

Minutes of Jefferson Parish Ethics and Compliance Commission
Wednesday, November 20, 2024
Council Chambers
Joseph S. Yenni Building
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard
Jefferson, LA 70123

Commission Members Present

Cherie Kay LaRocca
Monica Pierre
Frank Young (arrives 5:10 pm)
Joel MacClellan

Commission Members Absent

Chris Clement

Call Commission Meeting to order

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

Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Pierre to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2024 meeting.
MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner LaRocca. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

Public Hearing

Erica Smith
Britney Majure
Mark Hattier
Brian Miller
Larry Frederick
Thomas Berggren
Michael Youngblood
Dolores Hall
Robert Raymond
Mindy Punch
Adrienne Richoux

Public Hearing (cont.)

Jeff Adolph
Joe Marino
Al Abuali
Michael Hinyub
Arthur Lawson
Michelle Tesevich
Belinda Constant
Ronald Wimprine
Brett Lawson
Cynthia Lee Sheng
Vincent Cox
Ricky Templet
William Lazaro

Jefferson Parish Council Members address the ECC

Councilman Hans Liljeberg & Councilwoman Arita Bohannon address the Ethics & Compliance Commission regarding complaints against Inspector General Kim Chatelain. Inspector General Kim Chatelain addresses the complaints made by the Councilpersons and others.

Discussion regarding appointment of independent counsel to review Inspector General actions

Commissioners Monica Pierre and Joel MacClellan address the complaints made against the Ethics & Compliance Commission members by the Councilpersons. Commissioner Frank Young comments on the OIG public letters and processes. Commissioners Young and LaRocca state they are in favor of an independent review of the Inspector General. Chairperson Cherie Kay LaRocca invites the public to attend the ECC meetings to engage in continued oversight. Commissioners MacClellan, Pierre, Young and LaRocca question IG Chatelain on various issues regarding the Public Letter to the Parish Council, case #2024-0001, Donating Public Funds & Property, Public Improvement without Public Bid & Lack of Transparency. IG Chatelain responds to the questions. Chairperson LaRocca states the funding for outside independent counsel to review the actions of the IG will come from the shared ECC/OIG budget. Jerry Sullivan states he has contacted various attorneys regarding the outside independent review of the IG. He proposes a sub-committee be formed to select a pool of attorneys.

MOTION by Commissioner Young to authorize the appointment of independent counsel to review the actions of the Inspector General. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Pierre. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner Young to form sub-committee of the ECC consisting of Cherie Kay Larocca and Frank Young to select and engage independent counsel. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Pierre. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner Pierre to amend the agenda deferring the presentation of the Inspector General Report to the January 2025 ECC meeting. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention

MOTION by Commissioner Young to enter into executive session for consideration of complaints against Parish elected officials. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Pierre. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner Pierre to return to open meeting from executive session. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Young. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner Pierre to close ethics complaint #1 without action. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner MacClellan. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

MOTION by Commissioner MacClellan to defer ethics complaint #2 to the January 2025 ECC meeting. **MOTION SECONDED** by Commissioner Pierre. The motion was voted upon and **PASSED** without opposition and abstention.

New Business

IG Chatelain objects to appointing independent counsel from the Jefferson Parish approved attorney vendor list. The Commissioners and Jerry Sullivan agree to seek counsel outside of the Jefferson Parish approved attorney vendor list.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

Adjournment

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

at 9:25 pm

Page 3