

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION
DATE: AUGUST 17, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Philip Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Members present were Chairman Philip Johnson, Kelly Robinson, Dustin Thompson and Angela White-Davis.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

There were two guests present. (Anthony "Chris" Stastny (Representative from the Democratic Party) and Darrell Cheek (Voter for the hearing of the Felon Notice)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July 13, 2020 minutes were approved Dustin Thompson (motioned) and Kelly Robinson (seconded the motion) for acceptance.

Minutes from the July 20, 2020 minutes were approved Dustin Thompson (motioned) and Kelly Robinson (seconded the motion) for acceptance.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed or reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Johnson discussed Governor Kemp's order of the extension for the State of Georgia. The latest order remains in effect until Aug. 31. The extension of an order that will now allow local states, cities, counties, and other government entities to impose mask requirements. Individual offenders may face a fine of up to \$50 but there are several situations where they cannot be cited.

Kelly Robinson inquired about church's requesting mandatory mask wearing since our polling places are majority located in Church's.

It was discussed by the board that mask wearing can also not be a requirement for entering a polling place.

Dustin Thompson stated that he visited the Brick Store Precinct (St. Augustine Catholic Church) location 11524 Highway 278 E, Covington, GA 30014 and the church had a notice “mask required” to enter the building.

It was identified that “public property” can mandate masks wearing however, this will exclude polling places portion of the Administration Building where advance voting is conducted for Newton County.

Early voting schedule was provided:

Administration Building 1113 Usher St Covington, Ga (North Entrance)

October 12, 2020 – October 16, 2020 (Monday – Friday) 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 19, 2020 – October 23, 2020 (Monday – Friday) 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 24, 2020 (Mandatory Saturday) 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

October 26, 2020 – October 30, 2020 (Monday – Friday) 8:00am – 6:00pm

Porter Memorial Library (TBD) (concerning the current Covid-19 status)
6191 Highway 212, Covington, GA 30016

Kelly Robinson suggested that the attendance in the elections office (back office) during the tabulation of the ballots be addressed for safety per square footage. It was also suggested that the back exit door to the main stockroom area be kept open for ventilation. Recommendation during the duplication process of the 3 required persons need to also make sure of social distancing rules are maintained.

Philip Johnson will review the CDC (Center of Disease Control) guidelines for the square footage of the tabulation space that used on election night.

Philip Johnson addressed the mail delivery concerns currently being reported in the news of concerns with untimely delivery of the absentee ballots for the upcoming election. Angela White-Davis updated the board that the Newton County postal service worked very well with our office during the past elections. The Postal Supervisor (Tim Shelton) and his staff went above and beyond to make sure all ballots received the day of election were delivered to our office before the 7:00pm deadline. (Inclusive of additional couriers being used to transport mail from county to county)

Philip Johnson did reference that Angela Mantle (Director of Bd of Elections) is researching the cost/ budget and style of an additional drop box for the upcoming election in November. The board will be reviewing the options of placing the drop box on the West Side of Newton County. The location of interest is located in the Kroger Shopping Center (**3612 Salem Road Covington, Ga 30016.**) the box would be placed in the front of the building mounted in the ground by the base. Current county offices in this location is (Newton County) Sheriff Office, Tax Commissioners office and Tax Assessors Office.

Philip Johnson did update the board that it has been approved by County Manager Lloyd Kerr for additional staff to assist with the processing of the absentee ballots for the November – General Election. The Chairman also updated the board about the portal being set up by Secretary of State’s (SOS) office for easy request for absentee ballots by voter to be provided to state’s county elections offices.

The board is currently reviewing the possibility of starting early tabulation 2 weeks before the General election date.

Dustin Thompson did commend the elections office and staff on a great job during the past election conducted for the county.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Board was provided with a copy of the monthly status report showing the number of Active and Inactive voters by precinct and districts as of August 03: Active 77125 and Inactive – 3864

A copy of the Daily Work Log Totals : 2726 voter registration applications. 858 transferred out of county, and 65 cancellations were received for the month of July 2020.

The Board received a copy of the budget comparison statement for the month of **August 08, 2020**

The next scheduled meeting: _____09/14/2020_____

ADJOURNMENT

The board adjourned around 440pm.

Angela White-Davis

Minutes Prepared by: Angela White-Davis Asst. Director


Minutes Approved By

9-14-2020
Date