

State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

**CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR
BRIAN M. BARNWELL
SAMUEL L. ERWIN**



**DON JACKSON
VICTOR K. LI
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
ASHLEIGH R. WILSON**

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

**MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

MINUTES **COMMISSION MEETING** **OPEN SESSION**

November 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. by Chair Thrasher at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Other Commission members present were Brian Barnwell, Samuel L. Erwin, Vice Chair Donald Gist, Don Jackson, Victor Li, Brandolyn Thomas Pinkston, and Ashleigh R. Wilson.

Staff present: Meghan Walker, Ami Franklin, Jimmy Bagnall, Ryanne Caldwell, Kevin Hinson, Courtney Laster, Reggie Gaymon, Richard Provencher, Kristin Nabors, Susan Bickley, Deaven Linen, and Karen A. Wiggins.

Others present: None.

Chair Thrasher declared a quorum present. Director Walker noted for the record that the news media was duly notified.

POINT OF ORDER

Director Walker asked the Commission to review the budget information in their yellow folders and asked for any questions. There being no questions, the information was approved as presented.

Director Walker then requested that the Agenda be taken out of order to accommodate a probable cause matter in Executive Session. All agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:41 a.m. Chair Thrasher asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing probable cause matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Gist, to go into Executive Session. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried with an 8 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon return from Executive Session at 9:47 a.m., a motion was made by Vice Chair Gist, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt and ratify actions taken on a probable cause matter in Executive Session. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried with an 8 – 0 vote.

POINT OF ORDER

General Counsel Laster asked for everyone to look in their yellow folder and review the language for the current proposed House version of a definition for “committee.” Lengthy discussion ensued. General Counsel Laster will update the Commission as things develop.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

2019-2020 Budget Report, Compliance Report, and Pending and Paid Orders Report

Director Walker directed everyone to their yellow folder and presented the 2019/2020 Budget reports and the September and October Compliance reports. Discussion ensued concerning matters for approval of the Legislative Oversight Committee—simplifying the filing applications on our website. The reports were approved with no opposition.

MINUTES

Chair Thrasher called for approval of the Minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Erwin, to accept the Minutes. Chair Thrasher 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 September 19, 2019 Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously with an 8 - 0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:05 a.m. Chair Thrasher asked for a motion to return to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the remainder of the probable cause matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Pinkston, seconded by Commissioner Barnwell, to go into Executive Session. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried with an 8 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon return from Executive Session at 10:54 a.m., Commissioner Erwin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, to adopt and ratify actions taken on probable cause matters in Executive Session. There being no discussion or opposition, the motion carried with an 8 – 0 vote.

Director Walker passed out the 2020 Hearing Panel Schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion. A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Erwin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m. The motion carried with an 8 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen A. Wiggins