Meeting called to order by President Honorable Alice Mercer @ 6 pm. The Executive Vice President, Arnold Taylor was asked to open the meeting with a Prayer. President Honorable Alice Mercer asked the Assistant Secretary to conduct the roll call.

**VOTING MEMBERs**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| OFFICER | NAME | STATUS |
| President | Honorable Alice Mercer | Present |
| Executive Vice President | Mr. Arnold Taylor | Present |
| First Vice President | Ms. Ruby Dunson | Present |
| Second Vice President | VACANT |  |
| Third Vice President | Ms. Katie Course | Present |
| Treasurer | Darlene Green | Present |
| Assistant Treasurer | Claudean Ervin | Present |
| Secretary | Dr. Vera McKethan | Absent at Roll Call |
| Assistant Secretary | 1. LaVerne Feaster-Johnson | Present |

There are 7 voting Executive Committee members present out of 9 voting Executive Committee members. A quorum has been established.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **POSITION** | **NAME** | **STATUS** |
| Immediate Past President | Honorable Calvin Stevens | Present |
| Director | Mr. James Clausell | Present |
| Director | Peggy Wilson | Present |
| Parliamentarian | Al Taylor | Present |

1. This was a special call meeting President Honorable Alice Mercer and Treasurer Darlene Green
2. reported on the hotels they visited to host the Executive Committee and Fall Council Meeting in
3. Atlanta, November 10-11, 2023, in Atlanta, GA. They visited the three hotels that submitted
4. proposals and two that did not (spreadsheet attached).
5. Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor inquired if the Sonesta and Hilton Airport were two
6. different hotels. They are two different hotels. The Sonesta is the old Crown Plaza hotel. The
7. Sonesta Hotel hospitality room is taken by another group, however, they will provide a room for
8. hospitality space. The charge for this hospitality is pending. For every 30 rooms, we will get a
9. free room. Therefore, the hospitality room would be free. 1st Vice President, Ruby Dunson,
10. inquired if they visited the Sonesta. They confirmed that they visited the Sonesta. Executive
11. Vice President Arnold Taylor inquired about audio being complimentary. There is a fee for the
12. audio, however, it would be discounted. All the hotels contract with a third party for audio. The
13. hotels agreed to work with the third party to get the best cost for the audio. The Sonesta is the
14. lowest cost.1st Vice President Ruby Dunson inquired if the Sonesta Hotel had undergone any
15. renovations. President Honorable Alice Mercer indicated that the Sonesta is undergoing
16. renovations, however, the meeting rooms and hotel rooms that were seen, looked the same.
17. Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor noted that the Hilton Garden Inn room cost went from
18. $119 to $129. He wanted to know the reason for the increase. The Hilton Garden Inn Millenium
19. was offering one buffet breakfast per room. If there are two people in the room, only, one free
20. buffet breakfast will be provided. The Hilton Garden Inn Millenium is an old hotel, isolated, and
21. the most dated of the hotels on the list. 1st Vice President Ruby Dunson inquired about
22. President Honorable Alice Mercer’s recommendation from the list. Her first choice would be
23. the Renaissance, however, the rooms were $202/per night plus tax. They were not within our
24. price range. The best cost for our money would be the Sonesta. Treasurer Darlene Green
25. indicated that the Hilton Garden Inn Millenium rooms were inadequate. The rooms were not
26. clean. Director Peggy Wilson inquired about the rate at the Hilton Garden Inn Airport where the
27. DYLA are having their event the week before. President Honorable Alice Mercer indicated that
28. the Hilton Garden Inn is sold out for the weekend of the Fall Council. **Assistant Secretary A.**
29. **LaVerne Feaster-Johnson moved that we accept the bid proposal from the Sonesta Hotel for**
30. **the Fall Council meeting.** *The motion died for lack of a second.*
31. Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor asked if President Honorable Alice Mercer had stayed at
32. the Hilton Garden Inn Millenium. President Honorable Alice Mercer concurred with Treasurer’s
33. Green’s opinion that the hotel is not acceptable. The hotel will give us everything that we want,
34. but, the place is substandard. After much discussion, 1st Vice President Ruby Dunson indicated
35. that she did not see approving any of the presented hotels for the Fall Council meeting. Director
36. Peggy Wilson inquired if the hotel rooms were within the government rate. President Honorable
37. Alice Mercer confirmed that all the hotel room rates were within the government rate.
38. Treasurer Darlene Green inquired about the concerns related to the Sonesta Hotel. 1st Vice
39. President Ruby Dunson indicated that complaints were similar to the Hilton Garden Inn. The
40. rooms were not fully cleaned, they were dated, and, people were not happy. There was a
41. problem with the billing. Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor expressed concern that the
42. Sonesta was not on the agenda for them to do. They were tasked to visit the three hotels that
43. submitted bids. President Honorable Alice Mercer indicated that they had visited additional
44. hotels in the vicinity. They had discussion with the hotels, however, the Sonesta submitted a
45. bid proposal. The others did not. Parliamentarian Al Taylor indicated that he is not a voting
46. member, but, in the interest of moving the meeting along. We are governed by a small board
47. rules. A motion does not necessarily require a second. In his opinion, the original motion does
48. not require a second and that motion is still on the floor. If you want to vote against this hotel,
49. it would eliminate the Sonesta from consideration. President Honorable Alice Mercer asked the
50. committee members if there was anyone to speak against the Sonesta. No one spoke against
51. the Sonesta. Parliamentarian Al Taylor indicated that the motion can be carried. Executive
52. Arnold Taylor indicated that since President Honorable Alice Mercer stated the motion died for
53. lack of a second, it was no longer an active motion. Executive Arnold Taylor feels that the
54. motion should be made again. President Honorable Alice Mercer indicated that the
55. Parliamentarian is our reference for Roberts Rule. However, Ms. Feaster-Johnson can make a
56. new motion. **Assistant Secretary, A. LaVerne Feaster moved that we accept the bid proposal**
57. **from the Sonesta for our Fall Council meeting. Second by Treasurer Darlene Green.** The roll call
58. vote was as follows;

Assistant Secretary voted **Yes**

Assistant Treasurer Claudean Ervin abstained on the initial vote. After the vote was completed. She changed her vote to **No**

Treasurer Darlene Green voted **Yes**

Dr. McKethan voted **Yes**

3rd Vice President Katie Course voted **Yes** on the initial vote. After the vote was completed she changed her vote to **No**

1st Vice President Ruby Dunson voted **No**

Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor voted **No**

President Honorable Alice Mercer voted **Yes**

1. *The motion failed due to the lack of a majority*. Treasurer Darlene Green asked what are our
2. options if we cannot decide on a hotel. President Honorable Alice Mercer indicated that we
3. need to make a decision. A face to face meeting was voted on by the Council. It does not look
4. good that we cannot make a decision as the leaders of the organization. 1st Vice President Ruby
5. Dunson expressed that we go back to the Council to state we cannot host an in person Fall
6. Council meeting due to an inability to choose a hotel. 1St Vice President Ruby Dunson will not
7. change her vote. Director Peggy Wilson indicated that it does look bad that we cannot make a
8. decision on the hotel. The Council voted to have a face to face meeting. We need to make a
9. decision**. Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor moved to go to the Hilton Garden Inn.** Using
10. the small board rule, the motion does not require a second. Assistant Secretary A. LaVerne
11. Feaster indicated that her cell battery is about to die and she will drop off the call. She wanted
12. to make it known that her vote is **No**. President Honorable Alice Mercer requested a second
13. based on previous discussion about the lack of a second. **Secretary, Dr. Vera McKethan second**
14. **the motion.** There was a lot of discussion on hotel selections. The roll call vote on the motion is
15. as follows;

Assistant Secretary A.LaVerne Feaster-Johnson voted **No**

Assistant Treasurer Claudean Ervin **abstained**

3rd Vice President Katie Course voted **No**

1st Vice President Ruby Dunson voted **No**

Secretary Dr. Vera McKethan voted **Yes**

Executive Vice President voted **Yes**

Treasurer Darlene Green voted **No**

*The motion failed.*

1. President Honorable Alice Mercer pleaded with the Executive Committee members to make a
2. decision. She needs for us to come together and make a decision. There was a lot of discussion
3. on a decision being reached on a hotel selection The Council has decided on a face to face
4. meeting. It is too late to explore other options. The Council meeting is scheduled for November
5. 11th. Assistant Treasurer, Claudean Ervin verbalized the need to plan better and be more
6. organized. **Treasurer Darlene Green moved to go to the Sonesta Hotel for our meeting. Second**
7. **by Secretary Dr. Vera McKethan**. The roll call vote was conducted by Dr. Vera McKethan. The vote was as follows;

3rd Vice President Katie Course voted **Yes**

1st Vice President Ruby Dunson voted **Yes**

Treasurer Darlene Green **Yes**

Assistant Treasurer Claudean Ervin **abstained**

Executive Vice President Arnold Taylor voted **No**

Secretary Dr. Vera McKethan voted  **Yes**

President Honorable Alice Mercer voted **Yes**

1. *The motion carried.*  President Honorable Alice Mercer Thanked the members for coming to a
2. decision. President Honorable Alice Mercer will send out information on the hotel tomorrow.
3. She will send a letter to the other hotels on their non-selection**. Executive Vice President**
4. **Arnold Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Assistant Treasurer Claudean Ervin second.**
5. Executive Vice President closed the meeting with prayer.

Recorder

1. LaVerne Feaster-Johnson