

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

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ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, First Floor, Lynwood Roberts Room
Monday, October 28, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Ms. Dixon. Ethics Commission attendees: Chair J.J. Dixon, Erich Freiburger, William Maule, Linda McCallum, Sunny Gettinger, Robyn Blank, and LaTonya Lipscomb Smith. Excused Absence: Scott Simpson and Leah Palestrant.

Others in attendance: Kirby Oberdorfer, Director of the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight (OECO); Paige Johnston, Ethics Attorney (OECO); Sandy Homrighouse, Executive Assistant (OECO); and Dylan Reingold, Office of General Counsel (OGC).

Public In Attendance: Sean Mulholland and John Nooney

Confirmation of Quorum:

Ms. Dixon confirmed quorum.

Minutes Approval:

June 17, 2024, Ethics Commission Meeting:

August 26, 2024, Nominating Committee Meeting:

September 30, 2024, Nominating Committee Meeting:

Dr. Freiburger made a motion for approval of all three sets of minutes. Ms. Smith and Ms. Gettinger seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed 7-0 in favor.

Reports:

ECO Office Report: Ms. Oberdorfer stated the budget passed and there have been employee transitions. Ms. Miller resigned from the Ethics Office and is now working in the Mayor's Office. Ms. Myers will be taking personal leave in December and January. The Ethics Office is very busy with trainings. The Office also has been busy with conflicts of interest and secondary employment questions. In addition, the office provided training to JHA employees and managers. Ms.

Oberdorfer attended the ECI Impact Conference in Orlando and Ms. Myers was re-certified through SCCE.

Office of General Counsel Report: Mr. Reingold has been assisting the Ethics Office. Ms. Dixon acknowledged the two offices are working hand in hand on many issues.

Complaints Committee Report: Dr. Freiburger announced that there are four pending complaints. Ms. Oberdorfer stated the committee will meet soon pending resolution of the Complaints procedures. Mr. Reingold suggested the Complaints Committee should be renamed the Complaints and Referrals Committee.

New Business:

Election of New Appointee to the Ethics Commission: Mr. Maule, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated there was a strong interest in the vacant Ethics Commission position. Eight people were interviewed. Mr. Maule thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee, Sunny Gettinger, Robyn Blank and Leah Palestrant. The applicant chosen by the Nominating Committee was Sean Mulholland. Mr. Mulholland stated he was excited to serve and surprised he was chosen. Mr. Maule made a motion to elect Mr. Mulholland to the vacant Ethics Commission position. Judge McCallum seconded the motion. Ms. Dixon asked for public comment. Mr. Nooney fully supported the applicant. With no discussion, the motion passed 7-0 in favor. Ms. Oberdorfer added that the Sheriff appointed an individual to replace Ms. Dixon and the individual is currently being vetted by OGC. Regarding Mr. Mulholland's appointment, Mr. Reingold stated Ms. Johnston will draft legislation and he will review and file it.

Ethics Office Budget FY 2024-2025: Ms. Oberdorfer referred to the budget spreadsheets in tab 4. Ms. Dixon asked if Ms. Miller's position will be filled. Ms. Oberdorfer stated there are no current plans. Ms. Smith and Ms. Dixon asked questions regarding Ms. Homrighouse's pay.

Discussion of Additional Changes to the Ethics Commission Complaint Procedures to Conform with the Recent Changes to the Ethics Commission Duties and Powers: Ms. Oberdorfer referred to the Complaint Procedures draft in tab 5 and a handout with proposed rule 34-5.002 of the Florida Administrative Code. Ms. Oberdorfer went through every change in the various provisions regarding receipt of referrals and the potential changes to the Complaints Procedures and Ethics Commission members added comments. The general topics discussed were: transmittal of a Complaint or Referral to the Respondent, Complaints within 60 days of an election being returned, and withdrawal of complaints. The Ethics Commission members directed Ms. Oberdorfer, Ms. Johnston and Mr. Reingold to bring the changes discussed back to the Ethics Commission at the next meeting.

Strategic Planning: Ms. Oberdorfer referred to the draft strategic plan and committee descriptions. Ms. Dixon asked the Ethics Commission members to review the documents and bring their ideas to the next meeting. Dr. Freiburger asked Ms. Homrighouse to email the documents. Ms. Gettinger questioned whether the hotline duties should be revisited due to Senate Bill 7014.

2025 Officers: Ms. Dixon asked Ms. Homrighouse to send out an email regarding 2025 officers.

Holiday Party: Ms. Dixon asked Ms. Oberdorfer to check out locations for the holiday party.

Public Comment: Ms. Dixon asked for public comment. Mr. Nooney discussed the following items: Pottsburg Creek and kayaking, not having an audio recording for one of the meetings, waterways public access being crushed and the October 18 FIND land acquisition meeting. Mr. Reingold asked Mr. Nooney to speak on ethics topics. Mr. Nooney discussed the following items: personal knowledge experience, May 13 speaker card and attendance sheet and minutes.

Announcements:

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Sandy Homrighouse, Executive Assistant, OECO Date of Approval

This is a summary of the meeting and not a verbatim transcription. A recording of these proceedings is available at <http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-office/notices,-agendas-minutes>.