

## Minutes

Local Governance Study Commission  
February 4, 2020 - 6:00 pm  
Public Works Conference Room (Room #352), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall

### CALL TO ORDER

Commission Members Present: Dr. David Branch (Co-Chair), Gayle Anderson, John Cocklereece, Dr. Jack Fler, Katie Hall, Cynthia W. Jeffries, Jeannie Metcalf; Absent: Steve Berlin (Co-Chair), Kismet Loftin Bell, Rev. Alvin Carlisle, Ed Hanes

City Staff Present: Angela Carmon, City Attorney; Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager; Meridith Martin, Assistant to the City Manager; Scott Tesh, Office of Performance and Accountability Director; Frank Elliott, Deputy Marketing and Communications Director

Others Present: Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward Council Member; Mr. Metcalf

#### 1. Approval of Minutes from December Meeting

*Co-Chair David Branch asked if any members of the Commission had proposed changes to the December 3, 2019 minutes. Dr. Jack Fler made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was duly seconded by Mr. John Cocklereece. The members present unanimously approved the minutes.*

#### 2. Ethics Training

- a. Angela Carmon, City Attorney

*Ms. Angela Carmon led the Commission through a presentation on the City of Winston-Salem's ethics policy.*

#### 3. Presentation of Input Received

- a. Debrief from Public Input Sessions
- b. Summary of Resident Input through Surveys
- c. Summary of City Council Input through Surveys

*Co-Chair Branch thanked the Commission for the participation with the community input sessions. Mr. Tesh led the group through a presentation of the input received from the session. Mr. Tesh noted that 25-50 people attended each session, the format of each session was similar, and described the survey tool used during each session.*

*During the partisan conversation, Dr. Fler asked if unaffiliated voters are the largest number of voters in the community. Mr. Tesh looked up the information and noted within the City of Winston-Salem include about 78,000 Democrats, 34,000 Republicans, and 51,000 unaffiliated voters.*

*Mr. Cocklereece asked if the article about term limits could be sent to the Commission.*

*Mr. Cocklereece inquired about the costs of elections. Mr. Tesh responded that in an odd years, the City is the only organization having an election causing a significant increase in cost. Even years, the municipal election information is at the bottom of the ballot, however, the cost of the election is split due to federal and/or state elections also occurring. Mr. Cocklereece asked about the cost difference between even years versus odd years. Mr. Tesh noted that odd years would cost \$120,000-\$140,000. Staff will find out the even year cost.*

*Ms. Jeffries asked if staff would continue to advertise the online survey for more input from the community. Mr. Tesh noted that staff would continue to advertise online. If the Commission would like to advertise more, staff will continue to do so. Ms. Gayle Anderson asked if staff could find out how attendees of the input sessions found out about the meeting. Ms. Katie Hall noted to add a direct link to the survey from social media. Ms. Jeannie Metcalf asked if media would run another story to assist with pushing the survey out to citizens. Ms. Anderson provided the idea of a letter to the editor of the Winston-Salem Journal from the Co-Chairs of the Commission.*

*Co-Chair Branch noted that trends of thought are helpful in the Commission's decision-making process.*

*Ms. Jeffries asked what specific wards were 'collapsed' in the proposed House Bill. Mr. Tesh noted the lines were drawn by precinct districts.*

#### 4. Review of Topics for Discussion

*Mr. Tesh reviewed the decision-point topics that the Commission can discuss and provide recommendations. Mr. Cocklereece noted that some items should be dropped as discussion points such as how the mayor is selected and mayoral terms. Mr. Cocklereece moved to remove these two items from consideration by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anderson and approved unanimously. Mr. Tesh noted that the survey tool used for citizens could be distributed to the Commission to complete anonymously prior to the next meeting. Mr. Cocklereece asked if the March meeting's goal is to finalize a recommendation from the Commission.*

*Ms. Jeffries asked if the Commission settled on a date to close the survey and suggested in the end of February. Mr. Cocklereece stated the survey close two business days prior to our next meeting. Ms. Metcalf made the motion to close the survey two business days prior to our next meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anderson and approved unanimously by the Commission.*

#### 5. Additional Requests for Information

- a. Information on Odd-Year Election Costs
- b. Other Requests for Research

*The information was covered earlier in the meeting.*

#### 6. Potential to Change March Meeting Date

- a. Scheduled from Primary Election Day

*Mr. Tesh asked if the Commission was open to completing a poll to select the March meeting date. The Commission responded affirmatively to use an online poll to select the next meeting date.*

7. Adjourn

*The next meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Public Works Conference Room on the third floor of City Hall, has been cancelled due to Primary Election Day. A special meeting of the Commission will be held in March with the date to be determined.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm with a motion by Ms. Jeffries and seconded by Ms. Metcalf. The motion was unanimous.*