

CALLED MEETING

COMMISSION CHAMBER
November 20, 2023

Augusta Richmond County Commission convened at 2:00 p.n., Monday, November 20, 2023, the Honorable Garnett Johnson, Mayor, presiding.

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

Mr. Mayor: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Before we call this meeting to order, I'm going to turn it over to the commissioner from the 9th for a point of personal privilege.

Ms. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Today is a special day, it's our Clerk's birthday and on behalf of the Commission, happy birthday.

Mr. Mayor: Happy birthday and many, many more. Can't thank you enough for everything that you do for us. Madam Clerk, we appreciate you. With that being said, I call this meeting to order. Madam Clerk, the floor is yours.

The Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. **The purpose of today's meeting is for an executive session to discuss personnel.**

Mr. Brown: We request a motion to enter executive session for these purposes.

Ms. McKnight: So move.

The Clerk: We have a motion; do we have a second? Ms. McKnight.

Mr. Johnson: Second.

The Clerk: Mr. Johnson second.

Mr. Mayor: We have a motion and a second. Before we vote there –

Mr. Guilfoyle: A point of privilege, Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Mayor: The Chair recognizes the commissioner from the 8th, Mr. Guilfoyle.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Mr. Mayor, I want to know before we go into executive session for everybody to have a clear understanding what is the process for the Administrator search from here forward.

Mr. Mayor: All right. Is the HR person here, Attorney Brown, can you get Ms. Rookard in before –

Mr. Guilfoyle: And probably, Attorney Brown, about the Charter, what the Charter states.

Mr. Brown: About?

Mr. Guilfoyle: About the process, sir.

Mr. Brown: I believe you're referring to Augusta's Code, however, I will say something just briefly. This is a special called meeting. The purpose of special called meetings must be specifically designated and made known to the public. The only notice that has gone out is for this body to enter executive session for the discussion of real estate –

The Clerk: Personnel.

Mr. Brown: Personnel. It cannot, unless it adds something to its agenda now, it cannot discuss the process on the floor. However, you could look at documents that may be available to you to see what that process is. Do you intent to take a vote or any action on any discussion of the process?

Mr. Mayor: Ms. Rookard, can you come forward please. There is a question for you. Thank you so much, Director Rookard. Commissioner from the 10th, can you rephrase your question please to Director Rookard for an answer?

Mr. Guilfoyle: Yes, good afternoon, Ms. Rookard. I was trying to find out what the process is for what it clearly states in the Charter from this moment forward as far as what we're here for.

Ms. Rookard: I'm confused with what your question is.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Okay, what is the process moving forward per the Charter? What is the responsibility of the Commission, what is the responsibility of the Mayor in selecting a candidate or candidates?

Ms. Rookard: The process that Commission set forth for me was to find a recruiting firm that would help you in your search for an Administrator. The recruiting firm is to bring you, to help you get to 12 and then get you to seven and then the, you send those seven to the Mayor and the Mayor sends you three. That's my understanding.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Okay. And what happens if we fail to hire any of the three?

Ms. Rookard: Then I believe and please help me with this one, legal, then we would start the process again.

Mr. Mayor: Attorney Brown, I see you shaking your head, sir.

Mr. Brown: I'm going to answer this question, Mayor Johnson, but as Chair of this meeting it is your responsibility to make sure that the subject matter that you're discussing is permitted by law. I've already explained to you that the only matter on this agenda is personnel which is to be discussed in executive session. However, if this is a casual conversation that does not go much

further, I will answer that. Once the process whittles down to seven, the Commission will send those to the Mayor. The process that you approved stated that every, each of those seven will be interviewed. The Code says Section 1-2-30 says the Mayor can send up at least three and then assign his preference or priority to those three. If the Mayor, if the Commission does not hire either of those three, the Mayor shall send another round up to three back to the Commission. The process appears that the Mayor will continue to send until the Commission approves. There is no limitation on the number that can be sent except within the process approved by the Commission.

Mr. Mayor: Commissioner from the 10th, are you clear with that? Do you understand?

Mr. Guilfoyle: Yes. And one question for Ms. Rookard. As far as the candidates, did the HR select the candidates for us to look at or is it the headhunter that presents us the candidates?

Mr. Mayor: Attorney Brown, is that permitted or are you okay with that?

Mr. Brown: We can finalize this. The answer is that Developmental Associates picks the candidates. HR is not part of that process.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Thank you.

Mr. Mayor: All right. Madam Clerk, we have a motion and a second. Seeing no one else in the queue, we're voting.

Motion carries 10-0.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you. We are now in executive session. Thank you.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION]

Mr. Mayor: All right.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Mayor.

Mr. Mayor: Commissioner from the 5th. You are recognized.

Mr. Williams: That's okay.

Mr. Mayor: Madam Clerk, I call this meeting back to order. Attorney Brown.

Mr. Brown: Mayor Johnson, Commissioners, we request a motion to execute the closed meeting affidavit.

Mr. Frantom: So move.

Ms. McKnight: Second.

Mr. Mayor: All right. There's been a proper motion and a second. Madam Clerk, we're voting.

The Clerk: Mr. Frantom.

Mr. Frantom: Yes.

The Clerk: Mr. Garrett.

Mr. Garrett: Yes.

The Clerk: Mr. Guilfoyle.

Mr. Guilfoyle: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk: Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk: Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk: Mr. Mason. Out. Ms. McKnight.

Ms. McKnight: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk: Ms. Pulliam.

Ms. Pulliam: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk: Ms. Scott.

Ms. Scott: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk: Mr. Bobby Williams.

Mr. Williams: Yes, ma'am.

Mr. Mason out.

Motion carries 9-0.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Attorney Brown, does that conclude our business for today?

Mr. Brown: Yes, sir.

Mr. Mayor: All right, this meeting is hereby closed. You guys have a great day. See you tomorrow.

[MEETING ADJOURNED]

Lena J. Bonner
Clerk of Commission

CERTIFICATION:

I, Lena J. Bonner, 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 November 20, 2023.

Clerk of Commission

