

Minutes of Jefferson Parish Ethics and Compliance Commission
Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Council Chambers
Joseph S. Yenni Building
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard
Jefferson, LA 70123

Commission Members Present:

Warren Bourgeois, III
Cherie Kay LaRocca
Chris Clement

Commission Members Absent:

Howard Maestri

Call Commission Meeting to order

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Bourgeois at 5:00 P.M. Roll call. Quorum is constituted.

Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner LaRocca to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting.

MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

Public Hearing

None

Inspector General Report

1. Budget

IG Kim Chatelain presents to the Commissioners the JPOIG / JPECC 2024 first quarter budget to actual figures at the May 2024 ECC meeting. She reports the first quarter expenditures are at approximately 25% of total budget.

2. Compliance

A. Quality Assurance Review

IG Chatelain reports the Quality Assurance Review Committee has concluded their annual review of the JPOIG. She states she met with the committee and was presented with a draft of the final report, which will be presented to the public later in the month of May 2024. She states there were no recommendations made in the report.

B. Peer Review

IG Chatelain reminds the Commissioners that 2024 is the triennial year of Association of Inspectors General peer review. It is scheduled for September 2024.

C. Staff Evaluations

IG Chatelain states she has completed annual staff reviews of Ken Mahrle and Britney Majure timely.

D. Public Letter

IG Chatelain states she issued a public letter to the Parish Council regarding expenditure of the Criminal Justice Fund. She states this public letter was intended to promote transparency and accountability and proactively communicate significant concerns regarding this expenditure of dedicated millage funds before the action was to be taken at the Parish Council meeting.

3. Reports

IG Chatelain reports five cases have been opened and 3 cases have been closed. She states an audit of Eastbank Fire District payroll sick leave is underway and a possible examination review of Jefferson Facilities, Inc has been identified. She reports VFC and Eastbank Consolidated Drug policies & testing is close to being issued in draft, Personnel Classified Service evaluation is in the field work stage and West Jefferson Medical Center evaluation is in the planning stage.

4. Ordinance

IG Chatelain reviews the history of the JPOIG ordinance and reports the status of proposed JPOIG ordinance changes.

Discussion regarding letters received by the Ethics & Compliance Commission

Commissioner Bourgeois reads a portion of one letter received by the ECC. He and Jerry Sullivan review the process by which each commissioner is chosen. Commissioner Bourgeois discusses Fr. Sidney Speaks appointment, his lack of attendance at any Ethics & Compliance Commission meeting during his appointment and his resignation from the Ethics and

Compliance Commission. Jerry Sullivan discusses Jefferson Parish processes and protocols for introducing legislation and JPOIG investigative processes and protocols when involving an elected official. He refers to an Advisory Opinion sent to the Jefferson Parish Administration and Councilmembers in January 2024 regarding voting procedures during council meetings. Jerry Sullivan states the Ethics & Compliance Commissioners have submitted their most current financial disclosures. Marta Schnabel, outside counsel for the JPOIG, discusses professional affiliations and conflicts of interest within government. Jerry Sullivan discusses the criteria for use of dedicated millage funds and the public letter released by the JPOIG regarding the unauthorized expenditure of Jefferson Parish criminal justice millage funds. Kim Chatelain addresses the allegations of impropriety levied against her.

Executive Session

MOTION by Commissioner LaRocca to enter into Executive Session for discussion regarding ethics complaint and related matters. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** unanimously, without opposition or abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner LaRocca to return to open meeting from executive session. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** unanimously, without opposition or abstention

MOTION by Commissioner LaRocca to refer ethics violation investigation discussed in executive session to the JPOIG. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** unanimously, without opposition or abstention

New Business

None

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner LaRocca to adjourn. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Clement. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** unanimously without opposition or abstention.

MEETING ADJOURNED
at 7:05 pm