

## POST AGENDA MINUTES – RATIFIED

This document has been ratified or approved by the Fulton County Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc. and is not binding on the County or any officer.

### Call to Order/Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

### **\*\*A QUORUM WAS PRESENT\*\***

- **Members Present:** Michael Mizell, Shawn Hanley, Patricia Lewis, Dr. Samantha Brown-Parks, Michael Moore, Jim Garcia, Eldson McGhee, Stephen Leake, Richard White, Anthony Merritt
- **Members Absent:**
- **Staff Present:** Fran Calhoun (External Affairs), Jasmine Campbell (External Affairs), Joey Logan-Pugh (County Attorney's Office)

### Approval of January 20, 2022 Agenda

- Shawn Hanley made a motion to approve the January 20, 2022 meeting agenda. Dr. Brown-Parks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Ratification of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Jim Garcia made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes for Monday, December 20, 2021. Michael Mizell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Taskforce Organizational Structure Tasks

Joey Logan-Pugh, Assistant County Attorney

#### *Adoption of Bylaws*

- Draft Bylaws were previously sent out for review. However, this evening new members requested to submit votes by proxy or email and the revision was made. Therefore, members must decide which version of the Bylaws to adopt.
  - Fran Calhoun requested members consider votes that may occur during a meeting that were not on the printed agenda.
  - Eldson McGhee opposes absentee voting and would not like to amend Bylaws. Members should be present in order to vote.
- Jim Garcia made motion to adopt the revised Bylaws to allow email voting prior to meetings. Shawn Hanley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following votes:
  - Yes – 8 (Jim Garcia, Shawn Hanley, Dr. Brown-Parks, Michael Mizell, Stephen Leake, Richard White, Patricia Lewis, Michael Moore)
  - No – 1 (Eldson McGhee)

**Fulton County Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc.**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 5 p.m. (Zoom)**

*Election of Officers*

**President**

- Nominations: Shawn Hanley and Eldson McGhee
  - Michael Mizell nominated Shawn Hanley. Stephen Leake seconded the nomination.
  - Eldson McGhee nominated himself for president.
- Shawn Hanley was elected President with the following votes:
  - Yes – 8 (Jim Garcia, Shawn Hanley, Dr. Brown-Parks, Michael Mizell, Stephen Leake, Richard White, Patricia Lewis, Michael Moore)
  - Eldson McGhee voted for himself.
- Shawn Hanley spoke with Rev. McGhee earlier today and believes he is a valuable member of this Commission.

**Vice-President**

- Nominations: Eldson McGhee and Michael Mizell
  - Jim Garcia nominated Eldson McGhee.
  - Richard White nominated Michael Mizell.
- Michael Mizell and Eldson McGhee both provided brief career overviews including their work for veterans.
- Eldson McGhee was elected Vice-President with the following votes:
  - 6 (Patricia Lewis, Michael Moore, Jim Garcia, Anthony Merritt, Eldson McGhee, Dr. Brown-Parks)
  - Michael Mizell received 4 votes (Stephen Leake, Richard White, Shawn Hanley, Michael Mizell)

**Treasurer**

- Jim Garcia nominated Michael Mizell. Shawn Hanley seconded nomination.
- Michael Mizell was elected Treasurer with a unanimous vote.

**Secretary**

- Michael Mizell requested Fulton County staff provide administrative services to the Veterans Empowerment Commission, Inc.
  - Joey Logan-Pugh: We have not received permission for this request yet, but we are working to obtain permanent staff to help out with the Veterans Empowerment Commission in an administrative role.
  - Fran Calhoun: The Community Development Office staff might be assigned in the future. Confirmed there will be support from Fulton County at all times to the Veterans Empowerment Commission despite no final decision yet from leadership team.
  - Shawn Hanley: Does not believe taking minutes should be a role of a volunteer member and Fulton County staff should perform this duty.
  - Stephen Leake suggested tabling this officer election until County provides final answer on staff assignments.
- Jim Garcia nominated Dr. Brown-Parks. Patricia Lewis seconded the nomination.
- Dr. Brown-Parks was elected Secretary with a unanimous vote.

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**Discussion**

*Veterans Services List*

Fran Calhoun, Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Division Manager

- Received 10 organizations today and will continue to work with the Community Service Department to obtain a list of Veterans related organizations. Currently they have provided a Community Service Project list with 147 organizations that will be shared with all members.
- Plans to continue to build this database and welcomes feedback from Commission members on organizations included. Suggested document be shared via Google Docs.

*Annual Budget*

- Patricia Lewis was informed the Veterans Empowerment Commission obtained \$1 million for the budget.
  - Fran Calhoun: There is a reserved amount in the budget of \$6.8 million. From that amount, \$1 million has been requested for the Veterans Empowerment Commission but it has not been awarded yet and must be determined later by the Board of Commissioners. The budget was passed yesterday, and she has followed-up with Commissioner Arrington and the Finance department on the next steps. Believes financial vetting should be done by Veterans Empowerment Commission members. However, the best fund distribution model used should be presented by the Community Development and Finance departments.
- Michael Mizell:
  - Believed Commissioner Arrington stated \$2 million would go to the Veterans Empowerment Commission and members had until February to put forth a budget request.
  - Confused on what the role of Treasurer will be if no money will be received by the Veterans Empowerment Commission members.
    - Fran Calhoun: Further details on roles can be provided by the budget director at a future meeting.
- Shawn Hanley feels rushed to get money out the door and believes a process should be established by the Veterans Empowerment Commission first which will take a few months. Plans to personally follow-up with Fulton County about how money is handled.
  - Stephen Leake agreed review of organizations is necessary before dispersing funds.
  - Patricia Lewis believes a process should be created before money is sent out. However, a budget proposal needs to be presented by the members.
  - Joey Logan-Pugh will confirm how money will be distributed and guidance will be provided at the next meeting.

**Next Steps**

- Joey Logan Pugh will file Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State's office soon.
- Fran Calhoun:

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- Will continue to talk to leadership to obtain permanent support staff.
- Next dates of meetings should be decided, a survey will be sent out to all members.
  - Shawn Hanley: Believes once a month should be sufficient and perhaps during the workday instead of evening.
  - Michael Mizell: Third week of each month seems good even if dates are different.
- Eldson McGhee requested updated roster of members.
  - Jasmine Campbell informed him this document was sent out earlier today. Requested best contact information from all members in order to ensure updates are received.

**Adjourn**

- Michael Mizell made motion to adjoin. Anthony Merritt seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.