

**OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION
DECEMBER 15, 2023, MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

1. Call to Order.

Upon notice, with the agenda being properly posted at the Commission's office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the meeting and notice being filed in advance with the Office of the Secretary of State, a regular meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] was called to order on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 10:01 a.m. Chair Jarred Brejcha ["Brejcha"] opened the meeting, which was held in Room G-3 of the State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Determination of Quorum.

Roll was called to determine the existence of a quorum for the transaction of business. Commissioners answering present were Eddie Fields ["Fields"], Howard Johnson ["Johnson"], and Brejcha. A quorum of members was declared. Absent from the Commission meeting was Vice-Chair Engle.

[Commissioner Meek entered the meeting at 10:04 a.m.]

Staff & Visitors.

Commission staff members present at all or part of the meeting were Ashley Kemp ["Kemp"], Stephanie McCord ["McCord"], and Katie Stagner ["Stagner"].

Observing all or part of the meeting: Charles Outlaw, LegisOK; Michael McNutt, NonDoc Media; Shawn Ashley, Quorum Call; Denise Lawson, attorney; Brice Chaffin, citizen; Nolan Clay, The Oklahoman; and Lee Anne Bruce Boone.

2. Open Meeting Act Compliance.

Chair Brejcha reviewed the *Affidavit of Posting* and affirmed compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

3. Introductions and Announcements.

Director Kemp introduced the incoming Executive Director, Lee Anne Bruce Boone.

4. Disqualification & Recusal for Executive Session.

None.

5. Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the minutes for the special meeting and executive session held December 1, 2023.

Second: Commissioner Fields

Roll call vote: Fields - yes, Johnson - yes, Brejcha - yes

Motion carried.

6. Determination to enter Executive Session.

The information to be discussed in agenda item 7 requires confidential communications between the Ethics Commission and its attorney concerning pending claims or actions where disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the Ethics Commission to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation or proceeding in the public interest. In addition, disclosure of any of the items to be discussed would violate confidentiality requirements of state law. This proposed executive session meets the requirements for executive session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. sections 307 (B)(1), (B)(4), and (B)(7).

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved for the Commissioners, Director Kemp, and General Counsel McCord to to enter executive session in the Ethics Commission Office, Room G-27, to discuss the cases and complaints, all or part of the personnel items, and to include Lee Anne Bruce Boone for the non-personnel items, immediately after which the Commission will reconvene open session in Room G-3.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll Call vote: Fields - yes, Johnson - yes, Meek- yes, Brejcha - yes.

Motion carried to go into Executive/Closed session at 10:06 a.m.

7. Executive Session.

8. Action to return to Open Session.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to reconvene open session at 12:57 p.m.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson - yes, Meek – yes, Brejcha- yes.

Motion carried.

9. Disqualification & Recusal for Executive Session.

General Counsel McCord announced Chair Brejcha recused himself from and exited Executive Session during the discussion of C-22-08.

10. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on the following items considered in executive session:

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to approve the proposed settlement offer to resolve Case No. 2022-03, alleging violations of Campaign Finance Ethics Rule 2.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek - yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to dismiss Complaint C-20-17.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek - yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved, pursuant to Ethics Rule 6.7, to authorize a formal investigation into Complaint C-21-11 based upon a determination that there is reasonable cause to believe that the person or persons named in the complaint have violated Conflicts of Interest Ethics Rule 4.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson - yes, Meek – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to dismiss Complaint C-22-09.

Second: Commissioner Meek.

Roll call vote: Fields - yes, Johnson – yes, Meek – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to dismiss Complaint C-22-08.

Second: Commissioner Meek.

Roll call vote: Fields - yes, Johnson – yes, Meek – yes, Brejcha – abstain

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to authorize the Executive Director to hire Stephanie McCord as Deputy Director in addition to her role as General Counsel.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson - yes, Meek – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to set Stephanie McCord's salary as Deputy Director and General Counsel at \$115,000.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek - yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to extend Director Kemp's resignation date to January 3, 2024.

Second: Commissioner Meek.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek - yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to hire outside counsel to address possible claims against a vendor for contractual issues.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Johnson – yes, Meek - yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

11. Executive Director's Report.

Director Kemp discussed the Commission's financials, including revenue and expenditures for November 2023. She also discussed her and McCord's attendance at the annual Council on Governmental Ethics Laws Conference, where both she and McCord received numerous accolades for their participation as speakers.

12. Recognition of Service.

The Commission recognized Director Kemp for her years of dedication and service to the Oklahoma Ethics Commission.

Director Kemp reflected on her time and service with the State of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. [A transcript of her reflections is available upon request to the Commission.]

13. Adjournment.

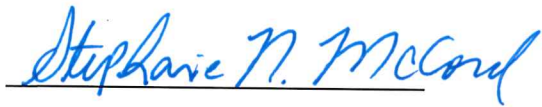
Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Fields – yes, Meek – yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha - yes.

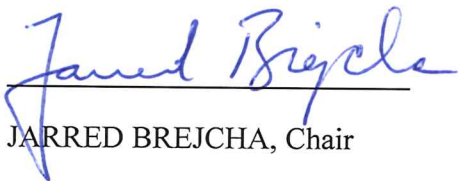
Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 1:26 p.m.



STEPHANIE N. MCCORD, Deputy Director & General Counsel

Approved on behalf of the Commission:



JARRED BREJCHA, Chair