

State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

CHILDS C. THRASHER, CHAIR
DONALD GIST, VICE CHAIR
BRIAN M. BARNWELL



AJ HOLLOWAY
DON JACKSON
BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON

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

MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

December 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m. by Chairman Childs C. 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 Vice Chairman Donald Gist, and Commissioner Brian M. Barnwell. Commissioners AJ Holloway, Donald H. Jackson, and Brandolyn T. Pinkston joined via Zoom call.

Staff present: Meghan Walker, Jimmy Bagnall, Ryanne Caldwell, Kevin Hinson, and Deaven Linen were in attendance. Courtney Laster, Ami Franklin, Reggie Gaymon, Richard Provencher, and Karen A. Wiggins joined via Zoom call.

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

MINUTES

Chairman Thrasher called for an approval of the Minutes. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gist, seconded by Commissioner Barnwell, to accept the Minutes. Chairman 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 17, 2020 Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously with a 6 - 0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:47 a.m. Chairman Thrasher asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters and 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 a 6 - 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon return from Executive Session, Chairman Thrasher noted legal matters and probable cause matters were discussed in Executive Session. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gist, seconded by Commissioner Barnwell, to adopt and ratify actions taken with regard to matters in Executive Session. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

ADVISORY OPINION

AO2020-002

General Counsel Laster presented a draft of Advisory Opinion 2020-002 concerning public servants voting on budgets. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gist, seconded by Commissioner Pinkston, to accept the draft as written.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Director Walker presented the Budget, Compliance Report, and Pending and Paid Orders for information and requested any opposition or discussion. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Barnwell made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Gist, to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deaven Linen