



Richland County Council
Rules and Appointments Committee
December 10, 2019 – 4:00 PM
4th Floor Conference Room
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia 29204

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Yvonne McBride, Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Kimberly Williams-Roberts and Leonardo Brown

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Newton called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. December 3, 2019 – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to adopt the agenda as published. The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **INTERVIEWS**
 - a. Richland Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees – Five (5) Vacancies – Mr. Edwin B. Garrison, Dr. Traci Young Cooper, Mr. Carlton Boyd and Ms. Vennawae Qualls were interviewed for the Richland Memorial Board of Trustees.
 - b. Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC) – One (1) Vacancy – Ms. Vennawae Qualls was interviewed for the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council.
 - c. Board of Assessment Appeals – Two (2) Vacancies – Ms. Vennawae Qualls was interviewed for the Board of Assessment Appeals.
 - d. Township Auditorium Board – One (1) Vacancy – Ms. Erinn Rowe was interviewed for the Township Auditorium Board.
5. **APPOINTMENTS**
 - a. Richland Memorial Board of Trustees – Five (5) Vacancies – Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to re-appoint Dr. Traci Young Cooper. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to re-appoint Mr. Charles D. Waddell and Ms.

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Shirley D. Mills, and appoint Mr. Edwin B. Garrison and Mr. Carlton Boyd. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Township Auditorium Board – One (1) Vacancy – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to appoint Mr. Andrew N. Theodore.

Ms. Newton stated looking at the skills that Mr. Theodore brings versus the skills that Ms. McKnight brought, she would welcome discussion on these two (2) candidates.

Mr. Malinowski stated he questioned the location of her job. Ms. McKnight stated she was a freelance event manager and promoter in the Columbia area. He stated we only have what she told us she was doing there. We do not have any record that she is employed with the company in Columbus, GA.

The vote was in favor.

- c. Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority – One (1) Vacancy – Mr. Malinowski moved to appoint Ms. LaToya M. Guider. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to hold this item in committee for additional information. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- d. Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council – One (1) Vacancy – Mr. Malinowski moved to appoint Ms. Vennawae Qualls. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to re-advertise this vacancy. The vote in favor was unanimous.

- e. Board of Assessment Appeals – Two (2) Vacancies – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to re-advertise the vacancies for the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority, Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, and the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Ms. Newton stated she has had conversations with the Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority's Executive Director about their desires for the board, in terms of the strategic direction and questions they are trying to answer. They are interested in having the County evaluate the makeup of the board. The number is determined by statute, but they are interested in changing the number of citizen and Council representatives. She has inquired of Legal if there is a requirement to immediately re-advertise the positions, and they have said there is not. She suggested re-advertising the vacancies for the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and the Board of Assessment Appeals, while we get additional information to decide if we will be able to accommodate the CMRTA, and if not, re-advertise later.

Mr. Malinowski stated he thinks for the CMRTA to come in at the 11th hour and request us to consider these changes in the board makeup is rather rude. After all, they knew vacancies were coming due, and knew advertisements would be made. People have applied for the vacancy, and to shun those individuals because the CMRTA feels they want a board change, which we do not even know how long will take. This also plays into effect that we have an incumbent board member who failed to submit their application for reappointment. The longer we can stall, the longer that person stays there, which is not fair to those individuals that took the time and effort to apply. It take months before this would go to a committee, be vetted and forwarded to Council for discussion. We

have an individual that is willing to serve, and he believes we should make a decision as to why this person should not serve. He does not think the CMRTA's request is a valid reason.

Ms. Newton stated, it is her understanding, they have had conversations with Councilwoman Dickerson, who is our representative on this board. She knows that was something that was being explored, and looking at legal channels to see if this was something that would be an option. From her perspective, understanding how critical bus transportation is, she would be inclined to have a definitive answer on how long that process would be before we re-advertise, because if we re-advertise we have to bring someone in and fill it. If it is a question that can potentially be answered in the next week, and it will take a year to change it, then we can move to re-advertise the vacancy.

Mr. Malinowski stated we need to decide why we need to re-advertise.

Ms. Newton stated her recommendation would be that we not re-advertise the vacancy, at this time. Based on her understanding of what the strategic goals are for the CMRTA, and the conversation we had with the candidate, she does not feel the candidate is the best person for the difficult conversations the CMRTA Board is trying to have.

Mr. Malinowski withdrew his motion.

Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to re-advertise the vacancy. The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- a. Boards, Committees and Commissions Descriptions and Duties – This item was held in committee.
- 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 give 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 held in committee.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:16 PM.