



**TRUP COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION**  
**MINUTES • JANUARY 19, 2018**

**Regular Meeting**

**Planning & Zoning Conference Room**

**10:00 AM**

100 Ridley Ave, Troup County Government Center, LaGrange, GA 30240

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William Tatum	Chairman	Present	
Dianne Davidson	Vice Chair	Present	
Randall Hodge	Secretary	Present	
Issac Jeff Anderson	Board Member	Absent	
Johnnie Freeman	Board Member	Present	
Lonnie Hollis	Board Member	Late	

**II. INVOCATION**

Mr. Tatum led Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE**

Mr. Tatum led Pledge.

Mr. Tatum - welcomed Mr. Gary Wood to the meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Approval of Agenda

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Johnnie Freeman, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Anderson

**V. MINUTES APPROVAL**

1. Board of Elections & Registration - Called Meeting - Sep 12, 2017 10:00 AM

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dianne Davidson, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Anderson

2. Board of Elections & Registration - Regular Meeting - Oct 19, 2017 10:00 AM

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dianne Davidson, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Anderson

**VI. SUPERVISOR REPORT**

Mr. Harper gave updates on the following:

Newest Board Members -

Mr. Gary Wood - (is replacing Jason Creel) for the Republican Party.

Jeff Anderson was re-appointed by the City of LaGrange.

Cost of November Election total was \$63,977.11, and that does not include Attorney Fees. The Cities were notified that the cost was this so far and also that the Attorney Fees were not included.

Calendar for the year - May (runoff July) / November (runoff Dec and Jan) - discussed the different dates involving Troup County.

Training / Conference March 25 - 28 need to know about going for reservations - Conference will be held in Athens, GA. All member are wanting to go and stated they wanted to stay at the hotel across the street.

Update -that Attorney Mark DeGennaro has filed paperwork for Deedee Williams and have not heard any more from him about the matter.

Update - copy of the letter sending the information to Democratic Party was done, have not received any response back.

**VII. ADJOURN**

1. Adjourn

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Lonnie Hollis, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Anderson



**TRUMP COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION**  
**MINUTES • SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

**Called Meeting**

**Commission Chambers**

**10:00 AM**

100 Ridley Ave, Troup County Government Center, LaGrange, GA 30240

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William Tatum	Chairman	Present	
Dianne Davidson	Vice Chair	Present	
Randall Hodge	Secretary	Present	
Issac Jeff Anderson	Board Member	Present	
Jason Creel	Board Member	Absent	
Johnnie Freeman	Board Member	Present	
Lonnie Hollis	Board Member	Present	

**II. INVOCATION**

Mr. Tatum led Invocation.

**III. PLEDGE**

Mr. Tatum led Pledge.

**IV. GASKIN VS COOPER - RESIDENCY CHALLENGE HEARING.**

Mr. Tatum asked all parties be seated in front and asked if they had attorney. Mr. Cooper responded no. Mr. Gaskin responded no.

1. Enter into public hearing.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Lonnie Hollis, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Johnnie Freeman, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Creel

2. Chairman Statement.

Mr. Tatum made a preliminary statement.

This hearing is being held to consider the qualifications of Mr. Chad Cooper, to seek the office of District 2 Councilman for the City of LaGrange, GA. This Board has been delegated the authority to handle the qualifications of candidates for municipal elections for the City of LaGrange, and is required to hold this hearing pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-6, as a result of this challenge to Mr. Cooper's qualifications received by the Election Supervisor on September 6, 2017. Mr. Cooper was informed of Mr. Gaskin's challenge, the grounds of the challenge, and this hearing by letter to him dated September 7, 2017, which was copied to Mr. Gaskin. Both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Gaskin who have been provided with a copy of O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-6 and were invited to present any evidence or witness which they might think be relevant to the question in today's hearing. Also, both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Cooper were allowed the opportunity to have an attorney present on their behalf, at their individual choice.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Sep 12, 2017 10:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

Mr. Gaskin has challenged Mr. Cooper's qualification to run for the City of LaGrange District 2 council seat based upon the allegation that Mr. Cooper does not live in District 2 or the City of LaGrange and therefore doesn't meet the residency requirements for a candidate for municipal office. Mr. Cooper has represented and the election office records indicate that he resides at 910 Colquitt Street in the City of LaGrange. As Mr. Gaskin has made the accusation that Mr. Cooper does not reside at this location or another location within the City of LaGrange, he will have the burden of going forward in today's hearing. After we have completed these preliminary issues, I will allow Mr. Gaskin to present any testimony or evidence which he has and desires to present in support of the challenge. I will allow Mr. Cooper, or his attorney, to ask questions of Mr. Gaskin's portion of the hearing.

At the conclusion of Mr. Gaskin's presentation, Mr. Cooper will be allowed to present evidence and witness which he contends rebut or shed light on Mr. Gaskin's accusation that he has not been a resident of the City of LaGrange for a sufficient period of time to qualify to run for the office of District 2 councilman.

Participants should conduct themselves in a civil and polite fashion. Only the challenger, the candidate and those person(s) called as witness will be allowed to speak and only when recognized by the Chairman. Please only introduce evidence that is relevant to the injury before the Board and which tends to prove your position. Please avoid irrelevant or duplicative statements or evidence which does not directly pertain to today's inquiry. Please also avoid hearsay evidence, i.e. statements not made under oath at today's hearing by persons not in attendance. If any party has documentary evidence supporting their position, please be certain to give the same to the Board during the hearing. No documents or other evidence will be considered by the Board unless submitted during this hearing, all statements made and testimony given by the parties and any witnesses will be made under oath. During the hearing, the Board may direct questions to the parties and any witnesses appearing before it.

A record will be made in the form of the minutes of this meeting with the documents presented attached. At the conclusion of the hearing of the evidence, I will call for a vote to decide the challenge. A written notice of the vote and decision of the Board will be forwarded to the parties as soon as practical following the hearing.

Because this matter is somewhat in the nature of a judicial proceeding, I have asked for one of the county's attorney to be present at the hearing to advise me as to any procedural or other matters that may arise,

I will not ask if either, Mr. Gaskin or Mr. Cooper have any questions before we get started. Mr. Gaskin answered no. Mr. Cooper answered no.

Mr. Tatum asked that if any has any paperwork to present it to the Board. Mr. Gaskin presented paperwork. Mr. Cooper presented paperwork. Mr. Tatum asked staff if we could copy for all Board members. Mr. DeGennaro suggested to make also part of the record; a copy of the notice of the hearing, a copy of the notice of candidacy, candidates affidavit which has already been submitted, copy of the City LaGrange Charter showing the requirements for candidacy, copy of the voter registration cards of candidate and challenger before the end of the hearing. Copies were made and passed around to all members and each candidate.

### 3. Challenge Discussion

Mr. Tatum - sworn in Mr. Gaskin.

Mr. Tatum - asked Mr. Gaskin to present his information.

Mr. Gaskin -stated that he was aware of a possible problem when he went to his Facebook Page, stated he lives in Auburn, Alabama. Voter registration card dated 06/07/2017 less that a years' time the before election.

Board members asked Mr. Gaskin for clarification to date and is registration referenced from Troup County.

Mr. Gaskin - answered yes. Looked at and read City Charter - Section 2-11 terms and qualifications. Mr. Gaskin read that section. The mayor and members of the council shall serve terms of four (4) and until their successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be qualified or eligible to seek election as mayor or councilman unless he shall have resided in the city one (1) year immediately preceding the election, and shall be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections for offices of the City of LaGrange.

Mr. DeGennaro - stated for clarification that Mr. Gaskin is reading from City of LaGrange Code of Ordinance. The document before the Board Members is from the City of LaGrange Charter, basically the same but in different format.

Mr. Gaskin - stated that there are two (2) sentences in the charter, and both are about the times. The first is a Four (4) years and second is one (1) year. The one year is extended about the one (1) year, had it been another entry a period or another entry to make it two (2) sentence or three (3) sentences, so he understand it to be to the one (1) year. That is the way he understands it. Mr. Gaskin state he called Columbus, Gainesville, Macon and asked them how they understand the above sentence. Mr. Gaskin stated that he interprets that this reads into one sentence and so the length of time for residency and length of voter registration are one (1) year. Mr. Gaskin stated that he hopes that this Board will interpret this as well he trust. Mr. Gaskin stated that is all of the evidence he had to present.

Mr. Gaskin - conclusion stated the he bears no ill will toward his opponent and he is a fine decent man. Simply an over site on his part. The Charter clearly states he has to registered for one (1) year. When you say that you live in the City it defines where you are registered to vote. I know that he will present power bill but that does not define a registered voter. Where you are registered to vote is where you live.

Mr. Tatum - sworn in Mr. Cooper.

Go over the items in the information packet that he was given, it did not state that he had to be a registered voter twelve (12) months prior. Mr. Cooper stated that he has been a residence in his district for quite some time, as presented in the evidence that was presented. Confused about the Facebook post since work for Royal family at the Hyrule the Hyrule family which if off the video game, he may change due change residence to Alabama during football season because he went to Auburn, that is where that came from. As far as evidence presented such as banking statements, care, tax returns, states that he has been a residence of LaGrange for quite some time.

Ms. Davidson - Charter (d) states that one (1) year it clearly states that you have to there for twelve (12) months before run for council.

Mr. Cooper - yes I have that, it appears to be different. Looking now and doesn't see where you have to be a registered voter. Registered 45 days prior to the Election.

Ms. Freeman - asked can you clarify what the requirement is.

Mr. DeGennaro - stated that was what he had previously stated that (2) two different sections they may read differently but say the same thing. 2-11 -The mayor and members of the council shall serve terms of four (4) and until their successors are elected and qualified. No person shall be qualified or eligible to seek election as mayor or councilman unless he shall have resided in the city one (1) year immediately preceding his election, and shall be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections for offices of the City of LaGrange. & Then in 6.01d -In order to be elected as a member of the city council from a council district, a person shall have resided in that council district for at least 12 months prior to election thereto and must receive a majority of the votes cast for the post in that district.

Ms. Hollis - asked where registered to vote before, Mr. Cooper stated he was registered in Auburn, Alabama prior.

Ms. Davidson - asked prior to 6/7/17.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Ms. Hollis - asked if he has voted at all in the state of Georgia, Mr. Cooper responded no he hasn't.

Ms. Davidson - asked if he was working on the premises of 45 days, is that what it is.

Mr. Cooper - stated working on premises of this (working off the paperwork) and getting everything in prior to then. Since he was still living here in Georgia under impression not able to vote in Alabama, and then found out that wasn't true so that was able voted in there, since I was there. Everything stated that since he was living here for prior twelve months he was able to run for council.

Ms. Freeman - asked for clarification did you vote in Auburn.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes in the past election.

Ms. Davidson - asked about the date he registration card on 6/7/17. Mr. Cooper responded yes.

Ms. Davidson - asked approximately how long have you lived in Georgia.

Mr. Cooper - stated approximately since 2010 maybe a little bit before then as well.

Ms. Davidson - asked if voted in Georgia at all and lived here since 2010.

Mr. Cooper - stated no and he was a student at Alabama as well and could not vote in Alabama since he resides in Georgia.

Ms. Davidson - stated how long 2010.

Mr. Cooper - stated 2010 before the 2009 or 2008 but since 2010.

Mr. Tatum - asked Mr. Cooper how old he was.

Mr. Cooper - stated 40.

Mr. Tatum - asked about residency prior to being moving here.

Mr. Cooper - stated he was born a native of LaGrange and went to school in Auburn and residence of Auburn.

Mr. Tatum - asked if he graduated in 2010 and then went back to vote.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes because he was told he could not vote cause he was living here, then was told he could vote since he was registered in Auburn, because he missed two (2) elections of not voting so that would have made it before 2010 since he was thinking about it out loud.

Ms. Davidson - asked when last elections time voted.

Mr. Cooper - responded this past Election.

Ms. Davidson - stated you were living in GA and voting in AL.

Mr. Cooper - stated he was told he could not vote.

Ms. Hollis - asked who told him that.

Mr. Cooper - stated it was someone in the elections office down there.

Ms. Davidson - asked if no one told you that you could change your voter registration to GA. Mr. Cooper stated he was still a student there, and that he should not do that.

Ms. Davidson - stated in 2010.

Mr. Tatum - asked in 2016.

Mr. Cooper - stated he was still a student, currently enrolled this semester.

Ms. Hollis - stated they should not have told you that. You can always vote, that since you can pick up an absentee ballot and send it in. The election office failed you, since they should have given you that information before even when you were qualify.

Ms. Davidson - asked if that information was from Alabama.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Mr. Cooper - stated that when he came to qualify he was not in the system and was restricted from voting.

Mr. Harper - stated he was not registered and his registration had been turned in.

Ms. Hollis - asked if that was when you were qualifying.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Ms. Hollis - asked if he was allowed to qualify.

Mr. Cooper - stated not initially.

Mr. Harper - stated let me explain what happened. He had registered to vote with DDS and had not came in the office to register. We checked in the DDS system while he was in the office, and it did not show he had registered to vote there. We explained what we could do and Mr. Cooper stated he would go back to DDS. Mr. Cooper went back to DDS and the lady called and sent his information to us and he was registered as of 6/7/17.

Ms. Hollis - asked why not go ahead and register and Mr. Harper stated that Mr. Cooper chose to go back to DDS to get it straightened out with them, because he had registered with them. Ms. Hollis asked about was he given the qualifications.

Mr. Harper - stated that every candidate was given a packet of the information.

Mr. Hodge - when did you finish school in Auburn?

Mr. Cooper - stated the first one in 2004, then 2006 and then grad school going for PhD.

Mr. Hodge - asked if he was still in school at Auburn.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes. I have a form in there as well.

Mr. Hodge - asked if he has a residence in Auburn.

Mr. Cooper - stated no I don't.

Mr. Hodge - asked if he commuted.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Mr. Hodge - asked so you have this the whole time.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Mr. Hodge - asked even though you were registered to vote.

Mr. Cooper - stated on his Undergrad and Master he was staying there.

Mr. Hodge - asked so until recent you started on Graduate work you are commuting, but before that you working on undergrad school you had a residence there and registered to vote there.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Ms. Davidson - asked why any reason it took you so long to register in GA there is a big lapse in there.

Mr. Cooper - stated not really was told he could not vote down there and he was locked out, no reason why until decided to run for City Council and then make sure everything switched over and everything was okay. That is when he received a packet after getting packet and read thru everything and read must be a registered voter 45 days before the day of the election, wish I had brought that packet with me but it is in there.

Ms. Davidson - asked so you registered so you could run for council, is that what you are saying.

Mr. Cooper - changed my residence to GA so I could run for City Council.

Ms. Davidson - so it is by coincidence that all of this happened.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Ms. Hollis - so you didn't vote at all in 2016.

Mr. Cooper - yes I did.

Ms. Hollis - voted in 2016 but in voted Auburn.

Mr. Cooper - yes in Alabama.

Ms. Hollis - asked if you changed you voting registration because you were in school in Auburn.

Mr. Cooper - stated yes.

Ms. Hollis - so that is why you changed to vote in Alabama.

Mr. Cooper - yes.

Ms. Hollis - but you didn't have to right.

Mr. Cooper - one of the things qualification one of the things they said I had to do.

Ms. Hollis - who said that.

Mr. Cooper - when I went down to register for school they said I had to, I had to be a residence in my during my undergrad years, that is why I switched everything.

Ms. Hollis - oh okay, I see I understand.

Ms. Freeman - but you still could have still voted in GA, right.

Mr. Cooper - no.

Ms. Freeman - you could not vote in GA.

Mr. Cooper - no.

Mr. Hodge did you maintain you address at 910 Colquitt Street.

Mr. Cooper - yes.

Mr. Hodge - during your undergrad.

Mr. Cooper - no not during the undergrad just my Master and Grad school.

Mr. Hodge - prior to going to Auburn were you register to vote in GA.

Mr. Cooper - yes was registered in GA.

Mr. Hodge - you were registered and then you went to Auburn to school.

Ms. Freeman - I think it said you have not lost your residency by reason of enrolling as a student in any college, university or institution of learning in the state, so it appears you still could have voted in GA.

Mr. Cooper - I think there was a lot of misinformation.

Ms. Freeman - even while you were going to school in Alabama.

Mr. Tatum - Mr. Cooper do you have any further evidence to present.

Mr. Cooper - other that everything I gave y' all in the packet, that's it.

Mr. Tatum - do you have a closing statement.

Mr. Cooper - like to say have been a residence almost my entire life, I came back pretty much to help my parents were ill. Father had Parkinson's and Dementia and mother had cancer and recently died. Main reason I came back because I was care taker, so I just want the opportunity based on information I got to live here 12 months which I did to run for city council.

Mr. Tatum - applaud you for your care taker for your parents and sorry for your loss. Mr. Cooper do you have any question for Mr. Gaskin.

Mr. Cooper - none at all.

Mr. Tatum - Mr. Gaskin do you have any question for Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Gaskin - yes I do, when you qualified you signed a statement an oath stating that you was a residence here, you qualified on meet on qualified candidacy, was it your intent to commit perjury at that time.

Mr. Cooper - I did not commit perjury.

Mr. Gaskin - that was all I wanted to clarify.

Mr. Tatum - does any Board have any questions for Mr. Cooper or Mr. Gaskin. Any discussion regarding, before I call for a vote ending the session, regarding Mr. Cooper or Mr. Gaskin qualifications.

Ms. Freeman - I have a question about the qualifications about the 45 days, I did not see, I may have overlooked it, that anywhere. That is what he based his qualifications on the 45 days.

Mr. DeGennaro - I will let Andy look for that. I can tell the board the issue to be determined is the residency of Mr. Cooper within the district of the in the city for 12 months. Residency means domicile. Domicile means where someone intends to permanently reside and that is the issue. The evidence that you heard can shed light on that issue but that is the ultimate issue to be determine, so I'm like you I am not entirely clear what the issue of 45 days came from not sure how that relates to the issue.

Mr. Tatum - Mr. Cooper where did you, we are looking for the 45 days

Mr. Cooper - some more misinformation that I got when I was applying, I will go back thru it and check and see.

Mr. Tatum - do you know where you got that misinformation from.

Mr. Cooper - our data may be hearsay, if I may say that.

Ms. Freeman - briefly did it have to do with your residency requirement that is where I have confusion but voting requirements is that what you are saying.

Mr. Cooper - nothing with my residency, but with my voting requirements.

Mr. Gaskin - one question about the different between section 6.01 & 2.11, I'm not clear on those, you read those earlier are there any difference between those two sections, is there any difference in them.

Mr. DeGennaro - obviously not the author of those, those are from the city charter it appears to me the first one in 2.11 is the general one that talks about residence for 12 month within the city, then 6.01 is specific to city councilman and it specifies to be a member of the city council from a city council district you also have to reside in that council district for which you are seek.

Mr. Gaskin - is that being a registered voter for that length of time or not

Mr. DeGennaro - rules you go by, guide you in determining domicile are in that statue 2-2-217 for determining residence in city, 2- board reviewed those we can go thru them

Mr. Tatum - 21-2-217 the 15 rules.

Mr. Tatum - Mr. Cooper what was the last time you resided at or near the Auburn University campus for the purpose of going to college.

Mr. Cooper - would say 2000, 2009 maybe

Mr. Tatum - so after that point you commuted.

Mr. Cooper - yes

Mr. Tatum - had you registered in Alabama to vote at that time while you were there

Mr. Cooper - no

Mr. Tatum - what kind of, when you did register there did you give them an address in Alabama the voters or registrar board?

Mr. Cooper - yes at the time I first registered I did yes.

Mr. Tatum - but that was after you moved from there

Mr. Cooper - no that was prior

Ms. Davidson - but you voted in 2016

Mr. Cooper - yes prior to that they told me I could not vote because I was staying here

Ms. Hollis okay 21-2-217 #13 If a person goes to another state and while there exercises the right of a citizen by voting, such person shall be considered to have lost such person' residence in this state.

Mr. Tatum - last time you voted was when in 2016 is that the general election in November

Mr. Cooper - yes

Ms. Hollis - that was in Alabama

Mr. Cooper - yes.

Ms. Davidson - it also states that in #5 as well.

Ms. Hollis - right.

Ms. Davison - then if you go to another state and do that, and that is the 21-2-217 rules for determining residence

Board members discussing things and reading over different paperwork.

Mr. DeGennaro - Mr. Chairman for the record since this is a public meeting the deliberation should be open in discussion and not sidebars between anyone.



Mr. Tatum - Excuse me - Mr. DeGennaro made a valid point that all discussion be open and no sidebar and open for the public, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Gaskin can hear.

Ms. Davidson - well we was just reading the rules in determining is what the conversation was about.

Mr. Tatum - for everyone information the code book section is 21-2-217 - there are 15 rules here to be considered.

Ms. Freeman - the GA code.

Mr. DeGennaro - since I directed the board's attention to that statute, so the record is clear going forward. When look at those, that statute and those 15 different sets of guidelines you need to consider all of them and not just one and take them in totality.

Ms. Hollis - we all looking at those that is why we were just sitting here.

Ms. Davidson - we are looking at them and just reading.

Mr. Tatum - there are 15 rules if anyone would like to look them up certainly more than I care to read, but I will be happy to let anyone look at a copy if they don't have them at this time.

Mr. Gaskin - I would a copy of them.

Ms. Davidson - so what in making a determination we just (Mr. Gaskin interrupted Ms. Davidson)

Mr. Gaskin - going forward I personally I think this is all a big misunderstanding, I may shoot myself in the foot by saying this but a lot of that information wasn't in the packet, so I mean unless you actually went digging for this stuff you wouldn't have found any of it. Like I said I am not trying to shoot myself in the foot here.

Mr. Harper - stated it was given to members and both parties in the letter in the back.

Ms. Freeman - we have a copy it is in the back of the papers here.

Mr. Hodge - Mr. Gaskin wanted a copy, maybe Mr. Cooper as well.

Both parties was given a copy of the 15 rules again.

Mr. Hodge - do you have a copy of the qualification packet with you (staff went to get a copy for the board to look at).

Ms. Hollis - this also says that - The decision of the registrar to whom such application is made shall be presumptive evidence of the person's residence for voting purposes.

Mr. Tatum - where do you see that.

Ms. Hollis - where do I see it.

Mr. Tatum - I just want to read it.

Ms. Hollis - It is under (b) at the bottom of the page 157.

Ms. Hollis - so when you registered to vote was that at a time when you decided to run for office.

Mr. Cooper - no.

Ms. Hollis - or you never thought about registering to vote at the beginning of the year or anything like that. When did you decide you wanted to run for a council?

Mr. Cooper - yea not at that particular time period, because that was when my mother was in the hospital, I was not even thinking about registering at that particular time.

Ms. Hollis - before June 17.

Mr. Cooper - right.

Ms. Freeman - but you were a registered voter right, but just in Alabama.

Mr. Cooper - correct.

Ms. Davidson - it just seems like they should have, I don't know how they could tell you in Alabama that you couldn't vote here in GA, that is the part is so backwards, if you live in Georgia why would Alabama say you would have to vote here you. Cannot vote where you reside, said your residence, physical residence is here, but they had you vote in Alabama and I don't know how they could even do that.

Ms. Hollis - did you have an established residence in Alabama or on campus, I mean what address did you use in Alabama as residency when you registered to vote.

Mr. Cooper - on Academy Drive pretty much too where I was staying prior too moving.

Ms. Hollis - back to LaGrange.

Mr. Cooper - yes.

Ms. Davidson - in 2010.

Mr. Tatum - when you qualified for the office were you required to show any proof of residency, or did you come prepared.

Mr. Cooper - no I didn't, wasn't required to.

Ms. Davidson - so the DD the place you register.

Mr. Cooper - oh yea, I thought you said when I went to qualify to.

Mr. Gaskin - I just want to qualify what you said, we didn't have to show ID when we registered to qualify but we did have to sign an oath, a statement stating we were legal residence and met the qualifications and as of such and if we didn't we could be guilty of perjury when we signed that statement and that is why I said that about Chad I know it wasn't his intent to lie, I know that want his intent but that is the reason for not checking anything because the burden falls back on the candidate and no one check because the candidate is ultimately responsible for everything.

Mr. Tatum - let me clarify why I asked that question, every time in the last 15 years or so when I have gone to get driver's license I had to take my life history with me, you know they have never looked at any of it.

Mr. Cooper - so did you say when I went to get my driver's license or to qualify.

Mr. Tatum - right I just utilizing that, I have never qualified for an office it seems now every time you do anything they want your life history, and I took it over there in a packet and they didn't ask for any of it. I understand that is the reason I asked.

Mr. Gaskin - that is the reason I brought the statement up I don't want to see him get pinched for this I mean he didn't, nothing malicious about it.

Ms. Davidson - so do you have a Georgia driver's license.

Mr. Cooper - yes.

Ms. Davidson - you had it for a long time.

Mr. Cooper - no, haven't had it for a long time.

Ms. Davidson - how old, it if you don't mind my asking.

Mr. Cooper - since June.

Ms. Davidson - so everything is June.

Ms. Cooper - yes.

Ms. Davidson - like around 6/17/17.

Mr. Anderson - Mr. Cooper your license prior to June 17 was Alabama

Mr. Cooper - yes

Mr. Tatum - does anyone want else want to look at the packet

Mr. Hodge - in looking at the candidate qualifying packet I didn't see anything in there that states specific qualifications am in missing something, I didn't read every page

Mr. Harper - it's in there, they're given the qualifications of the city council because, we put in the city council, each one of the we give them each city. LaGrange qualifications should be in there. This may be a blank packet. The Cities use the same packet and put each City different.

Mr. Harper - gave board a copy of the section given to candidates.

Mr. Hodge - is that it (holding up the correct form).

Mr. Harper - yes, it was in the packet but they were given that in their packet.

Mr. Hodge - so they were given this when they received the packet.

Ms. Hollis - but it is not in our packet.

Mr. Harper - no not in that one but it was in theirs that is in there according to which City. There is one for Hogansville, West Point and LaGrange. We only did LaGrange. Hogansville and West Point use our packet and put their city information in there.

Mr. Hodge - so, section 6.01 is for the City of LaGrange they were given this at the time they were give a packet.

Mr. Harper - yes, we did give them qualifications for the City of LaGrange.

Ms. Davidson - want to ask another question Mr. Cooper. Did you have a GA driver's license prior to the Alabama driver's license?

Mr. Cooper - long time ago, yes.

Ms. Davidson - was there any particular reason you changed them to Alabama.

Mr. Cooper - I'm sorry.

Ms. Davidson - is there a particular reason.

Mr. Cooper - did that for the instate, I had to go thru those processes to be in state tuition. Even the Alabama, what's it called, human resources department has me listed as a residence of GA I couldn't get the information from them right now for a long time.

Ms. Davidson - you had to establish residency.

Mr. Cooper - yes, when I first started school.

Ms. Davidson - so for a long time you were a citizen of Alabama.

Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Ms. Davidson - until 2010.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Mr. Tatum - difference in the legal requirement in Alabama and Georgia.  
 Ms. Hollis - yes.  
 Mr. Tatum - when did you first give consideration to run for elected office?  
 Mr. Cooper - think like in May.  
 Ms. Davidson - alright so when you registered to vote here on 6/7 did you also notify Alabama that you were voting here. That you were canceling that out, cancelling out your registration for Alabama.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes, that got done once I went to qualify, once I switched everything over then that was when I was told to alert them, so I am out of the Alabama system  
 Ms. Davidson - so did you alert them or did they do that when you register because it says that you have to do that  
 Mr. Cooper - it was supposed to happen once I registered but it didn't, so once it did happen it had me locked out that why I went to qualify that day I couldn't vote either place  
 Ms. Davidson - because you had two registrations, is that it.  
 Mr. Cooper - no, some kind of glitch the system that had me completely locked out.  
 Ms. Davidson - so now would that occur if someone put your name in there for Alabama, would you come up.  
 Mr. Cooper - no.  
 Ms. Davidson - as a voter in Alabama, has that been cancelled.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Mr. Hodge - Mr. DeGennaro pointed out that we need to consider all 15 of these rules of requirements, so if I may ask you a question Mr. Cooper your residency there on Colquitt Street do you own your home there.  
 Mr. Cooper - no I do not.  
 Mr. Hodge - so you have not filed homestead exemption or anything.  
 Mr. Cooper - no, it my parents' home.  
 Mr. Hodge - okay, do you get all your mail there.  
 Mr. Cooper - everything.  
 Mr. Hodge - everything comes there.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Mr. Tatum - do you have any other residences.  
 Mr. Cooper - no.  
 Ms. Davidson - so you say the house is your parents.  
 Mr. Cooper - correct.  
 Ms. Davidson - so everything is in their name.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Ms. Davidson - so do you have any real property that's in your name like motorcycle or car, car or truck.  
 Mr. Cooper - truck papers in the paperwork I submitted.  
 Mr. Tatum - so you are employed by the housing authority.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Mr. Tatum - how long have you been employed by them  
 Mr. Cooper - since 2014.  
 Ms. Anderson - I see where you paid income taxes listed as GA did you pay Alabama taxes also.  
 Mr. Cooper - no.  
 Mr. Anderson - paid just GA taxes.  
 Mr. Cooper - yes.  
 Mr. Tatum - okay, none of these 15, no one trumps them all, and they all are to be considered.  
 Ms. Hollis - yes.  
 Mr. Tatum - but I am looking at #13, #5. #2 gives me reason for thought, has anyone else looked at those.  
 Ms. Freeman - I have.  
 Mr. Tatum - sorry for the delay some of us are studying and research, reading of different articles.  
 Mr. Tatum - Ms. Hollis are you going to look at the packet also

Ms. Hollis - I seen it

Ms. Hollis - I was looking under, there's a case in the code section but I don't have it code section 21-2-241. A registrar must acquire and examine the available evidence in order to ascertain the intent of each individual, on a case by case basis, to determine the domicile of that individual. Decided under former code section 21-2-241. So I don't know what it said.

Mr. Tatum - where is that at, 241.

Mr. Hodge - what page is that on Ms. Hollis.

Ms. Freeman - not in this code.

Ms. Hollis - not in this code book, page 158, opinions, these are opinions of the Attorney General.

Mr. Hodge - oh okay.

Ms. Davidson - I read that.

Mr. Tatum - yea I read that also

Ms. Davidson - that under opinions under the attorney general

Ms. Hollis - yes, apparently there was an appealed to the Attorney General on something similar, I think you know going with the evidence we have you want to call a vote.

Mr. Tatum - when everyone get thru with their research, I will give it about another, we will call it in 3 minutes, but if they are ready now, if everyone is ready for a vote

Mr. DeGennaro - for the record, record complete the documents that have been submitted by both sides. I think to make clear what is being made part of the record I will read what has been submitted. The record will be complete. Mr. Gaskin has submitted a copy of a Facebook page that indicates lives in Auburn, Alabama. Submitted a copy of a voter registration card for Chad Owens Cooper 910 Colquitt St LaGrange, GA 30241 registration date of 6/7/2017 and an issue date of 9/8/2017, submitted a print out of section 2.11 - Terms and qualifications. (Asked Mr. Cooper) Is that for City of LaGrange?

Mr. Gaskin - yes

Mr. DeGennaro - Mr. Cooper has submitted a Troup County precinct card showing Registration date of 6/7/2017 and issue date of 8/22/2017 in the name of Chad Owens Cooper 910 Colquitt Street LaGrange, GA 30241. He has submitted a To whom it may concern letter dated 9/8/2017 Chadrick cooper of 910 Colquitt St LaGrange, GA 30241 has been a valued SunTrust Bank Client since 11/22/2006. He has submitted copy of an email from a Ramona Burnside to Chadwick Cooper that says this is to confirm Chad Cooper has provided care for his parents for the past several years. He brings his dad to the office for appointments and manages his medications. Submitted what appears to be mailing from State Farm dated September 8, 2017 Chad Cooper 910 Colquitt Street LaGrange, GA 30241 for insurance coverage for an automobile. Submitted a tax notification for year 2014 from Auburn University that shows the filers name as Auburn University, students name and street Chadrick O Cooper 910 Colquitt St LaGrange, GA 30241. Has submitted earnings statement from the Housing Authority of the City of LaGrange Chadrick O Cooper 910 Colquitt St LaGrange, GA 30240. Submitted a copy of form 1040 tax return for 2014 for 910 Colquitt St. Submitted a form 1040 tax return for 2015 this one says 910 Cooper Street LaGrange, GA. Submitted a 2016 W-2 Earnings Summary from the Housing Authority City of LaGrange, with employees name and address of Chadrick O Cooper 910 Colquitt St LaGrange, GA 30240. Then he submitted a, Mr. Cooper may need to help me with this not sure what this is, an Enrollee Information street address of 910 Colquitt St - Mr. Cooper

Mr. Cooper - yes it for Student loan information.

Mr. DeGennaro - okay, He has submitted a Georgia Income Tax Declaration for electronic filing for 2015 showing again 910 Cooper St. Submitted a Federal Perkins NDSL Student Loan request for cancellation form with a date of September 4, 2015 with filled out Chadrick Cooper 910 Colquitt St LaGrange, GA 30241. Is that entirety what you submitted?

Mr. Cooper - yes

Mr. DeGennaro - Mr. Gaskin did I correctly read what you submitted.

Mr. Gaskin - yes you did.

Mr. DeGennaro - on the other documents that will be part of the record would be - notification that this board sent for this hearing today, copy of 2.11 of the code, and 6.01 of the code, a copy of the voters registration for both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Gaskin did I miss anything Andy.

Mr. Harper - No

Mr. Tatum - Is the Board prepared to vote. Is all members prepared to vote?

4. Mr. Tatum called for Vote on Challenge.

Mr. Tatum asked all members if they were ready to vote. Members stated they were.

5. Accept that Mr. Cooper was a Residence for 1 year prior to the Election, please raise right hand.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DEFEATED [0 TO 6]</b>
<b>NAYS:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Creel

6. Accept that Mr. Cooper had not met qualification and was not a Residence for 1 year prior to the Election, please raise right hand.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Creel

7. Decision verbally given to Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Tatum to Mr. Cooper,

The Board has made a ruling by vote, that you have not met the qualifications to be a candidate for the Council Seat 2 in LaGrange, lack of residency is cited for this reason. We utilized I think I will speak for the Board. That looking over the rules for determining residency we looked at 21-2-217 - (a) - (2) - (5) & (13). Look at specifically they are all straight forward, but #13 I think you have read. (Mr. Cooper - yes I did read it) Vote for reason is Lack of residency.

Mr. Tatum - does anyone have any statements.

Mr. Gaskin - I just want to make one statement can you add to the record, that Mr. Chad Cooper did not in any way shape or form intend to violate any oath that he has signed. I just don't want this to blow back as a prosecution of any sort.

Mr. Tatum - we are not here for any determination of sorts.

Mr. Gaskin - just add it to the record is all I am asking is to add it to the record that you do not see any malice intent.

Mr. Tatum - we will do our best.

Ms. Hollis - would like to also add since he was misinformed by when he qualified, not informed of any issues does he get his qualifying money back,

Mr. Harper - no

Ms. Hollis - I know that there is a certain length of time you can get qualifying money back and this should be within the time period. Something we may have to look into.

Mr. Harper - okay

Ms. Hollis - Actually he was not informed of all the implications in the qualifying as far as the code as far as residence is concerned. Andy I think that maybe something to look into.

Mr. Harper - as far as the law.

Mr. DeGennaro - I think that Mr. Cooper would need to make a request and we could look into it.

Ms. Hollis - okay.

Ms. Freeman - so that we can prevent this from happening in the future.

Ms. Davidson - it appears it stems from misinformation.

Ms. Freeman - misinformation.

Ms. Davidson - misinformation from Alabama and not from Georgia.

Ms. Hollis - yea from the registration office, something he not informed of.

Ms. Davidson - if they have told him the correct information this would not have occurred. He would have known that you proceed with that much earlier.

Mr. Tatum - anything further from the Board. (No response) Mr. Cooper and Mr. Gaskin anything. (No response)

Mr. DeGennaro - Mr. Chairman for a point of procedure the parties need to be notified of their right to appeal, the decision of this Board can be appealed. There should be a motion to authorize the Chairman to issue a formal written notice to the candidate of the decision.

Mr. Tatum - first of all is there a time limit of the appeal

Ms. Freeman - 10 days

Mr. DeGennaro - 10 day to appeals the decision to the Superior Court of Troup County, be a written notification from the Board to the Candidate, for both parties.

- 8. Have Chairman Sign written letter of Decision to the Candidate.

Mr. Tatum - reminded the candidate about the right to appeal to the court system and within 10 days.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Lonnie Hollis, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dianne Davidson, Vice Chair
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Creel

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

- 1. Adjourn

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Johnnie Freeman, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Freeman, Hollis
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Creel

**VI. ATTACHMENTS**

Attachments

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PRESENTATION</b>
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Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Sep 12, 2017 10:00 AM (Minutes Approval)



TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION  
MINUTES • OCTOBER 19, 2017

Regular Meeting Planning & Zoning Conference Room 10:00 AM  
100 Ridley Ave, Troup County Government Center, LaGrange, GA 30240

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William Tatum	Chairman	Present	
Dianne Davidson	Vice Chair	Present	
Randall Hodge	Secretary	Present	
Issac Jeff Anderson	Board Member	Present	
Jason Creel	Board Member	Present	
Johnnie Freeman	Board Member	Present	
Lonnie Hollis	Board Member	Present	

II. INVOCATION

Mr. Tatum led Invocation.

III. PLEDGE

Mr. Tatum led Pledge.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Hollis asked what was on the agenda. Mr. Harper explained.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Lonnie Hollis, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Creel, Freeman, Hollis

V. MINUTES APPROVAL

- 1. Board of Elections & Registration - Regular Meeting - Sep 21, 2017 10:00 AM

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dianne Davidson, Vice Chair
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Creel, Freeman, Hollis

VI. APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

- 1. Bylaw Discussion

Mr. Creel - apologized for missing meeting since he took new job, and glad we have quorum.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 19, 2017 10:00 AM (Minutes Approval)

Mr. DeGennaro - stated that is one thing we are fixing, under old bylaws everyone had to be here, in the new bylaws and would only have to have a quorum so this problem won't come up again.

Ms. Hollis - asked who changed that. That you have to have a quorum by the bylaws.

Mr. Tatum - in our current bylaws.

Mr. Harper - in the current bylaws we have to have all members present to change them and the proposed y' all worked on it just said quorum. Y' all did first reading on October 20, 2016.

Mr. DeGennaro - I think all of the changes were thoroughly discussed, it has been a while, but it had been discussed.

Mr. Harper - you have a copy of the minutes from that meeting where everyone signed everything with all of the changes.

Ms. Hollis - I don't see one of the changes I wanted was a person from the office attend meeting, we did not change that.

Mr. Harper - these are the changes everyone signed off on and voted on that day.

Ms. Hollis - no I did not sign off on that, I did not agree with that a person from the office not being in here, we did not change the quorum, the attorney is not supposed to make changes in the bylaws we are supposed to do that.

Mr. Harper - he didn't he went over them after the board read and discusses them, y' all are the ones that wrote the changes.

Ms. Hollis - we did not make any changes about a person from the office being in the meeting, whoever did it I asked in the meeting.

Mr. Harper - in the work session we held.

Ms. Hollis - we did not changes in that.

Ms. Davidson - I did not bring that stack of papers with me of all the changes we had made and went over.

Ms. Hollis - Ms. Freeman and I discussed that and we did not make that change.

Ms. Freeman - the changes was in the last one, and the question was asked but we did not get an answer.

Ms. Hollis - right.

Ms. Freeman - unless somebody has it in their notes.

Ms. Hollis - I have it in my but I did not bring it, I don't remember the quorum, because the bylaws should be signed by all members of the board, and everybody should agree upon it, upon having a quorum, for the bylaws to be changed, I don't remember that part being in there.

Mr. DeGennaro - you have to have a quorum for the bylaws to be changed.

Ms. Hollis - old bylaws says all members have to be present to sign it, and we didn't make that change, that is why we hadn't done it we didn't make that change and this just came up, that why they had not been approved because everyone wasn't here, so I know we didn't make that change.

Mr. DeGennaro - all I can tell you is that this version here is what was discussed and voted on way back in April, I think.

Mr. Harper - yes.

Mr. Creel - we couldn't vote on it because we have a vacant seat.

Ms. Hollis - we didn't vote on it.

Mr. DeGennaro - then these were hand written changes then which were then typed into a formal document which we then, you couldn't approve because you didn't have everybody here.

Ms. Hollis - exactly.

Mr. Harper - yes we did the work session of all the changes. Compiled all of the work changes and put them into here, sent this out for review, then y' all discussed it on the October meeting there then went thoroughly and made changes in the red.

Mr. Hodge - I am looking at the original bylaws which are currently in existence and I don't see where it address that a member of the office staff has to be present at meetings.

Ms. Hollis - it in the old bylaws.

Mr. Hodge - that is what I am looking at.

Ms. Hollis - it is in there.

Mr. DeGennaro - I think the confusion is you are correct, I think there was in the original and there was a revision, during the process of revising the bylaws and I don't know who propose that be added in, it was in a draft at some point, that was what was discussed last time .

Mr. Hodge - this one is stamped from March 6, 2013.

Mr. Harper - that is the copy that is filed in the Clerk of Court.



Mr. Hodge - I know in my time on the board, generally there has been another person other than Andy that sat in on these, but it doesn't that doesn't state is a requirement, the bylaws don't.

Ms. Hollis - it's in there, I know it is in there, see if I have a copy. Do you have a copy of the old set of bylaws?

Mr. Hodge - that is what he has got.

Mr. Harper - this is the copy that is currently in place here right here.

Mr. Hodge - and to my knowledge there has been no approved revisions since that was filed with the Clerk of Court.

Ms. Davidson - I thought this is the final draft because since I have been here we did several and that was supposed to be it.

Mr. Creel - the last time we worked on them we went line by line.

Ms. Hollis - no it wasn't.

Mr. Creel - yes.

Ms. Davidson - yes.

Mr. Hollis - no.

Mr. Creel - it was yes.

Ms. Davidson - yes it was, we agreed to that.

Ms. Hollis - no we didn't, because I questioned that part about someone being in the office and the part about the quorum, I questioned that, let me see is there a copy in the notebook in the office Andy.

Mr. Harper - of what.

Ms. Hollis - the bylaws.

Mr. Harper - that is it, the current bylaws.

Ms. Hollis - no.

Mr. Hodge - that is the current bylaws, that is what he has.

Mr. Harper - this is it, that is a copy of the current bylaws right there.

Ms. Davidson - we have gone back and forth and back and forth and all of were here, that is the final draft that went to him and once we have all we just had to sign it so I don't know that this is now, that is what I heard.

Ms. Hollis - it says - Changes to these bylaws can be made only with all voting members present. Changes must be discussed at one regular monthly meeting then voted on at the next regular meeting. The majority vote prevails.

Mr. Creel - yes.

Ms. Hollis - we did not change that, I don't know if anybody else remembers that but we didn't change that part.

Ms. Davidson - remember we went down a long list of things that you saw the last time we went thru this, we went thru every single thing and everybody said this is the final draft and we won't have to go thru any of this again.

Ms. - Hollis - no, we didn't do that, because I asked the question about who made the changes in that part and I didn't get an answer.

Ms. Freeman - I remember that.

Mr. Harper - where it changed from the quorum it was discussed in the work session so if we ran into an issue if someone was not here, and we didn't have a member that was in the work session we held that special day.

Mr. Hodge - this is the draft from 10/20/16 and under the statement related to Bylaw Changes: said - Changes to these bylaws can only be made by the affirmative vote of at least four Board members at a duly noticed meeting. Proposed changes shall be discussed in a duly noticed meeting at least one month prior to the meeting at which such changes are to be voted on for adoption. In that discussion on 10/20/16 I got noted there were no changes to that statement.

Ms. Hollis - okay board members, if that was the case we could have voted on it long before now, but that was not the case.

Mr. Hodge - we couldn't because under the current bylaws we had to have all members present to make changes to the new bylaws.

Ms. Hollis - we have met several times after then.

Mr. Hodge - but haven't had all members present.

Ms. Hollis - it was on the agenda you said we couldn't vote because everyone wasn't here.

Mr. Harper - we had to table it.

Mr. Hodge - yes.

Mr. Harper - because the current bylaws, but the proposed bylaw changes on 10/20 that y' all voted on which you have a copy in front of you.

Ms. Hollis - so why are we approving them now if we voted on them then, why are we voting on them again.

Mr. Harper - that was the first reading and this would be the second reading.

Ms. Hollis - the second reading I'm saying we didn't, we did not make changes as far as all board members voting on it and that is why we haven't voted on it, but on the other part on the regular meeting we did not change that the regular meeting held monthly, elections supervisor and one other staff member shall be present, we, I asked the question who made that change because no else here did.

Ms. Davidson - alright so on the minutes from 10/20 all members agreed to this change, to this change and this is the final.

Ms. Hollis - that was placed in the minutes illegally because it didn't happen.

Ms. Davidson - I just saying that what it is Ms. Hollis, it on your minutes from 10/20/2016.

Ms. Hollis - I don't need it, we didn't.

Mr. Harper - the vote was Jason made a motion, Dianne second and Ms. Johnnie abstained and 6 voted for.

Ms. Hollis - let me ask you this question, who made those changes.

Mr. Harper - all those changes.

Ms. Hollis - those should be in the minutes who proposed the changes.

Mr. Harper - all those changes were from the from the work session and complied.

Ms. Hollis - it should be in the minutes of who changed it.

Mr. Harper - all of that was in the work session, changes got complied and struck and complied again.

Ms. Hollis - no.

Mr. Harper - y' all can do what y' all want.

Ms. Hollis - no its you that made that change, because we didn't, we didn't discuss that part in the work session, you came back with the other draft I said who made that change, I didn't get an answer.

Mr. Harper - all of that was discussed at the work session, am I right Jason, it has been so long ago.

Mr. Creel - it has been over a year but I remember exactly like Dianne said we voted on this then Mr. Ransom had incident and we had a vacant seat and we have been waiting, unfortunately me for 3 times, just to sigh this off.

Ms. Davidson - just to sign this off.

Mr. Creel - I do remember what you are talking about, I thought in the motion that it wasn't necessary to have a person here because the conflict of interest is when we have an election going on because you couldn't pull someone from the office because we were shorthanded, that is what I recollect, I know we talked about it and we didn't agree but I thought made it not an issue because it was necessary because we didn't have enough people and I thought we were done with this finally so I made a point to be here to get this behind us because I didn't think there was anything else to discuss about it, we been waiting to vote forever.

Ms. Freeman - there is something to discuss if there is a question about who made a change, I think that is the issue not whether we need somebody here or not. Actually we are operating outside our current bylaws by not having somebody here, even though early voting is going on. So we are operating outside bylaws.

Ms. Hollis - exactly.

Ms. Freeman - the question I remember was who made the change and that is the question that did not get answered, and that is one reason I did not vote for these bylaws because the question wasn't answered. That, I do remember.

Ms. Hollis - if we do have the bylaws all the board members need to be able to approve whatever we have not just 4 people, because 4 people the board doesn't operate on 4 people, regardless of if there is a quorum or not but the bylaws is how the board is supposed to operate right, if that is the case it is not operating the bylaws. That is why we made change for the bylaws was to work you have to have a working set of bylaws to run a meeting.

Ms. Davidson - so you and Ms. Freeman is that we should have a person out there come and sit, is that's your grievance.

Ms. Hollis - we always had.

Ms. Freeman - not what I said.

Ms. Davidson - no I just asking is that what you said.

Ms. Freeman - say what I said, say it right.

Mr. Harper - I remember discussing that in the work session. Everything was compiled together.

Ms. Freeman - Andy what I am saying, there was a question from Lonnie that did not get answered in that meeting. I remember that. Now whether other people choose to or not I remember.

Mr. Harper - I remember, the work session was a special called work session and they discussed every kind of changed there was and w, don't know how many hours in there that day.

Ms. Davidson - so in the minutes is everything written down, so wouldn't it be there where you addressed that.

Ms. Hollis - is should be, our minutes are not complete, that why I discuss the minutes it is not what they are saying, that is why I asked him, is it in the minutes that we approved that section.

Mr. Harper - remember we discussed so much in that work session there were so many changes in there I would have to go back and (interrupted).

Ms. Hollis - that was one change because is questioned that before, that is why the minutes have to depict everything that went on in the meeting and a lot our minutes have been incomplete.

Ms. Davidson - was it an ongoing debate when you proposed that wouldn't something be in there.

Ms. Hollis - it should be in there, not sure if it was put in there or not.

Mr. Hodge - as far as the bylaw changes the only difference is there is really no difference except that the original bylaws said all voting members have to be present for the vote, the changes said can be made by the affirmative vote of at least four board members, so the only thing that changes is, if like we had a vacancy like before Ms. Davidson got here or Mr. Anderson under the proposed we are trying to get passed we could have went on and handled that business if we had four members that approved it whereas with this one you got to have all seats filled before you can even take a vote. It's still a majority vote either way.

Ms. Davidson - I remember when we were supposed to do this we kept having people absent, every time we came someone absent you may have been one of those person being sick or something but there was always a person out.

Ms. Hollis - I have always been here.

Mr. Creel - let me ask could we have an amendment to vote on that.

Mr. DeGennaro - that what we just discussed and back to square one.

Mr. Creel - back to square on one thing, she, correct me if I am wrong about she is saying, she didn't get an answer about having a person here in the meeting, if we wanted to vote to adding that to the bylaws about having personnel wouldn't that be a way to rectify her concern.

Mr. DeGennaro - would, but understand by the existing bylaws, if you make a change now, you have to go to another meeting to approve them.

Mr. Creel - could that be done.

Mr. DeGennaro - yes, it could be done.

Mr. Creel - couldn't it two fold question could we vote on what was agreed on back then and bring it up to be added to the bylaws as a change.

Mr. DeGennaro - in a subsequent time, sure.

Ms. Hollis - bring that up and add it, you're are going back in bylaws changes but we never discussed that.

Mr. Creel - I remember discussing it because I thought I wasn't necessary.

Ms. Hollis - for all members to be present.

Mr. Creel - no, about having a person in from office, I remember you and I talked about it with the amount of people I can see where it could be an issue, that is the reason he is here, having a person from office, we could pull them in as needed if necessary, remember when we had an issues during early voting going on and there was a problem and they kept coming in to interrupt ending up pulling out can't remember exactly who, I remember that discussion..

Mr. Tatum - I have a question if I may, since the person from outside, who anybody from the public could be here of course, person outside the board cannot vote on any issue what is their purpose to be here

Ms. Hollis - their purpose, I know Diana was been in here all the time, Diana had worked in that office for year, so therefore she was familiar with a lot of things that Andy is not familiar with because he has not been in that position for a long time, so Diana can correct or rectify some of the things that Andy may tell us that she may know about that is different. I guess in the previous boards was here that was necessary for her to be in here and she can because right now even though early voting is going on there are extra personnel in the office that can carry on the voting process, so as long as someone has been here and a lot of experience in this meeting I think it helps the board.

Mr. Tatum - would it have to be a specific individual.

Ms. Hollis - someone who has experience and know what going on and been going to the conventions and I'm pretty sure Andy can't remember everything that has gone on.

Mr. Tatum - there will be a time, I don't know when that will be maybe 10 years there will come a time in which that individual will either find another job, leave or retire, hopefully not due to illness or anything else of course, then how would we replace that individual.

Ms. Hollis - because she would, they go to the conferences, by that time having another trained person in the office.

Mr. Tatum - is it mandatory they go.

Ms. Hollis - to do conferences, yes.

Mr. Tatum - all the employees need to go.

Ms. Hollis - yea they need to know all the processes that take place.

Mr. Tatum - so it would benefit for them to participate in the meeting, not just one particular individual maybe all of them at different times.

Ms. Hollis - we, that could happen as long as we have someone here that can answer questions that Andy may not be able to answer.

Ms. Davidson - so we would go to that person from the office as a board member and ask them a question.

Ms. Hollis - they may know the question the Andy may not know the question I know that we have had that several times in the meeting that we've had, where she had to clarify some things. But specifically I did not remove that and specifically we did not change the quorum because if had changed the quorum we could have voted a long time ago.

Mr. Creel - quorum was discussed because we would have to wait like we are now, I know that was done.

Ms. Hollis - but we was waiting, so why were we waiting.

Mr. Creel - waiting because Mr. Ransom got sick.

Mr. Hodge - hadn't been approved.

Mr. Creel - then we have a vacancy finally Mr. Anderson came on board, then you were out then I have been out not unfortunately a year passes.

Ms. Freeman - we are still operating under the established bylaws, which said everybody had to be present.

Ms. Hollis - exactly.

Ms. Freeman - so we couldn't sign these.

Mr. Hodge - we couldn't sign these.

Ms. Hollis - did we make a change in there I don't remember making those changes.

Mr. Creel - about the quorum.

Ms. Hollis - quorum change and everybody being here, I don't remember that because everybody should as a board everyone should agree on whatever bylaws the board would be operating under everybody should agree not just 4 people.

Mr. Tatum - I understand that position, let clarify everyone does not have to agree, until voted upon, the vote carries the change or not change.

Ms. Hollis - but that is why you have the work session for everybody to come to an agreement on our working bylaws.

Mr. Tatum - still but everybody doesn't always see things the same, from the way I understand that.

Ms. Hollis - right, but when you work on it and discuss it in the meeting and you come to that agreement that this is how the board should operate, that how all the people I work with that what happen working bylaws use to operate properly, if the bylaws are out of whack the board is out of whack.

Ms. Davidson - I remember distinctly, and I not being nasty when we did this we were just over and over we were listening, actually listening to you check off things that you thought were improper like maybe the code numbers were not right or the code should have been here, or code should have been here this was a whole meeting of that and when we ended we all said was this all, is this it and then that was the it went to the attorney to type them up and send back so we could sign them and now here we are just saying here we are again and this year is almost over. Back in the same place seems like we just bicker over everything so whatever you find that in here that you don't like write it down then maybe discuss and settle it get this bylaw corrected by then end of this year.

Ms. Hollis - I just said what I didn't agree with, because when the bylaws came back they came back different from what we agreed on.

Ms. Davidson - I'm saying you said the last time you said 10 things.

Ms. Hollis - not I didn't say 10 things, it was 2 things, right Johnnie, 2 things.

Ms. Davidson - about 10.

Ms. Hollis - you know what 10 it was, can you name the 10 I didn't agree on.

Ms. Davidson - you and I not going to get into this.

Ms. Hollis - they came back different. It went to the attorney and it came back different, that's when I asked the question.

Ms. DeGennaro - no ma'am, let be clear about that.

Ms. Hollis - no I am clear.

Ms. DeGennaro - no I am speaking now, let me finish.

Ms. Hollis - I was speaking before you were.

Mr. DeGennaro - no ma'am you just suggested that I made changes that were not presented to me.

Mr. Tatum - (point of order) excuse me, Mr. DeGennaro has the floor, and when someone is speaking I would like all of us to be courteous and not interrupt that person.

Ms. Hollis - I understand that.

Mr. Tatum - that is all I am asking.

Ms. Hollis - I was speaking before he was.

Mr. Tatum - yes ma'am you have been speaking all morning.

Ms. Hollis - okay.

Mr. Tatum - Mr. DeGennaro is being paid for his legal expertise, let him speak please.

Mr. DeGennaro - what I am saying to you and everyone here the minutes reflect this document. This document was sent to me to make changes, I made those changes, if you are talking about the quorum, this document says under By-law Changes and written in red says no changes, I didn't make any changes, I just want that clear. What I did was to take what was presented at this meeting documented changes and were made part of the minutes were then approved and make those changes that's what is here before the board today. Now hopefully you were not suggesting differently Ms. Hollis, I hope not.

Ms. Hollis - I did not say you made the changes, because I specifically in one of the meetings, because I know Andy has always not wanted anyone from the office in this meeting so that is why I asked the question, who made the changes, because we didn't, and I didn't get an answer.

Mr. Harper - those changes were made in the work session, the day we spent what 4 hours up here that day.

Ms. Hollis - do you know who suggested that change.

Mr. Harper - no.

Mr. Creel - I know you and I talked about it because I disagreed with your opinion, I know we talked about it.

Mr. Harper - I remember it was discussed in the work session, there was so much that went on in that work session for 4 hours I can't remember everything that went on that day, but I do remember it being discussed, we went line by line by line item in that 4 hour work session.

Ms. Davidson - don't we record minutes, when these minutes come out aren't they recorded.

Mr. Harper - I don't keep the recording after the minutes are approved.

Ms. Davidson - okay, maybe in the future you may need to, something come up you can always play it back.

Ms. Hollis - yea you are right they are supposed to be kept.

Ms. Freeman - once again I remember, we had that requirement in a set of bylaws, we got another set another draft and that had been removed from the bylaws. The question came up from Ms. Hollis who made that change and Andy you never didn't answer.

Mr. Harper - I still cannot tell you where that change came from, but I remember I have a stack of paperwork from all the changes from the lines by lines and I drafted it all together and sent it out to all the members at that time, they reviewed them all and this was the composition of all those changes we went thru 2 or 3 different meetings, to make any more suggestion, this was compiled out of that and then sent to the attorney for legal ease and then came back to us, then we had the first reading of it last October, because we tried for several months to get it and we could because it wasn't a full quorum.

Mr. Creel - Mr. Ransom had his stroke.

Mr. Harper - first reading and Mr. Ransom had his stroke and that is why we are here today, because first meeting of the year we have had everybody here.

Mr. Creel - we had to wait for Mr. Anderson came on.

Mr. Harper - yes that what I am saying this is the first meeting every is represented I don't know if y' all want to approve these amended to add that back in there to add office staff and have a second reading next month, I don't know what do you think.

Ms. Freeman - I don't care one way or another.

Mr. Hodge - may I say something don't know if point of order or observation but according to our agenda we are to vote on this not have a discussion, in order to keep with the agenda we need to call for a vote and either get approved or disapproved. If it is approved we can but on the agenda for next month to make amendments if we need to, then we can have discussion on those amendments and as to why we need them to do that.

Mr. DeGennaro - are you making that motion.

Mr. Hodge - I make a motion to vote on the bylaws, revised bylaws as they stand.

Mr. Tatum - is there a second.

Mr. Creel - I'll second that.

Mr. Tatum - any discussion.

Mr. Tatum - being no discussion I'll called for a vote on the current bylaws, all those in favor signify by voting, all those oppose.

Mr. Harper - how do you vote?

Mr. Tatum - I vote in favor.

Mr. Tatum vote of 5- 2 for approval, majority will carry, as stated.

Ms. Hollis - if I may speak I just want to let Mr. DeGennaro know I wasn't saying you made the changes, I am saying when they sent to you, they came back differently.

Mr. DeGennaro - I appreciate that clarification.

Ms. Hollis - made you understand.

Mr. DeGennaro - not the way I took it.

Mr. Creel - do we need to sign the bylaws now.

Mr. DeGennaro - once get signed and write across the top, approved and date.

Ms. Hollis and Ms. Freeman did not sign the bylaws as revised.

## 2. Approval of Bylaws

Mr Creel - do need to sign the bylaws

Mr. DeGennaro - once get singed and write across the top, approve and date.

Ms. Hollis and Ms. Freeman did not sign the bylaws.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [5 TO 2]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randall Hodge, Secretary
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jason Creel, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Creel
<b>NAYS:</b>	Freeman, Hollis

## VII. SUPERVISOR REPORT

Mr. Harper gave each member is a copy of the things, checklist to look for at the precincts, a checklist that the state uses.

Gave a members a list of all Precinct Locations

Election Day all Precincts will be open on November 7, 2017

Mr. Harper - reported that early voting going good so far and no major problems that I am aware of.

We have been notified of poll watchers for early voting and Election Day. They have already been in and sat in and looked here at the office and also in West Point.

Early Voting will begin on October 16, 2017 thru November 3, 2017 from 8-5, Early Voting for LaGrange, Hogansville, SPLOST V (county voters) here at the office

Early voting for City of West Point only Technology Building O G Skinner Drive will begin on October 16, 2017 thru November 3, 2017 from 8-5.

Poll Workers trained and have the list and some more will be done as well as Provisional Training closer to Election Day.

Reminder that Election Certification will be on Monday starting @ 5pm November 13, 2017 since a holiday for Veterans Day on November 11, 2017.

Mr. Harper asked what particular time they wanted us to start Absentee Ballots, all agreed to start @ 5pm.

Mr. Harper explained that the Early Voting totals at 7 will only be for our office and not West Point. They chose not to have the machines closed out here and to close out all machines there and then bring all memory cards together. Tapes posted at once.

Board members discussed voting precincts.

Chad Cooper update - Lawyer for Mr. Cooper was provided with all documentation and no Challenge has been file.

Complaint from Voter to SOS update - Mr. Harper turned it over to Mr. DeGennaro. 2014 complaint. April the board discussed SEB case 2014 - Hart case and 14 other complaints combined together, Received Sept 19, received a letter from State Election Board and they approved it. The approved Consent order accepted was for 500.00 and this board will need to make a motion to accept that and then a check would need to be sent.

Ms. Davidson asked about Absentee ballots if anyone could pass out absentee ballot applications. Mr. Harper explained anyone can pass them out.

Ms. Davidson asked about voter list, can anyone get it. Mr. Harper stated yes and you have to order that from The Secretary of State.

1. Approve the Consent Order from SEB 2014 case.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jason Creel, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dianne Davidson, Vice Chair
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Creel, Freeman, Hollis

2. Complaint from Voter

Mr. Tatum gave each member a copy of the complaint dated October 5, 2017 from a voter about a Board member asked everyone to read it, then we will discuss.

Complaint about Ms. Hollis from Vivian Hear 1001 E.8th Street West Point GA 31833

Ms. Hollis said to address this - went to pick up something from this lady. Saw a sign next door, and asked if she is supporting Deedee Williams, she said "no, and I'm not supporting her because she is a slum landlord." I said that I don't know that much about Deedee Williams. She then proceeded to tell me about she had a house up the street and a tree fallen on the house and a baby was killed. She called me back after we had discussed that and I said I was just asking, and she called me back and told me that it was disrespectful for me to ask if she was supporting Deedee Williams. I said okay I am sorry I even mentioned it to you. That's it, so I guess she feels that I was a board member she needs to file a complaint so.

Mr. Creel - is this a complaint to us or to the state.

Mr. Tatum - according to the way I understand it is that we would refer this back to the appointing party that had appointed Ms. Hollis. The letter is addressed to Mr. Harper and so would you be writing a letter back to her.

Mr. Harper - if that is what this board chooses for me to do. I can write a letter back to her and tell her we will forward this to the party.

Mr. Harper asked Mr. DeGennaro how this should be handled, since there was previously a problem on the board and a lot of tension on the board then and that is how it was done then.

Mr. DeGennaro - I believe it is correct. This board doesn't have the power.

Mr. Harper - the way I understand current legislation that if a member is to be removed it would have to be done by the appointing entity or party.

Mr. DeGennaro - it is vaguer than that, the legislation doesn't even address that. What is clear is that this board does not have that.

Mr. Harper - whatever y' all choose to do I will write the letter and forward it on.

Mr. Tatum - reason I asked, she deserves to know is we brought it under consideration and our response to it is. Consider that to let her know. The Democratic Party should respond to us or to her.

Ms. Hollis - they already know about it. I have discussed it with them about it when this lady called me.

Ms. Davidson - you thought something would happen.

Ms. Hollis - no after she called me I referred it to the chair of the Democratic Party.

Mr. DeGennaro - deserves a courteous of some reply that we got it.

Mr. Tatum - detrimental if we did not respond to her to let her know we considered it.

Ms. Hollis - that you had talked to me and brought to my attention.

Ms. Davidson - is that what we do with this, just way we looked at it.

Ms. Hollis - I didn't do nothing wrong, I can ask questions.

Mr. DeGennaro - acknowledge receipt of it and under current legislation this board doesn't have the authority to act upon it.

## VIII. ADJOURN

1. Adjourn

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jason Creel, Board Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Johnnie Freeman, Board Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Tatum, Davidson, Hodge, Anderson, Creel, Freeman, Hollis

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Oct 19, 2017 10:00 AM (Minutes Approval)