

**OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2024, 8:30 A.M.
Vezey Veterans Complex
2132 NE 36th Street
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73111**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING:

The Oklahoma Veterans Commission held a Regular Meeting on Friday, August 2, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., at the Vezezy Veterans Complex, 2132 NE 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111. An Amended Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on July 9, 2024. The Agenda of this meeting was also properly posted at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting pursuant to the provisions of Title 25 O.S. § 311. ODVA Paralegal Cass Newell served as Clerk of the Commission for this meeting pursuant to Title 25 O.S. §312. The Agenda and Minutes of the meeting actions are set out below.

AGENDA:

CHAIRMAN BRETT MARTIN:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A. ROLL CALL

Chairman Martin asked the Clerk to call the roll. The roll was taken as follows:

Commissioner Allen – Present
Commissioner Ellington – Present
Commissioner Martin – Present
Commissioner Offel – Absent
Commissioner Orr – Present
Commissioner Perry – Present

The Clerk notified Chairman Martin that 5 Commissioners were present and 1 absent.

B. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The Chair declared that a quorum was present. Also present were Legal Counsel for the Oklahoma Veterans Commission, John M. O'Connor and General Counsel for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oklahoma Veterans Commission John M. Settle.

III. VERIFICATION OF PROPER NOTICE OF MEETING AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The Clerk verified proper notice and posting of the Agenda. Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on October 17, 2023, and an Amended Notice was

filed with the Secretary of State on July 9, 2024. The Agenda was posted to the front doors of the ODVA Vezev Veterans Complex at 2:39 pm on July 31, 2024, and posted to the ODVA website at 2:48 pm on July 31, 2024.

IV. INVOCATION

Commissioner Ellington led the Invocation.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Orr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. INTRODUCTION OF ODVA STAFF AND WELCOME TO VISITORS AND GUESTS.

Chairman Martin welcomed all visitors and guests to the Commission meeting and asked if anyone would like to introduce themselves to the Commission. Executive Director James Jay Bynum, Oklahoma State Senator Brenda Stanley and Commissioner Edward Ted Perry were in attendance. The Chairman acknowledged and welcomed the visitors and guests.

VII. BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2024, OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING.

Chairman Martin asked the Commission if there was any further discussion. There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Allen made the motion to approve the June 27, 2024, meeting minutes.

Commissioner Ellington seconded the Motion

Chairman Martin asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Commissioner Allen – Aye

Commissioner Ellington – Aye

Commissioner Martin – Aye

Commissioner Orr – Aye

Commissioner Perry – Aye

The Clerk notified the Chair that the vote was 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Chairman Martin declared the motion passed.

B. REPORTS WITH DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. CHAIRMAN BRETT MARTIN:

Chairman Martin introduced new ODVA Executive Director James “Jay” Bynum and newly appointed OVC Commissioner, Edward “Ted” Perry. Chairman Martin expressed appreciation of former Executive Director Greg Slavonic. Chairman Martin believes great things are happening at ODVA and can be even better. He is confident we can be

number one in the nation and emphasized cooperative engagement with the Senate and House at the State Capitol.

2. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE: COMMISSIONER SIDNEY ELLINGTON AND JENNIFER SHOCKLEY, ODVA DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES:

Commissioner Ellington shared a slide reporting on employee new hires, resignations, and terminations since the last OVC meeting. Commissioner Ellington commented on changing culture is key and working on obtaining SHRM certifications for all HR staff. Jennifer Shockley reported on the Chicago SHRM National Conference which she attended.

3. CHAIRMAN BRETT MARTIN:

Commissioner Martin commented that suicide is not something most think about until a loved one or friend commits suicide.

C. REPORTS WITH DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS: JOHNATHAN NASH, REPORT, DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

Secretary Nash did not attend in person and no report was presented.

2. JAMES (JAY) BYNUM, REAR ADMIRAL, USN (RET.), ODVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS TO THE COMMISSION AND ODVA STAFF.

Executive Director Bynum reported he is looking forward to meeting everyone at ODVA and at the Capitol. He will begin visiting the ODVA State Homes next week and his visit to Sallisaw will also include a meeting with Senator Mark Mullin. Executive Director Bynum discussed his management style and will endeavor to be data driven, boots on the ground, operate in trust and transparency, be fiscally responsible, and promises to over communicate. He further stated that it is not what you say, it is what you do.

3. LISA A. WHITE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, REPORTS, DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

Ms. White gave updates to ODVA FY25 budget. A digital copy of this presentation is available as an attachment to these minutes.

4. NISHA YOUNG, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATOR, REPORTS, DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

Ms. Young gave updates on the Ardmore New Veterans Home Project, State Homes Building Preventative Maintenance, Union Soldiers Cemetery, Seaman 1st Class Turner Ardmore Cemetery, and Sallisaw Veterans Home construction. The Sallisaw Home construction is 80% complete and on track for completion by end of this calendar year. The Ardmore cemetery grant is complete and ODVA has taken ownership, Lawton State Home roof replacement is complete, and HVAC improvements are ongoing. Ms. Young advised monthly maintenance staff meetings have been implemented at all the ODVA State Veterans Homes. A digital copy of this presentation is available as an attachment to these minutes.

5. LISA ACEVEDO, WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, REPORTS, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

Ms. Acevedo reported on legislation signed into law during the 59th Legislative Session. A digital copy of this presentation is available as an attachment to these minutes.

6. JOHN M. SETTLE, ODVA GENERAL COUNSEL, POTENTIAL AND CURRENT LITIGATION REPORT:

- i. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO TITLE 25 O. S. 2021 §307 (B) (4), FOR CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A PUBLIC BODY AND ITS ATTORNEY(S) CONCERNING PENDING CLAIMS, INVESTIGATIONS, OR LITIGATION:

ADVICE OF ATTORNEY: The ODVA General Counsel advises that disclosure of his confidential report will seriously impair the ability of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission and ODVA to process any claims or conduct the pending investigation(s), litigation, or proceeding(s) in the public interest.

- a. Discussion and Possible Action to enter Executive Session.

Chairman Martin asked the Commission if there was any further discussion. There was no discussion.

Commissioner Allen made the Motion to enter into Executive Session as advised pursuant to Title 25 O.S. §307 (B) (4). General Counsel Settle verbally advised the Commission that disclosure of his report will seriously impair the ability of this Commission to process any claims or conduct any pending investigation(s), litigation, or proceeding(s) in the public interest.

Commissioner Orr seconded the Motion.

Chairman Martin asked the Clerk to call the roll. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Allen – Aye
Commissioner Ellington – Aye
Commissioner Martin – Aye
Commissioner Orr – Aye
Commissioner Perry – Aye.

The clerk notified Chairman Martin the Roll Call vote was five (5) Ayes and zero (0) Nays.

Chairman Martin declared the Motion to have Passed.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 9:07 AM and recording was paused.

- b. Executive Session; and Confidential Report of current and potential ODVA litigation:
- CAPE v. ODVA, Oklahoma Co., CJ-2021-4460
- MORRISON v. ODVA, Carter Co., CJ-2023-02
- HERD v. ODVA, Oklahoma Co., CJ-2021-2113
- OMES/ODVA v. ORCUTT WINSLOW, Sequoyah Co., CJ-2023-135
- TATE v. ODVA – Rogers Co., CJ-2022-195
- ARTIS v. ODVA – Oklahoma Co., CJ-2023-7104;
- ARTIS v. ODVA – New GTCA Claim filed 01/23/24 – Oklahoma Co. CJ-2024-3133
- CROSTON v. ODVA – GTCA Claim filed 09/15/23
- WRIGHT v. ODVA – GTCA Claim filed 09/05/23
- CUMMINGS v. ODVA – GTCA Claim filed 12/29/23
- EEOC Charge No. 564-2024-00254
- EEOC Charge No. 564-2024-00277
- EEOC Charge No. 564-2024-00255
- EEOC Charge No. 564-2024-00260
- Potential Talihina State Veterans Home quiet title litigation.
- Status Report, Military Order of the Purple Heart v. Allen, et al. – Oklahoma Co., CV-2022-1551
- c. Open Session discussion and possible action to return to Open Session.

Meeting doors were opened, and recording started.

Action to return to Open Meeting from Executive Session was considered.

Commissioner Allen made the Motion to Return from Executive Session.

Commissioner Orr seconded the Motion.

Chairman Martin asked the Clerk to call the roll. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Allen – Aye

Commissioner Ellington – Aye

Commissioner Martin – Aye

Commissioner Orr – Aye

Commissioner Perry – Aye

The Clerk notified the Chair the Roll Call vote was 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Chairman Martin declared the Motion passed.

The Commission Returned to Open Meeting at 10:42 AM.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

IX. OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

September 6, 2024, 10:00AM

Vezev Veterans Complex

2132 NE 36th Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Chairman Martin asked the Commission if there was any further discussion. Chairman Martin suggested starting the next meeting at 8:30 AM.

Commissioner Allen made the Motion to start the September 6, 2024, meeting at 8:30 AM.

Commissioner Orr seconded the Motion.

Chairman Martin asked the Clerk to call the roll. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Allen – Aye

Commissioner Ellington – Aye

Commissioner Martin – Aye

Commissioner Orr – Aye

Commissioner Perry – Aye

The Clerk notified the Chair the Roll Call vote was 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Chairman Martin declared the Motion passed.

X. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADJOURNMENT.

Chairman Martin asked the Commission if there was any further discussion.

There was no discussion.

Commissioner Allen made the Motion to Adjourn.

Commissioner Ellington seconded the Motion.

Chairman Martin asked the Clerk to call the roll. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Allen – Aye

Commissioner Ellington – Aye

Commissioner Martin – Aye

Commissioner Orr – Aye

Commissioner Perry – Aye

The Clerk notified the Chair the Roll Call vote was 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Chairman Allen declared the Motion passed.

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:45 AM.