

City of Salisbury Election Board - Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Salisbury HQS Building

Members Present: Susan Carey, President, Harry Basehart, Secretary, Lou Rimbach.

Others Present: Kim Nichols, City Clerk, Julie English, Assistant City Clerk, Ashley Bosche, Law Office of Cockey, Brennan, Maloney. From the Wicomico County Board of Elections (WCBE): Dionne Church, Election Director; Bill Blockston, Deputy Director.

Call Meeting to Order

Susan Carey, President of the Salisbury Election Board, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Wicomico County Board of Elections – Ms. Church

- November 9 minutes, titled “City of Salisbury Board of Canvassers,” were prepared by Mr. Blockston. Dr. Basehart suggested a minor revision in language on page 5 describing the four ballots that were tabled/held back for further review on November 17. Dr. Basehart moved for the approval of the minutes of November 9. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach. Motion was approved, 3-0.
- November 17 minutes, titled “City of Salisbury Board of Canvassers,” were prepared by Mr. Blockston. Dr. Basehart moved for the approval of the minutes of November 17. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach. Motion was approved, 3-0.

City Clerk and Election Board

- Dr. Basehart moved for the approval of the minutes of October 26. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach. Motion was approved, 3-0.
- Dr. Basehart moved for the approval of the minutes of October 30, Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach. Motion was approved, 3-0.

Discussion

- Topics focused on identifying problem areas that emerged in the 2023 nomination and election process and improvements that should be considered to ensure fair, efficient and democratic elections. Among the items discussed were the following:
 - Clarification of qualifications for Mayor and Council Members, especially the residency requirement. (Salisbury Charter 2-2 and 3-2)
 - Review dates in the City of Salisbury election code for consistency with State of Maryland election laws and regulations. For example, the last day and time to receive mail-in ballots.
 - Revision of Candidate Packets.

- Add language in the city code detailing write-in candidacy procedures and ensuring they following state regulations.
- City code dates (1.08.220) for receiving mail-in ballots should be the same as dates prescribed by the WCBE. All dates should be reviewed for consistency.
- Consider the adoption of protocols for maintaining decorum during public comments at open meetings.
- Review the type of complaints that can be made to the City of Salisbury Election Board and how they are handled. May need to adopt a formal hearing procedure.
- Ms. Bosche will research these issues and report at the next meeting, Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 10:00 a.m., unless the meeting is rescheduled.
- The City Code on campaign finance will be examined after work on the above is completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Harry Basehart, Secretary

Approved January 30, 2024