

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND ELECTORAL BOARD
MINUTES**

**HEARING/ELECTION CHALLENGE
December 10, 2020**

On Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., a hearing was held by the City of Rock Island Electoral Board at City Hall, 1528 Third Avenue, in Council Chambers, 3rd Floor. Present were members Chairman Mayor Mike Thoms, member Alderman James Spurgetis, and member Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr. Also present were City Attorney Dave Morrison, Objector Bridget Ehrmann via remote connection, and Respondent-Candidate Laurie Figley. Court Reporter Vickie Fickel was also present.

The hearing was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Thoms. Chairman Thoms opened the hearing by reading a statement regarding the purpose of the hearing, the timeliness of the filing of the objection, introduction of members of the Electoral Board and legal advisor Dave Morrison, declaration of a quorum, and the rules and procedure for the hearing.

Member/Interim Clerk Mohr called the roll. Present: Thoms, Spurgetis, and Mohr.

MOTION by Spurgetis that the Electoral Board adopt the rules of procedure as stated in the Chair's opening statement; Mohr seconded. VOTE: Motion passed on a 3-0 voice vote.

Ms. Ehrmann presented one ground for objection, citing state election code for the objections to the nomination papers filed by candidate Figley. Ms. Ehrmann contended that per state code, a candidate must file for candidacy 90 days in advance of an election. She said because the primary election is February 23, 2021, and candidate Figley's nomination papers listed April 6, 2021 as the election date on all nomination paperwork. Ms. Ehrmann asked that all of candidate Figley's nomination papers be ruled invalid. Mr. Morrison asked if she had additional witnesses or evidence. Ms. Ehrmann stated no.

Respondent-candidate Figley said she had copies of cases referencing the objection. She said she reviewed the nomination paperwork of her opponent and found the written election dates were the same listed in Ms. Ehrmann's objection. Ms. Figley did not file an objection to her opponent's nomination papers as a result. She said as there is no definite statement on the petition paperwork as to which election, primary or general, it is referring, both sets of nomination papers should be accepted. Ms. Figley stated both her and her opponent have been substantially compliant in filing nomination paperwork, and if one is incorrect, they would both be incorrect.

Mr. Morrison received copies of Ms. Figley's court case examples and asked to have them entered into the record as Exhibit A. He recommended to the board that a motion be made to admit Ms. Figley's examples as part of the record.

MOTION by Spurgetis to admit the examples as part of the record; Mohr seconded. Vote: Motion passed on a 3-0 voice vote.

Mr. Morrison provided a copy of the exhibit to court reporter Vickie Fickel for the record. Mayor Thoms asked Ms. Figley if there was anyone else she wished to speak on her behalf. Ms. Figley replied no. Mayor Thoms asked if there were questions from the board. Alderman Spurgetis asked Ms. Figley to confirm that both her and her opponent's nomination papers had the same date for the municipal election. Ms. Figley confirmed that both showed April 6, 2021 as the election date. Mr. Morrison noted that he looked for other cases that mirrored the objections noted here, but was unable to find any. He asked the board to consider if a correctly listed election date is a mandatory or directory requirement. Mayor Thoms said he also did research with the Board Manual and it alludes to a similar situation involving the scenario being substantial but not mandatory. Ms. Mohr concurred, and noted that the City has not had a primary in some time, and an assumption might have been made that the date chosen referred to the April election date.

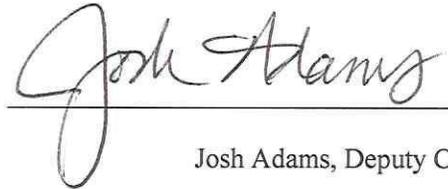
Mayor Thoms asked if there was anyone in the public that wished to comment. No one offered to speak.

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MOTION by Spurgetis to adjourn and reconvene on Wednesday, December 16, 2020; Mohr seconded. VOTE: Motion passed on a 3-0 voice vote.

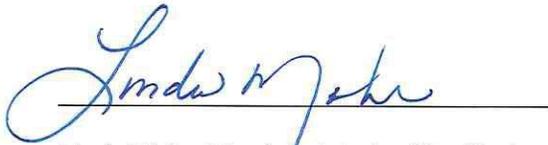
The hearing adjourned at 1:20 p.m.



Josh Adams, Deputy Clerk



Mayor Mike Thoms, Chairman



Linda Mohr, Member, Interim City Clerk



James Spurgetis, Member, Alderman