

OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION
MARCH 08, 2024, MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order.

Upon notice, with the agenda being properly posted at the Commission's office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the meeting and notice being filed in advance with the Office of the Secretary of State, a regular meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] was called to order on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 10:01 a.m. Chair Jarred Brejcha ["Brejcha"] opened the meeting, which was held in Room G-3 of the State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Determination of Quorum.

Roll was called to determine the existence of a quorum for the transaction of business. Commissioners answering present were, Eddie Fields ["Fields"], Howard Johnson ["Johnson"], Gregg Engle ["Engle"], and Brejcha. A quorum of members was declared.

Justin Meek ["Meek"] was not in attendance at the time of the meeting.

Staff & Visitors.

Commission staff members present at all, or part of the meeting were Lee Anne Bruce Boone ["Bruce Boone"], Stephanie McCord ["McCord"] and Katie Stagner ["Stagner"], and Tiffany Elczyn ["Elczyn"].

Observing all or part of the meeting: Charles Outlaw, LegisOK; Michael McNutt, NonDoc Media; Bob Nance, citizen; and Melissa Jacques, Tulsa World.

2. Open Meeting Act Compliance.

Chair Brejcha reviewed the *Affidavit of Posting* and affirmed compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

3. Introductions and Announcements.

None.

4. Disqualification & Recusal for Executive Session.

None.

5. Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Engle moved to approve the minutes for the special meeting and executive session held February 9, 2024.

Second: Commissioner Fields

Roll call vote: Johnson - abstained, Brejcha - yes

Motion carried.

6. Advisory Opinion Request AOR 2023-01 submitted by Senator Jessica Garvin.

Senator Garvin was not in attendance to discuss the AOR. The Commission decided they will move forward with this request and will have drafts available for this request to begin the public hearing process within the next few commission meetings and the Deputy Director and General Counsel McCord announced the drafts will be available five days prior to the public hearing.

7. Rulemaking Request submitted by Representative Mickey Dollens.

Representative Dollens was not in attendance to discuss the request. Deputy Director and General Counsel McCord did recommend accommodating this request and let The Commission know this request could not move forward without a sponsor.

8. Consideration, discussion and possible action on the Commissioner sponsor(s) and the authorization of staff to begin the rulemaking process regarding the rulemaking request submitted by Representative Mickey Dollens, Chair Brejcha.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to sponsor the rulemaking request submitted by Representative Dollens and direct staff to begin the rulemaking process.

Second: Commissioner Fields

Roll call vote: Engle - yes, Brejcha - yes

Motion carried.

9. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on the Commission's rulemaking procedure. Deputy Director and General Counsel McCord.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to rescind the current rule promulgation procedure, and direct staff to administratively re-evaluate and develop a new rule promulgation procedure.

Second: Commissioner Johnson

Roll call vote: Engle - yes, Brejcha - yes

Motion carried.

10. Directors Report. Director Bruce Boone.

- a. The Fiscal Year 25' Budget Request Update was discussed.
- b. The Guardian System Update was discussed.
- c. The Compliance Update was discussed.

- d. The Legislative Update was discussed.

11. Determination to enter Executive Session.

The information to be discussed in agenda item 12 requires confidential communications between the Ethics Commission and its attorney concerning pending claims or actions where disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the Ethics Commission to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation or proceeding in the public interest. In addition, disclosure of any of the items to be discussed would violate confidentiality requirements of state law. This proposed executive session meets the requirements for executive session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. sections 307 (B)(1), (B)(4), and (B)(7).

- a. Statement by Attorney – the statement is on the agenda and does not need to be read.
- b. Determination, pursuant to Counsel’s advice as set forth above, to enter closed, executive session at the Ethic’s Commission’s office in Room G-27 of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Motion: Commissioner Engle moved, pursuant to counsel’s advice as set forth in subsection 8(a), that the Commission go into executive session in the Ethics Commission’s office in room G-27 of the State Capitol Building to discuss the matters listed for agenda item 12.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll Call vote: Fields - yes, Brejcha - yes.

Motion carried to go into Executive/Closed session at 10:39 a.m.

12. Executive Session.

13. Action to Return to Open Session.

Motion: Commissioner Fields moved to reconvene open session at 12:59 p.m.

Second: Commissioner Meek.

Roll call vote: Johnson – yes, Engle – yes, Brejcha- yes.

Motion carried.

14. Announcements, considerations, discussion, and possible action on the disqualification or recusal of a Commissioner or Commissioners pursuant to Ethics Rule 1.6 for any item listed in this agenda for Executive Session, and possible action on the following items considered in Executive Session.

Announcement was made by Deputy Director & Legal Counsel, Stephanie McCord that Commissioner Meek recused himself for Case No. 2019-06, Case No. 2020-03, Case No. 2020-18, Case No. 2020-08, and Case No. 2020-13.

15. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on the following items considered in executive session:

- a. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to offer a settlement resolving Case No. 2019-06, alleging violations of Campaign Finance Ethics Rule 2, and its accompanying lawsuit in District Court, Oklahoma Ethics Commission v. Coleman, and to proceed as discussed in executive session.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Meek – abstain, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- b. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Case No. 2022-24.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Meek – yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- c. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Case No. 2022-27.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Meek – yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- d. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Case No. 2022-36.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Meek – abstain, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- e. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Case No. 2022-46.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Meek – yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

- f. **Motion:** Commissioner Engle moved to dismiss Case No. 2022-48.

Second: Commissioner Fields.

Roll call vote: Meek – yes, Johnson – yes, Brejcha – yes

Motion carried.

16. Recognition of Deputy Director and General Counsel McCord for her service to the Oklahoma Ethics Commission. Chair Brejcha.

17. New Business.

None.

18. Adjournment. Chair Brejcha.

Motion: Commissioner Engle moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Commissioner Johnson.

Roll call vote: Meek – yes, Fields, Brejcha - yes.

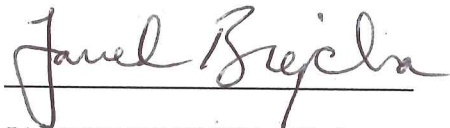
Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 1:12 p.m.



LEE ANNE BRUCE BOONE, Executive Director

Approved on behalf of the Commission:



JARRED BREJCHA, Chair