

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

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

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair T. Carter Ross.
- 2) In organizing the commission for 2022, Michael Horlick was elected chair and T. Carter Ross was elected as recordkeeper for the commission on a voice vote.
- 3) Clerk Reams noted that Chris Currie had submitted his application for another term on the commission, and that it would be put before the City Council for approval in March.

Kayleigh Kulp announced that she not seeking a new term on the commission, but was willing to remain seated as a commissioner through the upcoming Special Election or until a new member was seated. Chair Horlick thanked her for her past service and willingness to remain seated temporarily, if that were allowable.

Clerk Reams noted that the City Council had approved the extension of another committee's member's term past its expiration date to help keep the seat from falling vacant, so it was possible, but that she would consult with the City attorney.

- 4) Clerk Reams outlined the plans the Board of Election Supervisors was considering for managing the 2022 special election necessitated by the passing of Mayor Ward. Under the current City charter rules, an election must be held within 75 to 105 days of the vacancy; however, the Board has determined that at 140 days is needed to manage all the details, especially if the election is held via vote by mail.

Although the Board is seeking approval and funding from the City Council under the current charter timeline, they are also asking for passage of a charter amendment that would allow for the longer time frame. If the charter amendment is approved, the special election would likely be held in early June. If a sitting council member runs and is elected, then another special election would be required in autumn 2022.

Ross asked if other election code amendments could be considered in parallel with the charter amendment; specifically, the need for a final post-election report within a reasonable time following a special elections. Clerk Reams indicated that a letter from the Commission outlining the change and why it was needed could be presented to Council. Ross agreed to draft language for the commission to consider.

- 5) Clerk Reams next shared the Board of Election Supervisors plan for a written report detailing the lessons learned during the 2021 elections. The plan is for a higher-level executive summary and a more detailed "playbook" that would be used to help in managing future elections.

The Board would like the Ethics Commission to participate in drafting either a section or

appendix for the report on campaign finance reporting and other issues the Commission finds relevant. Chair Horlick and Ross volunteered to begin work on possible language, which will be shared with the Commission via email with a goal of determining at the March meeting a plan forward.

- 6) The next Ethics Commission Meeting was scheduled for March 8 at 5 p.m. Clerk Reams said that once the Board of Election Supervisors determines Special Election dates, the Commission's meeting calendar would be updated to add necessary election-related meetings.
- 7) On a voice vote, Chairman Horlick adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.