



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Nominating and Rules Committee

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

12:00 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 5 - Chris Gibson; Ann Williams; Chris Moore; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - Charles Frierson

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-21:046](#)

Minutes for the Nominating & Rules Committee meeting on May 25, 2021

Attachments: [NandR Minutes 05252021](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Dr. Charles Coleman, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; Chris Moore; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-21:161](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams; Chris Moore; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

[RES-21:162](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [Emails regarding Library Board](#)

Sharon Stallings, 1207 Dove, Jonesboro; Ms. Stallings asked Chairman Chris Gibson to repeat the Nominations again. For Storm Water Management Board is LaGanzie Kale, and for the Craighead County Library Board is Shalon Tate.

Chief Operating Officer Tony Thomas stated that the only thing that he wanted to add is that the Administration Office has add a lot of interest in the Library Board appointment. I really would like to encourage citizens to go to the City of Jonesboro's website, www.jonesboro.org and in the menu to the left you will find a link to Boards and Commissions. We do not get enough citizens interested in serving to be on Boards and Commissions. So, I would encourage anyone wanting to serve on one of these Boards or Commissions to please submit your information to be nominated. The information will automatically go to the Clerk and Mayor's Office, and when appointments come up we do look at that information in order to see that person's qualifications. The person that submits their information does have to live in the City Limits of Jonesboro. City Clerk April Leggett stated for clarification, the applicant information process for Boards or Commissions does not come directly to the City Clerk's Office, it goes directly to the Mayor's Office.

Doctor Asald Khan, 3614 Charleston Drive, Jonesboro. I just want to know for my clarification, this is going directly to the next City Council. Mr. Gibson said, that is correct and this is just to get it on the Council Agenda.

State Representative Monte Hodges, District 55. I am just here because I knew my sister Ms. Tate was being appointed to the Library Board. I just want to lend my support in her favor to this appointment. I have known her for a long time, she has been in education for 21-years and she has been instrumental in pushing literacy here in the Jonesboro area. She knows the importance of literacy because Arkansas is ranked very low when it comes to reading. I also watched a little bit of the 3-hour meeting that was held at the Craighead County Library the other day, and my Colleague Rev. Smith, who is also here in the audience with me and spoke on the fact that Arkansas has a very conservative legislature, and that there is a possibility that with some of the material that is in the Craighead County Library that there may be some issues. I have to disagree with my colleague on that because, first of all Craighead County does not get funding from the State, you guys have stood alone with finding funding for the Library system that you have here in Craighead County and in the City of Jonesboro, secondly the fact that we can't put politics into this arena when it comes to making decisions, we need to make it based on the merit of that individual and not the fact that we feel a certain way. Being a Legislator and a Christian, and an Ordained Minister I too believe in the Bible but, I believe that we represent all people regardless if they are LGBTQ, Black, White, Believers, Atheist, we represent all people, and we have to leave that out of the equation. So, I am here in support of Ms. Tate's nomination to the Library Board and I appreciate your consideration when making those decisions, and thank you for allowing me to speak today.

Sharon Stallings, 1207 Dove, Jonesboro. Just for clarification from Mr. Hodges, did you state that the Library does not receive any funding from the State? Mr. Hodges stated he called the Bureau of Legislative Research here in the State of Arkansas just

to find out how libraries are funded. Because, I do know that there is millage, private donations and other things that go into the funding of libraries. Councilmember Chris Moore called point of order and stated that we are not here to debate the funding for the library. Ms. Stallings stated that there are state aid funds that do go to the library.

Robin Martin, 5005 Lamb Lane, Jonesboro. I was hoping when I heard they were appointing somebody to the board that we would have somebody with a financial background. I realize Ms. Tate has an educational background and that is great. But, after reviewing some financial things with the library and after the recent audit report I have some serious concerns about the handling of their finances, their responses to audit concerns over the last three years. So, I would hope that at some point we would get some financial people on that Board.

Amanda Escue, 940 CR 753. I am a new member on the Library Board. I would say that the information Ms. Martin brought before us at the last meeting during the Public Comment time, I encourage you all to get copies of that, I would be happy to provide you any of that before you move forward with an appointee. Because, there is quite a bit of information in it and like Ms. Martin stated the financial part of it really needs to be looked at. Some things that have come to light for me as I go through it and I think it's a step that you all need to have in your hands as well as the City Council. To one of the remarks we do represent all people. I am a Speech Pathologist and we represent children and they are the most vulnerable of our community.

Shanquetta Cunningham, 2108 Bob White Cove. I am standing here in support of Principal Shalon Tate. She is an advocate for child literacy, she is for education and community service. I think the Mayor has done is due diligence in this appointment. Again, I am standing here in support of her appointment.

Dean McDonald, Macedonia Apt. BB115, Jonesboro. We are here to observe the nomination of Shalon Tate to the Craighead County Library Board. What is often a non-controversial nomination meeting had unfortunately been made controversial by those that seek to push an agenda, and I want to take the politics out of it. The tragedy of this is that we are missing out on an important question, is Ms. Shalon Tate qualified for this position, if we are allowed to answer this it would be a resounding yes. Educator, Shalon Tate is qualified for the position on the Public Library Board and I offer a healthy endorsement.

Shanowa Summers, 6055 Beaver Run Lane, Jonesboro. I just want to express my support for Ms. Tate. Specifically because if you look at the Library Board it does not look very representative of Craighead County, in particular Jonesboro. Look at the most recent census data, which I know newer census data is still yet to come, as of 2019 20% of Jonesboro is Black, and she is a Black Woman. So, nominating her to the Board would help give the message that we support diversity, and we support inclusion. So, I just want to express my support for her not only for her amazing accomplishments and qualifications, we need a more diverse Library Board.

Felicia Johnson, 607 Melody Lane, Jonesboro. I think she thinks I'm Shalon and I am not.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Dr. Charles Coleman, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 4 - Ann Williams;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Charles Frierson