

Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
Nominating Committee Meeting
June 25, 2015
Verbatim Transcript of Recorded Comments

DATE: June 25, 2015
SCHEDULED TIME: 9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM
LOCATION: 723 Woodlake Drive
Conference Room D
Chesapeake, VA 23320

The Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) Nominating Committee was called to order at 9:14 AM in the Conference Room D.

Chair Michael Hipple: Are we ready? Okay. I call this meeting to order of the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission Nominating Committee, and we have everybody present, so no need for a roll call. We don't have any speaker cards for the public comment session. Is that correct?

Ms. Kathlene Grauberger: Correct.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay. I will close that session. Summary of the minutes for June 11, 2015 minutes and that is attachment #3. Does anybody need to go over that or can I get an approval for that.

Mr. Rex Alphin: Moved.

Ms. Linda Johnson: Second.

Chair Michael Hipple: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Many Voices: Aye.

Chair Michael Hipple: Opposed nays? Ayes carry it. All right now, next item I am going to move into the interview of the proposed, for the committee, so the officers to be nominated, which is chair and vice chair. As of this year, Mayor Krasnoff is our chair and Senator Wagner is our vice chair and we can move that right into the #5 discussion of potential candidates. I have asked both of those if this committee nominated, would they be willing to take that on and gave each a call and said, you know, if they were nominated, would they consider that. They said they would, but that does not mean that there is not many others at this committee may want to put it...

Mr. Paul Fraim: Would it be appropriate to make a nomination?

Chair Michael Hipple: Yes sir.

Mr. Paul Fraim: I would like to nominate Will Sessoms for chair and Clyde Haulman as the vice chair.

Chair Michael Hipple: All right.

Mr. Paul Fraim: Will Sessoms from Virginia Beach and Clyde Haulman from Williamsburg.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Chairman Hipple, I just want to clarify everybody that the potential nominees are the voting members of the Commission, which are the 14 Mayors and Chairs and the members of General Assembly.

Chair Michael Hipple: And those would be on your last page?

Mr. Tom Inglima: Yes sir, correct.

Mr. Rex Alphin: Excuse me. Who did you say was vice chair?

Mr. Paul Fraim: Mayor Haulman from Williamsburg.

Ms. Linda Johnson: Who is the vice chair, correct?

Mr. Paul Fraim: Yes, the vice chair.

Ms. Linda Johnson: I second that motion.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay, and, so there are two nominations there. Any discussion, does anybody feel we need to go into a closed session to discuss any members? I just as soon to keep it an open session if we could.

Chair Michael Hipple: Do we have any other nominations?

Mr. Rex Alphin: So, do we vote on this and then if this does not pass, we vote on other nominations? Or do we nominate other people?

Chair Michael Hipple: I would, and correct me Tom, if I am mistaken on that, we can bring as many as we want to the body on chair, vice chair. It is up to the body that will do the voting. We just nominate. This is the nominating committee, we would nominate these individuals for either a chair or vice chair position.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Well, I think it is really this committee is supposed to bring forward somebody or a two candidates that they think would be particularly well suited for those positions, and let the whole Commission vote on them. I

think obviously that would be preferable to have a consensus amongst this group, but if there is a consensus, you would act by a majority of this group as opposed to you know bringing forward multiple different people.

Mr. Rex Alphin: Okay. So the question remains at this point, do we vote on these two candidates or do we nominate more?

Mr. Tom Inglima: Yes, you could then, and if you want to take them up individually, you could do that or you could act on both of them at the same time.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay, let's start with chair. Are there any others, you know, that want to bring anyone else up for, we'll do chair position, and then we will do the vice chair position.

Mr. Tom Inglima: I think what you would do is, if you are going to bring forward additional nominees to suggest, you would take up the motions consecutively in the order in which they were presented. So you would start with Sessoms, and then you would move to whoever else you wanted to consider.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay. So we vote on Sessoms first...

Mr. Tom Inglima: Yes.

Chair Michael Hipple: And then...

Mr. Tom Inglima: And then if you want to make a motion for somebody else, you could move to that person.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay.

Mr. Rex Alphin: Okay, Mr. Chair, I would like to make some comments on this. So we're going to, so right now we will vote on Chair at this point that we nominate. Okay. I guess my way of thinking, I know you all have had some time to think about this. This Commission is really in its infancy at this time. It's been, we are less than a year old or may be a year old. I personally would like to keep the chair and vice chair in place that we have now, our current leadership, just to maintain some continuity at this early stage of the game. I think they have done an admirable job, so for that sake, I think it would be good for the Commission and the sense of continuity itself that if we maintain our present chairmanship, if we are just talking about the chair.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay.

Mr. Rex Alphin: So, I understand I cannot nominate anyone until after this, is that correct?

Chair Michael Hipple:

Any other discussion?

Ms. Linda Johnson: I just want to say first of all, I thank everyone at the table that sits out there is capable in doing, have done a very good job. This has been a tough year. It is a very difficult year. Having said that, I do think that there have been a few things that we could have done differently. I think it has taken us a while to get together and see things, shall we say as we need to do them. I think it has been going to be difficult to get a quorum, I think that is something that is an issue that we definitely need to make sure, because if we don't have a quorum, we don't do business. So I just feel like Mayor Sessoms ran the TPO, that is my experience was when he was chairman of TPO, and he did an extremely good job in moving the agendas along and getting things done and including everyone and making sure there was the transparency there that was needed. So that is my feeling on it and I would like to say this is no disrespect to anyone. I think all of us could do a good job, not that I don't want it.

ALL:

(Laughing)

Ms. Linda Johnson:
will support Mayor Sessoms.

But I do feel that he could do a very good job, so I

Mr. Paul Fraim: And of course, I have nominated him, you know, as a member of the nominating committee, I have spoken to a number of other members of the Commission, and I am confident that Mayor Sessoms enjoys an overwhelming support from the membership. I don't know if you were here when we actually did this...

Mr. Rex Alphin:

I wasn't. No, no.

Mr. Paul Fraim: Alan, the present chair actually received the chairmanship after the committee voted I think it was eight...

Ms. Linda Johnson:

That was eight...

Mr. Paul Fraim: Eight or nine votes. The Governor actually had a conversation with all of the mayors of various cities saying that we absolutely needed to really look like we were working in a sense of cooperation with selecting leadership and he was very concerned about the fact that we are off to a rocky start, spoken to the Secretary about what was going to happen today, I am confident that administration would, would, I mean, it is not the administration's role, but let me say, I just want to say I think there is plenty of support for Mayor Sessoms. Really, and I think it's, you know, we really need, we he was, except for a couple of things that could have occurred when people didn't show at the meeting and it looks to me like that may have been the position last time. So, knowing that, I am prepared to go along with Mayor Sessoms.

Ms. Linda Johnson: Mr. Chair, if I could add one more thing, and I know we are doing the chair and vice chair at separate times, but I do think it is important that we do and we don't have it now, the Peninsula and the Southside, and I think...

Mr. Rex Alphin: What's that, what's that, Linda?

Ms. Linda Johnson: If we have a chair from the Southside, then I think we need the vice chair to be from the Peninsula, again, pulling things together and working together. So I think that currently we have both members are from the Southside. So that is another issue that I think we would be dealing with this.

Chair Michael Hipple: As a fairly new member, I think our chair and vice chair have done a very good job from what I have seen, and I think a lot of you'll have lot more time into this than I have and you've seen things from before entrance into the committee, but you know, I...

Mr. Paul Fraim: Can I say one more thing?

Chair Michael Hipple: Yes, sir.

Mr. Paul Fraim: I have spoken to Senator Wagner about this. He is perfectly willing to step away from the vice chairman's job in support of Mayor Sessoms.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay.

Mr. Paul Fraim: We think it would be difficult to have two people from the same city, he understood that, and I think he supports Mayor Haulman from Williamsburg as well. So there are no issues there from Senator Wagner.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay, okay. All right. Well, we have got a nomination and any other discussion. Or another nomination? Okay. Are we ready to take a vote? All right, can we do a roll call vote?

Mr. Tom Inglima: Yes. Okay. Mayor Johnson?

Ms. Linda Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Delegate Yancey?

Mr. David Yancey: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Chairman?

Chair Michael Hipple: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Mr. Alphin?

Mr. Rex Alphin: No.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Mayor Fraim?

Mr. Paul Fraim: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Motion Carries.

Chair Michael Hipple: All right, vice chair.

Mr. Rex Alphin: I don't know, can you talk a little bit about the vice chair's role now?

Mr. Paul Fraim: Actually, I think it might be a job for the attorney...

Mr. Rex Alphin: Well, I mean, his qualifications. You know, you recommended him.

Mr. Paul Fraim: He's the Mayor of Williamsburg, as well. There has been a... First of all, there are a limited number of folks who would be willing to do anything like this, and I have talked to Mayor Haulman and he said that he would. You know, Mayor Price pressed us and said if in fact, ... and we have tried over the years just what Mayor Johnson said as to maintain a balance between someone from the Peninsula and someone from the Southside in leadership positions. Mayor Price, for instance, is chairman of the TPO and I think Mayor Johnson is the vice chair. One from each side and so it was in that spirit, even though it is not actually formerly within our Bylaws, that if Will is going to be the chairman, and from a large city, that it was appropriate, because there are some are concerned from the smaller localities that their representative and their interests are represented at these meetings. So that's someone from a smaller city, someone from the Peninsula, and that led to Mayor Haulman talk to Tom Shepperd from York County, you know, he is certainly prepared to support Clyde Haulman, at least he told me, as well as Will, and so it just seemed like he was the appropriate person. He has got some history here. He has been in that position. I do not know that if he wants, he is not seeking that position, but he is certainly prepared to serve. And he enjoys great relationship with the entire group I think.

Chair Michael Hipple: Okay. Any other discussion?

Ms. Linda Johnson: I just, you know, one thing I can say about Mayor Haulman is that I have sat on many committees with him, and I have been in a lot of ... he is a steady hand, he is just a very intellectual man. His thought process is tremendous, and I really value his opinions, and I think he would do a great job.

Mr. Rex Alphin: Okay.

Mr. David Yancey: I just want to add on to what Mayor Fraim had commented. I think one thing that we have bare in consideration is as the Hampton Roads Community grows and looking at James County City and the City of Williamsburg as an example, they are going to be the forefront very soon of some of our transportation problems. So I think it is a big growth from the west, the western part of the Peninsula as we move our way up to Richmond, the reality of the situation is that some of the problems that we see now in Norfolk and Virginia Beach will be in Williamsburg in the perceivable future, and my thoughts are somebody who has the ability to be forward looking, to recognize these problems as we try to widen 64 up to that second 199 exit, understand as Hampton Roads moves forward in the relationship we will have with Richmond and the relationship we will have with Virginia Beach, not for the economic growth and development of the community. I think we are going to need someone who can appreciate the situation that the smaller communities are going to have and keep fair views in mind as we try and improve upon this transportation system. Thank you.

Chair Michael Hipple: Any others. All right, there is a motion on the floor.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Was there a second? There was a second.

Ms. Linda Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: So for Mayor Johnson?

Ms. Linda Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Delegate Yancey?

Mr. David Yancey: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Chair Hipple?

Chair Michael Hipple: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Chair Alphin?

Mr. Rex Alphin: Yes.

Mr. Tom Inglima: Mayor Fraim?

Mr. Paul Fraim: Yes.

Chair Michael Hipple: All right. Do we have any other nominations for vice chair before we close the chair position, correct?

Mr. Tom Inglima: No, that was, that was vice chair.

Chair Michael Hipple: But I mean we did.

Mr. Tom Inglima: So I think we have got a chair and vice chair that you've...

Chair Michael Hipple: Correct. So there is no other name. No other discussion?

Mr. Tom Inglima: Right.

Chair Michael Hipple: Everybody good with that?

Mr. Paul Fraim: Could I urge that committee unanimously support the nominees.

Mr. Rex Alphin: So, what are you asking Paul?

ALL: (Laughing)

Mr. Paul Fraim: ... I don't think we should look fractured. We should look together, so... You can say whatever you want. I just wanted to ask you to consider that.

Mr. Rex Alphin: I will consider, can you give me... Okay, so then for the sake of unity, if you would, and I agree with what Mayor Johnson, I mean, both of those men will do an admirable job. So I would change my vote to a yes vote for Mayor Sessoms. Can I do that?

Mr. Tom Inglima: Just a motion to re-affirm that the two candidates that this committee is putting forward to the entire Commission would be Mayor Sessoms for the chair position and Mayor Haulman for the vice chair position.

Chair Michael Hipple: Correct. Do we need to take a vote on that?

Mr. Tom Inglima: I think you can all just say aye, if all in favor.

ALL: (Chorus of ayes)

Mr. Tom Inglima: I think you need a motion to adjourn at this point.

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT

I, Scott Forehand, so hereby certify as follows: That the foregoing is a verbatim transcript of the audio recording of the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission Nominating Committee meeting held in Chesapeake, Virginia on June 25, 2015; that the transcript was prepared by me from notes and audio recorded at the event by ESSI staff; that said writing is a true and correct transcript of the within-described proceedings according to the best of my knowledge and belief; that I am not related to or associated with any party to this matter, nor financially interested in the outcome hereof.

Given under my hand this 6th day of July, 2015, at Virginia Beach, Virginia.



Scott Forehand