

**Board of Registrars**  
**Tuesday, July 13, 2021- 3:00 p.m.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room – City Hall**  
**-Minutes-**

**Present: City Clerk, Joanne Senos; Elections Specialist, Marie Giambanco; Daniel Epstein; Judy Peterson; Lucy Sheehan**

**Meeting called to order at 3:11 p.m.**

**1. Introduction of new Board Member**

**Summary of Discussion:** New board member, Daniel Epstein, introduced himself as the democratic member of the Board of Registrars and stated he moved to Gloucester approximately two years ago. He stated he had a background in political science, completing his doctorate at Harvard and taught in upstate NY. He stated before moving to Gloucester he was living in Texas and did some work for the Lubbock County Elections Office. He stated he was excited to serve the City in this capacity in promoting transparent, efficient and fair elections. **Members of the Board** welcomed Mr. Epstein.

**2. Board of Registrar's vote to authorize the office employees of the City Clerk's Office, including the City Clerk, to perform all the actions required by 950CMR 55.02 and by MGL c. 53, §7 on the Board's behalf and use of facsimile stamp**

**Summary of Discussion:** City Clerk, Joanne Senos stated, as there was a new board member, the Board of Registrars' needed to vote to authorize the office employees of the City Clerk's Office, including the City Clerk, to perform all the actions required by 950CMR 55.02 and by MGL c. 53, §7 on the Board's behalf and also authorizing the use of the facsimile stamp on nomination papers or petitions.

**MOTION: On a motion by Judy Peterson, seconded by Lucy Sheehan, the Board of Registrars voted unanimously to authorize the office employees of the City Clerk's Office, including the City Clerk, to perform all the actions required by 950CMR 55.02 and by MGL c. 53, §7 on the Board's behalf and use of facsimile stamp**

**3. Discussion on upcoming elections**

**Summary of Discussion:** The City Clerk stated a preliminary election on September 14, 2021, was dependent on candidates submitting signatures and the certification of the signatures to get on the ballot. As of today, Election Specialist, Marie Giambanco stated there were two candidates for Mayor (Harvey, Pollard) who had been certified. The City Clerk added to have a city-wide preliminary election for Mayor a minimum of three candidates needed to be certified, a city-wide preliminary for Councilor at Large needed nine candidates to be certified, a ward-only preliminary election for Ward Councilor needed three candidates to be certified and a city-wide preliminary election for School Committee needed thirteen candidates to be certified. The City Clerk confirmed the deadline for taking out papers and submitting signatures was July 27, 2021 and stated that the general election would be held November 2, 2021.

The City Clerk stated there was a new legislative bill regarding vote by mail and stated she had reached out to the Secretary of State's office for guidance and was told at that time they could not offer guidance as to what would be needed for the fall elections. She stated there was a bill that expired June 30, 2021,

that left vote by mail decisions up to local election officials whether to have in-person early voting, but that she did not see any proposed amendments in the new legislative bill for in-person early voting, only vote by mail. She further stated that if the new bill did not pass then there would be traditional absentee voting that would require a valid excuse with no early in-person voting for the fall elections.

**Election Specialist, Marie Giambanco** stated there were currently 22,007 registered voters in the City. She stated the poll workers' pay had increased as follows: Warden increased to \$225 per day, the Clerk increased to \$200 per day, the Inspector increased to \$170 per day and the Constable increased to \$225 per day. The **City Clerk** explained during the last budget review a compendium was done of poll workers' pay for nearby cities and towns to support the increases. There was further discussion regarding poll workers, police details at the polls and compensation.

A **member of the public** asked if the Poll Pads would be used during the upcoming election. The **City Clerk** stated that both paper (as required by the State) and Poll Pads (in some capacity) would be used. There was further discussion regarding using paper ballots and Poll Pads in future elections. There was also a discussion among the board members regarding early voting and the AccuVote machines.

The **City Clerk** stated the last day to register to vote in the preliminary election would be Wednesday, August 25, 2021, and the City Clerk's office would be open until 8:00 p.m. that evening (per MGL).

**MOTION: On a motion by Daniel Epstein, seconded by Lucy Sheehan, the Board of Registrars voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:04 p.m.**

**Submitted by: Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees**

**Documents submitted at the meeting: None.**