

# July 12, 2022

## Meeting Minutes

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Invocation - Member Baker

The meeting was called to order on July 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cumberland County Board of Elections board room by the Chair.

**Present:** Helen Nelson - Chair  
Linda Devore - Member  
James Baker - Member  
Billy King - Member  
Irene Grimes - Secretary

**Staff:** Angela Amaro, Vickie Hillburn

**Guests:** Sharon Lee, Peter Apone, Susan Mills, Sharon Lee, Pat Randall, Charles Evans, Michelle Cuninghame, Meta Weaver-Coaxum, Larry Wright, Charles McKellar, Laura Mussler, Randy Smith, Carrie Jackson, Sally Shutt.

**ACTION:** Member King moves that the agenda be amended by adding a discussion of the current Early Voting site to the agenda.

Second: Member Grimes

Vote: Unanimous

**ACTION:** Secretary Grimes moves that the Board approve the agenda.

Second: Member Devore

Vote: Unanimous

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** (each speaker has 3 minutes)

1. Roberta Waddle (3941 Gainey Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306) in favor of early voting plan, favoring Spring Lake and add additional Sunday. Likes the plan that replaces Cliffdale with two alternative sites.
2. Sharon Johnson (8436 Umstead Road, Fayetteville, NC 28306) - concerned with only one site for the municipal election; add additional sites in West Fayetteville. Wants Cliffdale to remain as an Early Voting Site. Also wants additional Sunday.
3. Ira Wolfe (7716 Kennybunk Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28306.) - Concerned with current election site hours of 8-5; not able to stand in line.
4. Larry Wright (1223 Chilton Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28303) - current city council member, understands the process but he was not aware that there would be only one site; wants better communication with the Board.
5. Charles McKellar (address illegible.) - western side of the county needs more sites.

Member King remarks that the community is concerned about there only being one site for Early Voting in the current (municipal) election. Can any adjustment be made for the current election and what can we do to prevent this in the future. Asks the interim Director to clarify the variety of ways voters can cast their vote (absentee, election day, early voting).

Secretary Grimes remarks that the Early Voting Plan for the municipal election was decided on June 14th. Remembers asking the staff if the City had requested more sites; because this is a municipal election only, additional sites have to be requested and funded by the municipality that wants them. At that time there had not been a request from the city for additional Early Voting sites, so at that point the Board had no choice. Even if the Board had wanted to open more sites, without a request from the city, the Board's hands were tied. Everyone in the room knows that most of the Board members advocate for more sites and more hours and more days. If we had been able to approve more sites we would have.

Chair Nelson, adds that she also had inquired if the City had requested more sites. She also adds that she does not know why the City Council did not request more sites.

Asks the interim Director if there had been any communication from the City Council regarding Early Voting sites prior to June 14th. Interim Director replies that there had not been; she received an email from the City Manager of June 21st.

Member Devore emphasizes that the current days/site/hours are completely consistent with all previous municipal elections. 58 sites will be open on Election Day for voters to cast their ballot. In 2019 municipal election only 1,200 early voted; also 45 days notice are required to the public.

Member Baker says that Secretary Grimes, Chair Nelson and Member Devore made the same points he would have made.

**ACTION:** Secretary Grimes moves to approve the minutes for May 27 (with corrections), June 14, June 28 and July 5, 2022.

Second: Member King

Vote: Unanimous in favor

Secretary Grimes remarks that the minutes for the closed sessions (that were circulated prior to the start of the meeting) are not being approved today, they are just for the members to review.

Director Amaro submits the following plans for consideration for Early Voting in November: Plan 1 includes College Lakes, East regional, E.E. Miller Rec, Gray's Creek, Kiwanis (in lieu of BOE), Smith Rec, Spring Lake, Stoney Point and Westover. Hours would be M-F 8am-7:30pm (Oct 20-Nov 4); Saturdays (Oct 22, 29 & Nov 5) 8am - 3pm and Sunday (October 23) 2pm - 5pm.

Plan 2 includes Cliffdale, College Lakes, East Regional, Gray's Creek, Kiwanis (in lieu of BOE), Smith Rec, Spring Lake, Stoney Point. Hours would be M-F 8am-7:30pm (Oct 20-Nov 4); Saturdays (Oct 22, 29 & Nov 5) 8am - 3pm and Sunday (October 23) 2pm - 5pm.

Plans for Early Voting are due to the state by August 5th, 2022.

Member Devore remarks that Spring Lake was the least used site; Massey Hill was added in 2020 and was used more. If we are going to add another site we should add Massey Hill in order to avoid long lines. Will not be supporting Spring Lake as an Early Voting site.

Secretary Grimes advocates for a site in Spring Lake and adding the remaining Sunday 2-5pm.

Member King says that there was good turnout at College Lakes and also wants to advocate for 2nd Sunday. Can we ask for input from the community.

**ACTION:** Member King moves to add public comment to the next meeting so the public can provide input regarding Early Voting.  
Second: Member Baker

**ACTION:** Member Devore moves to suspend rule on public comment to the July 19, 2022 meeting so there can be public comment.  
Second: Member Baker  
Vote: Unanimous in favor

Interim Director reports that machine certification has been done; applies to municipal election. Interim Director introduces Tasha, new board of elections employee.

33 Total absentee ballots have been received; 28 civilian, 3 military (1 by email) and 2 overseas (by email). Total for one Stop is 893 as of 3pm on July 12, 2022

**ACTION:** Member Devore moves that the 33 absentee ballots received be approved..  
Second: Member King  
Vote: Unanimous in favor


**ACTION:** Secretary Grimes moves that the Board enter into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.  
Second: Member King  
Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Board moved into closed session at 5:56 p.m.

The Board returned into open session at 6:07 p.m.

Adjournment  
Motion: Member Grimes  
Second: Member King  
Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Submitted by,

  
Irene Grimes, Secretary

  
Helen Nelson, Chair

  
James H. Baker, Member

  
Linda Devore, Member

  
Billy King, Member