

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON
COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

A special called public meeting of the Madison County Election Commission was noticed and duly held and conducted at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021, in the Board Room of the Madison County Chancery and Administrative Building in the City of Canton, Mississippi. The meeting was webcast live to the public through the County's website. The following Commissioners were present at the beginning of the meeting:

District One Commissioner Helen Carney
District Two Commissioner Lauren Payne
District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale
District Four Commissioner Dan Dickinson
District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy

Circuit Clerk Anita Wray and counsel were also present.

Commissioner Truesdale called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lacy began the meeting with a prayer. Commissioner Carney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting agenda was limited to the subject matter contained in the meeting's public notice: the request of the Election Commission to assist the City of Canton and political parties in the City of Canton with municipal elections.

The Commission counsel reported back to the Commission his findings and the status of the request of the City of Canton ("City"). He explained that since the last meeting, the City had adopted an ordinance to abolish its municipal election commission to go into effect on April 1, 2021. Under a relatively new statute, the County Election Commission can serve the role of an abolished municipal election commission. However, the Madison County Election Commission currently did not have the legal authority to serve the role of the City's Democratic municipal executive committee to run their primary election. It may be that the Madison County Election Commission will have the authority in the future to conduct the general election for the City. In the meantime, the Madison County Election Commission could provide advice and poll worker training to the Democratic party municipal executive committee as it has before. He noted that there were disagreements within the city's Democratic party on the membership of the municipal executive committee and which candidates were qualified for the ballot. The Madison County Election Commission does not have the legal authority to consider and resolve those issues.

The Commission then entertained public comments, including:

- Kimberly Banks, Attorney for the City of Canton. Attorney Banks agreed that the Madison County Election Commission did not have authority to conduct

the upcoming primary election. She requested the Madison County Election Commission conduct the general election with a reimbursement agreement.

- Dr. William Truly, Mayor of Canton. Mayor Truly agreed that Madison County Election Commission did not have the authority to run the upcoming primary election. He stated that the other issues outside the Commission's purview were judicial determinations.
- John Scanlon, Member of the Democrat Executive Committee. Mr. Scanlon stated that he was the Chair of the Committee and gave his view on the composition of the Committee and candidates who should be on the ballot.
- Natwassie Truly, Member of the Democrat Executive Committee. Mrs. Truly gave her view on the composition of the Committee and candidates who should be on the ballot.
- David Humphries, Attorney for three candidates for alderman. Mr. Humphries introduced himself and said he was participating in a judicial hearing later that morning on his clients' qualifying for the ballot.
- Chip Matthews, Republican candidate for Mayor. Mr. Mathews noted that the mayoral race may be the only contested race in the general election.

Following public comments, Commissioners Lacy and Dickinson stated that they were ready to help the Democratic municipal executive committee with their primary elections and the City of Canton with its municipal elections to the extent that they were authorized to do so.

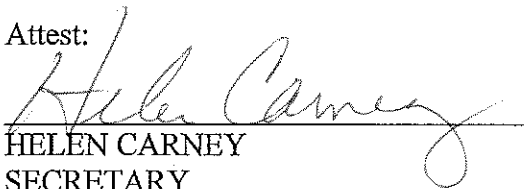
There being no further comments, Commissioner Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Dickinson and approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, this the **10TH** day of **March**, 2021.



PAT TRUESDALE
CHAIRMAN

Attest:



HELEN CARNEY
SECRETARY