

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 14, 2023

The City Council of the City of Goldsboro, North Carolina, held a Special Meeting to allow for citizen input on a proposal to amend the City Charter’s election method. The meeting was held at the Goldsboro Event Center, 1501 South Slocumb Street, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Call to Order. Mayor Pro Tem Polack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

- Present:
- Mayor Pro Tem Taj Polack, Presiding
Councilwoman Hiawatha Jones
Councilman Bill Broadaway
Councilwoman Brandi Matthews
Councilman Charles Gaylor, IV
Councilman Greg Batts
- Absent:
- Mayor David Ham
- Also Present:
- Tim Salmon, City Manager
Matt Livingston, Assistant City Manager
Laura Getz, City Clerk
Anne Risku, Director, Wayne County Board of Elections

Mayor Pro Tem Polack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

There were approximately 70 people in attendance.

City Manager Salmon presented the following presentation:

City of Goldsboro 2023 Election Method Options

Per NCGS, there are three nonpartisan election method options for cities in NC. The examples below consider three or more candidates running for the same office in each method. Goldsboro currently uses the election and primary method.

1. NCGS 163-292 (Plurality Method). The Candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

	No Primary	General	Results
Candidate A		136	
Candidate B		150	Candidate B is winner.
Candidate C		110	
Total Votes =		396	Highest number of votes is 150

2. NCGS 163-293 (Election and Runoff Method). A candidate must receive a majority of the vote to be elected. If the highest vote-getter in the election does not receive a majority, the second-highest vote-getter may call for a runoff election between the first and second place finishers (this could have happened in one of the last three City election cycles).

	General	Runoff	Results
Candidate A	136	TBD	No candidate received a majority of vote.
Candidate B	150	TBD	Candidate B is the winner unless Candidate A calls for a runoff election.
Candidate C	110		
Total Votes =	396		Majority of the vote is 199

3. NCGS 163-294 (Election and Primary Method). A primary is held to reduce the field to two candidates for each office if required (this has been required in the last three City election cycles). The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared nominated. In the general election, the candidates nominated with and without a primary are placed on the ballot and the candidate with the highest number of votes is elected.

	Primary*	General	Results
Candidate A	136	200	
Candidate B	150	213	Candidate B is winner.
Candidate C	110		
Total Votes =	396	413	Majority of the vote is 207

*In the last two primary elections, less than 10% of the electorate participated.

**Early voting will be available for all elections in each option.

*** In the event of a tie, the election board determines the winner.

§ 163-292. Determination of election results in cities using the plurality method.

In conducting nonpartisan elections and using the plurality method, elections shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

- (1) When more than one person is seeking election to a single office, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- (2) When more persons are seeking election to two or more offices (constituting a group) than there are offices to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest number of votes, equal in number to the number of offices to be filled, shall be declared elected.
- (3) If two or more candidates receiving the highest number of votes each receive the same number of votes, the board of elections shall determine the winner by lot. (1971, c. 835, s. 1; 2017-6, s. 3; 2018-146, s. 3.1(a), (b).

As to when the elections and primaries are scheduled, see: NCGS §163-279 – “Time of municipal primaries and elections”

(a) Primaries and elections for offices filled by election of the people in cities, towns, incorporated villages, and special districts shall be held in 1973 and every two or four years thereafter as provided by municipal charter on the following days:

- (1) If the election is nonpartisan and decided by simple plurality, the election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- (2) If the election is partisan, the election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the first primary shall be held on the second Tuesday after Labor Day, and the second primary, if required, shall be held on the fourth Tuesday before the election.
- (3) If the election is nonpartisan and the nonpartisan primary method of election is used, the election shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November and the nonpartisan primary shall be held on the fourth Tuesday before the election.
- (4) If the election is nonpartisan and the election and runoff election method of election is used, the election shall be held on the fourth Tuesday before the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and the runoff election, if required, shall be held on Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Per Wayne County Board of Elections Director, for 2023 election scheduling purposes: Early voting for the October primary will be September 21-October 7. Early voting for the November 7 general election will be October 19-November 4. These dates would stay the same if the runoff method is chosen.

Sanford	LEE	30,762	Partisan
Garner	WAKE	31,159	Non-partisan plurality
Cornelius	MECKLENBURG	31,442	Non-partisan plurality
Morrisville	DURHAM, WAKE	31,470	Non-partisan plurality
New Bern	CRAVEN	32,339	Runoff
Garner	WAKE	32,393	Non-partisan plurality
Goldsboro	WAYNE	33,723	Primary
Monroe	UNION	34,736	Non-partisan plurality
Salisbury	ROWAN	35,905	Non-partisan plurality
Fuquay-Varina	WAKE	36,017	Non-partisan plurality
Holly Springs	WAKE	41,239	Non-partisan plurality
Wake Forest	WAKE, FRANKLIN, GRANVILLE	47,601	Non-partisan plurality

Changing the City Charter (160A-102)

- Adopt Resolution of intent to consider amending charter
 - Brief description of proposed amendments – reference GS 160A-101
- Notice of public hearing on proposed amendments
 - Containing summary of proposed amendments
- 10-45 days later – Public Hearing
- At next meeting – adopt ordinance amending charter
- Within 10 days – notice adoption of Ordinance amending charter
 - Summarize contents and effects

Example:

- March 20th – Adopt Resolution of Intent
- March 21-23 – publish notice of public hearing
- April 3 – Public Hearing
- April 17 – Adopt Ordinance
- April 18-26 – publish notice of adoption of Ordinance

Mayor Pro Tem Polack opened the public forum. 13 people spoke, 11 of those that spoke were in opposition to changing the Charter regarding elections.

Anne Risku, Director of the Wayne County Board of Elections provided comments regarding the City Charter election method change.

Council provided comments at the end of the meeting and after a poll of each member, consensus was to keep the Charter the same.

Mayor Pro Tem Polack adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm.



Taj Polack
Mayor Pro Tem

Laura Getz, MMC/NCCMC
City Clerk