

State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIRMAN
F. XAVIER STARKES, VICE
CHAIRMAN
BRYANT S. CALDWELL
AJ HOLLOWAY



BRANDOLYN THOMAS PINKSTON
MARY HUNTER B. TOMLINSON
NEAL D. TRUSLOW
MATTHEW N. TYLER

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

MEGHAN WALKER DAYSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

OPEN SESSION

May 16, 2024

The May 16, 2024, meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chairman Scott E. Frick at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Chairman Scott E. Frick, Vice Chairman F. Xavier Starkes, Commissioner Neal D. Truslow, and Commissioner Matthew N. Tyler were in attendance. Commissioner AJ Holloway, Commissioner Brandolyn T. Pinkston, and Commissioner Bryant Caldwell appeared via Zoom call. Commissioner Mary Hunter B. Tomlinson was not present.

Staff present: Meghan Walker Dayson, Ami Franklin, Courtney Laster, Renique Brabham, Ryanne Caldwell, Kevin Hinson, Reggie Gaymon, James Bagnall, W.B. White, Jr., Rachael O'Bryan, and Erin Caughman were in attendance.

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

MINUTES

Chairman Frick called for the approval of the March 18, 2024 minutes. Chairman Frick asked for any discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioners Starkes and Truslow, to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2024 Commission meeting. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Director Dayson presented the Budget, Compliance Report, and Pending and Paid Orders Report for information.

APPEALS

C2021-024 Jeremy Clark vs. Wanda Stringfellow

Attorney Laster read a request from Respondent asking for a continuance of the Appellate Hearing. There was no objection by staff, and the continuance request was granted by Chairman Frick.

Morgan B. Reeves let staff know he was on the way but running late for his appeal hearing. The Commission proceeded to executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Frick asked for further discussion or a motion to go into Executive Session to hear probable cause matters. A motion was made by Commissioner Tyler, seconded by Commissioner Truslow to go into executive session to hear probable cause matters. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 12:53 p.m.

APPEALS

C2022-085 State Ethics Commission vs. Morgan B. Reeves

The Commission was Represented by Attorney Laster and the Respondent appeared *pro se*. Respondent acknowledged that his 2022 Statement of Economic Interests was not timely filed and asked for leniency, citing medical and financial difficulties. Chairman Frick stated that the matter would be taken under advisement and an order issued within a few weeks. Commissioners Brandolyn Pinkston, Neal D. Truslow, and Bryant S. Caldwell recused from the appellate hearing since they comprised the Hearing Panel.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Frick asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Starkes, seconded by Commissioners Truslow and Pinkston, to adjourn at 1:16 p.m. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rachael O'Bryan