we have individuals who quit before their term expires; therefore, they could not participate and it would affect the ability to have a quorum.

Ms. Mackey stated she believes handling County business is important. We have established dates to do so, but there is the ability to hold additional meetings to conduct interviews. Due to the number of vacancies we have, we need to focus on eliminating those numbers.

Mr. Malinowski noted we need to see a list that devotes attention to the vacancies we have, and prioritizes the most crucial vacancies.

Ms. Barron stated she would like to see us address the interviews and fill the vacancies quickly. She proposed having 10 – 15 interviews at each meeting.

Mr. Malinowski suggested have a 2 hour Rules and Appointments Committee meeting in order to hold additional interviews.

Ms. Mackey requested an update on having a fillable application on the website.

Ms. Mathis responded we have not had an opportunity to work on this matter.

- b. Boards, Committees and Commissions Descriptions and Duties – No action was taken.
- c. 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 1.7(b)(7)(b) – Mr. Malinowski noted just because the information was late is not a reason to skirt the committee process in place.

Ms. Mackey requested the history of the proposed Council Rules revisions.

Mr. Malinowski responded former Assistant County Attorney Brad Farrar proposed the revisions, when he reviewed the Council Rules.

Ms. Newton stated Mr. Farrar looked at instances where we had issues with the parliamentary procedures, as well as conducted a comprehensive review of the SCAC Model Rules.

Rule 1.7(c)(7) – Mr. Malinowski noted he does not have a problem with people addressing Council members by name, as long as it is not disrespectful. If someone becomes disrespectful the Chair has the authority to have them escorted out.

Ms. Newton stated, her understanding is, when citizens make comments, Council members are not able to respond, so that could create a sticky situation.

Mr. Livingston stated he shares the same concerns as Ms. Newton.

Mr. Malinowski requested the Chair state, prior to Citizens' Input, a person is only able to speak on behalf of themselves, and not a group or organization.

Mr. Livingston responded you may have a person who is the Chair of a group or organization, which he is fine with.

Mr. Malinowski stated he is fine if an individual indicates they are a member of a group, community, etc., but not speak on behalf of the whole group. If the individual is reading a letter on behalf of an organization that would be permissible, as long as a copy is provided to the Clerk's Office and a copy if provided to Council members.

Rule 2.3 – Mr. Malinowski noted “If repeated cries of order are ineffective, the Chair may call a member by name, and if the Chair deems it necessary...” He inquired if that is allowed.

Mr. Livingston responded among the body it is allowed.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. Once Council approves an action no Council member is to individually go to a staff member in an effort to accomplish/change something that was not in the approved information/action by Council [MALINOWSKI] – No action was taken.
- b. I move to amend the Public Nuisance Ordinance to define "Public Places/Establishments" to include restaurants, taverns, lodges, parking lots, and public places where children or students attend and/or normally congregate – No action was taken.
- c. I move that all County Employees presenting to County Council during an official Council meeting (Regular, Special Called, Public Zoning Hearing or Standing Committees) held in Zoom have a live camera running during their actual verbal input. – No action was taken.
- d. I move that if matters such as Clerk to Council Search or Compensation for Interim Clerk of Council are to be a part of the Employee Evaluation Oversight Ad Hoc Committee that the name of the Ad Hoc Committee be changed to better reflect what would fall under the purview of its function, responsibility, and/or purpose – No action was taken.
- e. Direct the Rules Committee to determine which Richland County Boards, Committees and Commissions should have as a qualification that the person applying must reside in the unincorporated area of Richland County only. There are some of these positions where other municipalities appoint individuals and if a person applying for one of those positions resides in that municipality then they should make application through them – No action was taken.

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