

AFSCME Local 696 General Membership Meeting
21 September 2023
Unofficial Notes by J. Matthew Catron

- 5:44: Seated with large pile of paperwork
 - List of Local 696 elected officials and emails
 - All emails listed except President and Business Agent are city-owned emails
 - Profit & Loss Statement
 - No treasurer's report
 - Agenda
 - 17 August Special General Membership Meeting Minutes
 - Labeled as "Election Results Meeting"
 - 25 May General Membership Meeting Minutes
 - Labeled as "Special General Membership Meeting"- 25 May was a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting
 - Informational Packet
 - First distributed at May General Membership Meeting
 - Protests against the conduct of the July Local 696 Election
 - Election Committee Report from 17 August
 - Rabble Rouser Rebuttals to 17 August Meeting Decision
 - DC33 Jacket Flyer
- 6:15: Meeting Called to Order by President Anthony Dinkins
- Dinkins spoke with Antoine Little about modifying DC33 Jacket hours to include one night until 7pm.
 - It is unclear if he meant "one night" or "one night per week".
 - Vice President Nathaniel Brown offered to help distribute jackets to make this feasible.
- 6:17: President Dinkins asked all members who were attending for the first time to stand.
 - First-timers went around the room and introduced themselves.
 - President Anthony Dinkins introduced himself
 - Business Agent Mark Weaver introduced himself
 - Secretary Tori Rodgers introduced herself
 - Vice President Nathaniel Brown introduced himself
- 6:19: President Dinkins asked if members had the opportunity to review meeting minutes and Profit & Loss statement, which he referred to as "Financial Report". He asked members to take a moment and review the documents.
 - Member J. Matthew Catron moves to accept the meeting minutes and profit & loss statement
- 6:20: President Dinkins discussed the projector from the August Special General Membership Meeting, and how it was blurry and difficult to read- hence the printouts of the July Protests.
 - President Dinkins continued to comment on the current status of the election:
 - The Election Committee denied all 7 protests on 17 August 2023
 - The Election Committee and the protestants met with the Judicial Panel
 - Matt's note: This was on 12 September 2023
 - President Dinkins expressed he was "hoping things will go to the positive"
 - President Dinkins invited members to look through the protests
 - Matt's note: All of the protestants would also like you to do this
 - President Dinkins explained that the Election Committee has "100 years of experience" and that they would "never infract on the integrity of the committee"
 - President Dinkins expressed that the protests are an insult

- 6:24: President Dinkins referred to the large informational packet and began going through it, explaining it page-by-page
 - Matt’s note: The packet is contained in this document, and so I won’t be going over everything Dinkins said. Email me if you have any questions about the packet
- 6:40: A member asks a question about the \$50 healthcare payment
 - President Dinkins responds that that payment was established as a buffer against future deficits the Union may encounter. When DC33 worked without a contract for 5 years in the late 2000s-early 2010s, DC33 went into severe debt with Aetna. In the interim, the bi-weekly \$50 payment built up enough that the DC33 executive board was confident that it was no longer needed.
- 6:41: Dinkins returns to explaining the packet
- 6:48: Former President Bobby Davis interrupted President Dinkins to solicit donations for a member in the City Commissioner’s Office who has experienced a large amount of personal trauma recently (details redacted for the individual’s privacy)
 - Matt’s Note: One of the 7 protests against the July election pertains to Bobby Davis’s eligibility to be a part of 696. He is retired. He is ineligible to be a member or serve in any office, including the Election Committee.
 - Davis: “This is what we do”
 - Dinkins: “We are like family”
- 6:56: Davis: This is the longest election in the history of our Local.
 - “Our election was compromised”
 - “6 months is too damn long” (For the election)
 - Davis calls Darlene Booker-Jones to the front
 - Davis: “We’ve done everything we think we can possibly do”
 - “There’s always a loser”
 - “It’s time to put an end to this”
 - “[Election Committee Chair Darlene Booker-Jones] has been on the phone until 2-3am with charges”
 - “It is time to pay the Election Committee and I’ll tell you what it cost”
 - Matt’s note: Davis never told us what it cost
 - Davis lists the election committee and insists on their integrity
 - President Dinkins agrees
- 7:00: President Dinkins returns to the informational packet
- (Time not recorded): A member asks a question about health and safety on the job, specifically in Municipal Services Building where there have been multiple complaints about mold inhalation
- 7:18: President Dinkins cites city policy 24-01
 - It is official City policy that all members are entitled to Health, Welfare, and Safety
 - President Dinkins also cites Weingarten Rights
 - Any Union Member at any time can request a representative for any meeting with a supervisor
- 7:24: Member Sharon Thorpe told the membership to document in detail all unsafe environments. Mold, excessive heat/cold, etc
 - Thorpe explained the “Service Connected Disability Pension”, where members can receive a lifetime, tax-free pension if they can prove that they were chronically injured as a result of City duty.
 - For example, if a member develops asthma due to on-the-job mold inhalation, and can prove that it was the job that created that medical condition, they are eligible for the pension

- 7:26: Member J. Matthew Catron followed up Thorpe's comments
 - Contemporaneous notes are accepted as evidence in the court of law.
 - Keeping detailed records of any work-related complaints with specific dates and times are often the difference between winning and losing a case
- 7:29: President Dinkins organizes ride sharing for attending members.
- (Time not recorded) Meeting adjourned.