

CALLED MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBER
September 24, 2024

Augusta Richmond County Commission convened at 10:45 a.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2024, the Honorable Garnett Johnson, Mayor, presiding.

PRESENT: Hons. Williams, Mason, Frantom, Garrett, Scott, McKnight, Pulliam, Lewis, Guilfoyle, members of Augusta Richmond County Commission.

ABSENT: Hon. Johnson, member of Augusta Richmond County Commission.

Mr. Mayor: It's that time. Thank you, guys, for being here for this special called meeting. Before I call this meeting to order, we have to recognize a special individual on tomorrow, someone we'll recognize for 50 years of serving this government. Ladies and gentlemen, stand up and give a round applause for the service of Ms. Nancy Morawski. 50 years of service, Ms. Morawski. We thank you for all that you've done for these many years of council and commission and employees and staff of Augusta Richmond County and we wish you well in your retirement and we're glad that on this day you'll be leading us as the Clerk today so thank you so much.

The Deputy Clerk: Thank you.

Mr. Mayor: With that, Madam, I do call this meeting to order. All right, Ms. Morawski, if you will, read the reason for this meeting into the record, please.

The Deputy Clerk: Yes, sir, the purpose of the meeting is to consider the hiring of the City Administrator.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you so much, Madam Clerk. Attorney Plunkett, many months ago back in February we went through this process of trying hire a permanent administrator. I understand the nomination process remains open and it's our intent today to engage in voting to hire a permanent administrator for Augusta Richmond County. I see a colleague that's in the queue but prior to addressing that colleague, Attorney Plunkett, do you see it as our ability to make that action happen today?

Mr. Plunkett: That's correct, Your Honor.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you so much. The Chair recognizes Tony Lewis from the 6th.

Mr. Lewis: Thank you, Mayor Johnson. I'd like to nominate Ms. Takiyah Douse for the position of Administrator.

Mr. Mayor: We have a nomination but, Attorney Plunkett, would you go ahead and open the floor for nominations?

Mr. Plunkett: Mr. Mayor, we would ask that you open the floor for nominations for the position of permanent City Administrator.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you, Attorney Plunkett. Commissioner Lewis, the floor is now yours, sir.

Mr. Lewis: Again, I would like to nominate Ms. Takiyah Douse City Administrator.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Are there any further nominations?

Mr. Garrett: Mayor.

Mr. Mayor: Commissioner Garrett.

Mr. Garrett: I nominate Tameka Allen effective immediately.

Mr. Mayor: Right. That is a nomination for Ms. Tameka Allen, effective immediately. Are there any additional nominations? I don't think there are any because we only have two remaining candidates.

Mr. Frantom: Motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Mayor: There's a motion to close. Is there a second?

Ms. McKnight: Second.

Mr. Mayor: There is a second. Motion to close and there's a second. So we're going to go through these nominations in the order in which they were nominated. Commissioner Lewis, I see you're still in the queue. Would you like to add something further? All right.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Roll call vote, sir.

Mr. Mayor: There's been a call for a roll call vote. Ms. Morawski.

The Deputy Clerk: Yes, sir.

Mr. Mayor: We're going to go in order alphabetically. For the record I will vote alphabetically for this occurrence. Thank you. Commissioner Frantom, you're in the queue. All right, Ms. Morawski, let's vote.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Frantom.

Mr. Frantom: And this is for?

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. Douse.

Mr. Frantom: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Garrett.

Mr. Garrett: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Guilfoyle.

Mr. Guilfoyle: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mayor Johnson.

Mr. Mayor: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Johnson is out. Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. McKnight.

Ms. McKnight: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. Pulliam.

Ms. Pulliam: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. Scott.

Ms. Scott: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Williams is out.

Mr. Lewis, Ms. Pulliam and Ms. Scott vote Yes.

Mr. Frantom, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Guilfoyle, Mayor Johnson, Mr. Mason, Ms. McKnight vote No.
Motion fails 3-6.

Mr. Mayor: Next candidate.

The Deputy Clerk: Yes, sir. Okay, this is for Ms. Allen. Mr. Frantom.

Mr. Frantom: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Garrett.

Mr. Garrett: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Guilfoyle.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mayor Johnson.

Mr. Mayor: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Johnson is out. Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. McKnight.

Ms. McKnight: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. Pulliam.

Ms. Pulliam: No, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Ms. Scott.

Ms. Scott: Yes, ma'am.

The Deputy Clerk: Mr. Williams and he's out.

Mr. Frantom, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Guilfoyle, Mayor Johnson, Mr. Mason, Ms. McKnight, Ms. Scott vote Yes.

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Pulliam vote No.

Motion carries 7-2.

Mr. Mayor: All right, Madam Clerk. Thank you so much. Ladies and gentlemen, this is our government at work. I want to thank Interim Administrator Douse for the work that she's done for almost three years. Thank you, guys, for being here. Now I think, counsel, is it appropriate that we recess for executive session? We have to wait four minutes.

Mr. Plunkett: I think you need to wait until the 11:00 meeting comes to order but you could adjourn this meeting.

Mr. Mayor: All right. With that, I do adjourn this meeting, and, in a few minutes, we'll restart the legal proceeding. Thank you.

[MEETING ADJOURNED]

Nancy W. Morawski
Deputy Clerk of Commission

CERTIFICATION:

I, Nancy W. Morawski, Deputy Clerk of Commission, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Called Meeting of the Augusta Richmond County Commission held on September 24, 2024.

Deputy Clerk of Commission

