

Nominating and Rules Committee:

Over 3 years ago several Aldermen, City Employees, the City Clerk and near the end, the Records Management Committee, set forth to clean up the paperwork, processes and lack of oversight regarding the Boards and Commissions. A lot of people spent a great deal of time determining what boards and commissions we had, who served, their appointment and expiration dates and asking the question were we as a City following the law in the manner they were selected, appointed and reappointed. After much work we now have for the most part an accurate up to date list of our current boards and commissions. It's also on Legistar so it can be quickly tracked and updated as needed through the appropriate process.

As of today, there are:

10 Mayoral appointments outstanding

4 of the 7 members of the Jonesboro Municipal Airport Commission

3 on Northeast Arkansas Industrial Development Commission

1 on Jonesboro Urban Renewal and Housing Authority

2 on Board of Adjustment and Appeals

There will be:

At least 19 appointments expiring in 2008 and this does not include the Citizen Advisory committees such as Parks, Jonesboro Handicap Advisory Committee and the others. I quickly found the 19 on Legistar.

The Mayor stated in the past that the City Attorney maintained that if they are not re-appointed they may still be able to serve until an appointment is made. With that logic, the mayor or council would not have to re-appoint or appoint anyone from here on. Our current boards and commissions would be similar to a life appointment such as the Supreme Court. That's not the intent or what anyone wants or expects.

No one is telling the Mayor or his staff who he can appoint as long as it follows the City and State codes. All I would ask is that appointments be handled and made in a timely manner or we will end up with the paperwork mess we had 2 1/2 to 3 years ago, and nobody wants that. There is no reason in the world this should be happening. A lot of people have spent a lot of time to get these boards and commissions back in order over the past few years and it's an insult to their time and effort to let things falter due to lack of effort and in this case, something that requires very little effort.

If because there has been no Mayoral appointment and a position becomes vacant after 60 days of nothing being done to appoint or re-appoint, it may be that the board or commission cannot conduct business due to quorum. This is a possibility.

It should not have to take an ordinance to maintain an accurate Board and Commission list.

This ordinance in my opinion should help to serve as a reminder to get it handled timely because to date, it is not.

Thanks,
Tim