

City of Hyattsville Ethics Commission
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Chris Currie, Michael Horlick, T. Carter Ross, David Sip, City Clerk Laura Reams

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Michael Horlick.
2. The minutes of the February 9, 2022, meeting were approved without amendment on a voice vote.
3. Clerk Reams noted that the City Council approved the charter amendment extending the allowable time to hold a special election following a vacancy. The amendment goes into effect April 13, allowing the 2022 mayoral special election to be held on June 7.
4. Clerk Reams also noted that former Deputy City Clerk Nicola Konigkramer will return as a contractor to support the special election process. Former Deputy City Clerk Sean Corcoran is also willing to help out as a volunteer.
5. Clerk Reams reviewed the draft calendar for the special election cycle, noting dates of importance to the Commission, in particular:
 - March 23: Candidate info session
 - April 11: Mandatory candidate training at 6 p.m.
 - April 13: Review financial disclosures
 - May 17: Initial campaign finance reports due
 - May 31: Second campaign finance reports due
 - June 7: Election day
 - September 6: Final/annual campaign finance reports due

Based upon these dates, it was suggested and agreed to that the Commissions planned meetings for May 11 and June 8 be cancelled and that a date for a post-election meeting be set for later in June at a future point.

In discussion about how best to handle the mandatory candidate training session, the general consensus was that such a session remained valuable, but that providing “office hours” ahead of the initial campaign finance report deadline would be beneficial. One suggestion was that campaigns be informed that during a set time period, if they submitted a question by 2 p.m. they could be assured of a response by 8 p.m. and/or they could request a meeting (most likely via Zoom) for a certain time that same day. Exact details were not resolved.

Chair Horlick and Commissioners Ross and Sip offered their availability for the March 23 information session. Clerk Reams said she would review the slide deck and determine if an addition meeting would be needed to discuss the run of show for the session.

6. The commission reviewed the campaign finance forms as used in the 2021 Ward 1 Special Election. In general, the forms as used in that election were deemed to be able to be used with a minor change to the cover sheet to handle situations where a candidate needed to acknowledge they were ending their campaign and closing accounts, but did not have to complete the disposition of funds report.

7. Chair Horlick provided for review a draft memo from the Commission to the City Council requesting an amendment to Section 8 of the City Code to address the need for timely campaign finance reporting when an election is held after the first Tuesday in September. Comments were provided and Chair Horlick will incorporate them before sending the memo to the City Clerk for distribution to the Council. The Board of Election Supervisors and the city attorney will also be provided copies of the memo.
8. There being no further business, Chairman Horlick adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m. on a voice vote.