

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

J.J. DIXON
CHAIR



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VICE CHAIR

ROBYN BLANK
SUNNY GETTINGER
LATONYA LIPSCOMB SMITH

WILLIAM MAULE
JUDGE LINDA MCCALLUM
LEAH PALESTRANT
SCOTT SIMPSON

ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, First Floor, Lynwood Roberts Room
Monday, November 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ms. Dixon. Ethics Commission attendees: Chair J.J. Dixon, Erich Freiburger, William Maule, Linda McCallum, Sunny Gettinger, Scott Simpson, Robyn Blank, and LaTonya Lipscomb Smith. Excused Absence: 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, David Maule, David Johnston and John Nooney

Confirmation of Quorum:

Ms. Dixon confirmed quorum.

Minutes Approval October 28, 2024, Ethics Commission Meeting:

Mr. Simpson made a motion for approval of the minutes of the October 28, 2024, Ethics Commission meeting. Ms. Smith and Dr. Freiburger seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed 8-0 in favor.

Reports:

ECO Office Report: Ms. Oberdorfer stated the Ethics Office has been very busy. Ms. Miller resigned from the Ethics Office and is now working in the Mayor's Office. Ms. Myers will be taking personal leave for the rest of the year. The Ethics Office staff is working on trainings, conflicts of interest, gifts questions and secondary employment questions. Ms. Oberdorfer met with JEA CEO Vickie Cavey. Ms. Oberdorfer also met with the City of Jacksonville's CFO, Anna Brosche, and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Kelli O'Leary on the topic of potential budget cuts. Dr. Freiburger asked if the only place to cut in our budget is salaries. Ms. Oberdorfer agreed and stated the Administration is looking for a 10% reduction. Ms. Dixon thanked Ms. Oberdorfer, Ms. Johnston and Ms. Homrighouse for their work.

Office of General Counsel Report: Mr. Reingold has been collaborating with the Ethics Office on many issues. Ms. Dixon thanked Mr. Reingold.

Complaints Committee Report: Dr. Freiburger announced that the Complaints Committee has not met. Ms. Oberdorfer stated the committee will meet soon pending resolution of the Complaints Procedures amendments. Ms. Homrighouse stated there are three or four pending complaints.

New Business:

Report from Nominating Committee and Election of 2025 Officers: Mr. Simpson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, recognized Ms. Dixon for her leadership this past year. Mr. Simpson, Ms. Dixon and Ms. Lipscomb Smith all thanked the three candidates interviewed: Robyn Blank, Erich Freiburger and William Maule. The 2025 Chair recommended by the Nominating Committee was Dr. Freiburger and the 2025 Vice Chair recommended by the Nominating Committee was Mr. Maule. Ms. Blank made a motion to elect Dr. Freiburger to be the 2025 Chair of the Ethics Commission and Mr. Maule to be the 2025 Vice Chair. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed 8-0 in favor.

Review and Adopt 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 6 and went through every change in the various provisions regarding receipt of referrals and the potential changes to the Complaints Procedures. The general topics changed were:

- transmittal of a Complaint or Referral to the Respondent, Complaints within 60 days of an election being returned, and
- withdrawal of complaints.

Judge McCallum made a motion to accept the corrections made:

- in Rule 6(b), change the 14-point font to 12-point font, and
- correct typos.

Mr. Simpson and Dr. Freiburger seconded the motion. Ms. Dixon asked for public comment. No comment was provided. With no further discussion, the motion passed 8-0.

Holiday Party: December 12 was chosen as the day for the holiday party and locations included Fore Score and Bellwether. The Ethics Office will check into these locations.

Public Comment: Ms. Dixon asked for public comment. Mr. Nooney offered public comment.

Training: Ms. Oberdorfer provided training on the following topics: state disclosures, gifts, asking for things, conflicts of interest and misuse of position. Mr. Reingold provided training on the Sunshine Law and Public Records law.

Announcements: None

Strategic Planning: Ms. Dixon stated strategic planning will be handled by Dr. Freiburger and the Ethics Commission next year.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Sandy Homrighouse

5-13-25

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>.