

State of South Carolina State Ethics Commission

BRIAN M. BARNWELL, CHAIR
VICTOR K. LI, VICE CHAIR
DONALD GIST
SAMUEL L. ERWIN



DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
CHILDS CANTEY THRASHER
ASHLEIGH R. WILSON

201 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 150
COLUMBIA, S.C. 29210

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES COMMISSION MEETING OPEN SESSION

March 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian M. Barnwell at 9:40 a.m. at the Public Service Commission's Hearing Room located at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Columbia, SC. Commission members present were Brandolyn T. Pinkston, Donald H. Jackson, Vice -Chair Victor K. Li, Donald Gist, and Ashleigh R. Wilson. Commissioner Childs Cantey Thrasher was absent from the meeting.

The news media was duly and timely notified.

Staff present: Meghan L. Walker, Ami R. Franklin, James T. Bagnall, Kristin S. Nabors, Ryanne W. Caldwell, Frank Schumpert, and Kevin Hinson.

Others present: Jo Wheat.

Director Meghan Walker welcomed everyone and thanked the Public Service Commission for the use of their Hearing Room.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Walker presented for information staff changes and procurement requests. Staff will present a plaque to former Interim Director Hamm in appreciation for his service to the Commission. Courtney Laster has been hired as General Counsel for the Commission. Kristin Nabors and Kevin Hinson presented a procurement matter regarding furniture for the Commission meeting room. Discussion ensued. Staff responded. Chairman Barnwell noted Commissioner Victor Li arrived at 9:46 a.m. Discussion also ensued regarding agency budget and salary matters.

Commissioner Gist made a motion to form a subcommittee to assist the Executive Director and Assistant Director on personnel and salary matters for next fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pinkston, and passed with a vote of 6 – 0.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to adopt the staff presentation for the design of the Commission room table. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gist, and passed with a vote of 6 – 0.

MINUTES

Chairman Barnwell called for approval of the Minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Gist, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to accept the Minutes. Chairman Barnwell asked for any discussion or opposition. There being none, the motion carried with no opposition to approve the Open Session Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes from the January 18, 2018 Commission meeting. The motion was carried unanimously with a 6 - 0 vote.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Director Walker presented for information only the 2017 – 2018 Budget. Discussion ensued. Staff responded. Chairman Barnwell reminded all Commissioners to file their Statement of Economic Interests report as soon as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Barnwell asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and probable cause matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Pinkston, to go into Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon return from Executive Session at 12:14 p.m., Chairman Barnwell noted personnel matters and probable cause matters were discussed in Executive Session, but no actions were taken with regard to personnel matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Gist, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt and ratify actions taken with regard to probable cause in Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously with a 6 – 0 vote.

ADVISORY OPINION

Director Walker informed the Commission that staff received a request for a formal advisory opinion from a citizen; however, that citizen is not under the jurisdiction of the Commission or the Ethics Act. Therefore, no action was taken by the Commission. Director Walker stated a letter would be issued informing the citizen that the request must be submitted by a person under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Barnwell asked for further discussion. There being none, a motion was made by Commissioner Pinkston, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adjourn at 12:16 p.m. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ami R. Franklin
Assistant Director