

Mt. Juliet, Tennessee

*2425 North Mt. Juliet Rd
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

3:00 PM

City Hall

City of Mt. Juliet Ethics Commission

1. Call to Order & Declare a Quorum Present

Mr. Bill Farmer, Special Counsel for the Ethics Commission called the Ethics Commission to order at 3:00 pm and declared a quorum present.

Present: Yancy Belcher, Andy Barlow, Georgina Hughes, Leslie Penny,

Mr. Farmer requested that each member introduce themselves and who had appointed them.

2. Election of Chairperson

Mr. Farmer asked for nominations for Chairperson.

Motion made by Georgina Hughes to nominate Yancy Belcher to serve as Chairperson,
2nd by Leslie Penny.

Mr. Farmer asked if there were any other nominations.

Andy Barlow nominated himself.

Mr. Farmer called for a vote on Yancy Belcher as Chairperson:

Yea: Belcher, Hughes, Penny

Mr. Farmer called for a vote on Andy Barlow as Chairperson.

Yea: Barlow

Yancy Belcher was nomintaed as Chairperson.

3. Set Agenda

Chairperson Yancy Belcher made comments and explained the frustrations with the current Ethics Ordinance, Open Meetings, Public Comments, etc.

Discussion was held on public comments.

Motion made by Andy Barlow to add public comments, limit to 3 minutes per speaker and that the comments should only be related to the items on the agenda, 2nd by Leslie Penny.

Discussion was held.

Vote: Yea: Unanimous

Public Comments were made from the following:

Vince King, 24 4th Avenue
Jennifer Milele, 217 Sunny Acre Drive
Karen Sweet 60 E. Caldwell
Darrin Cunningham, Fairview Drive
Steven Hoekendorf, 393 Page Drive
Sam English, 2337 Devonshire Drive:
Holly Long, 2200 Dina Court:

Chairperson Belcher commented on the Ethics Ordinance/Ethics Officer and explained the process. He stated the Ethics Commission would listen to all involved.
Discussion was held.

4. Review and Reconsideration of all actions and decisions taken at all previous Ethics Commission Meetings

Motion made by Andy Barlow to declare the previous meeting and findings of the three compliants Null & Void, 2nd by Georgina Hughes.

Vote Yea: Unanimous

4.A. Chris Sorey Ethics Complaint v City Attorney Gino Marchetti and Responses**0542****Attachments:**

Chairperson Belcher stated they would allow the complaintant to make their statement then the respondent, then the Ethics Commission member will be allowed to ask either person questions, Then a vote will be taken.

Mr. Farmer Swore in Chris Sorey.

Chris Sorey explained his complaint.

Questions were addressed to Mr. Sorey.

Mr. Farmer swore in Mr. Marchetti.

Mr. Marchetti explained his case.

Chris Sorey withdrew his complaint and returned to the podium at 3:58 and stated this meeting rectified his complaint.

Vote Yea: Unanimous to accept Mr. Sorey's withdrawal.

Mr. Marchetti thanked Mr. Sorey.

4.B. Mayor Maness Ethics Complaint v Commissioner Hefner and Responses**0526****Attachments:**

Casey Mallory, Attorney for Scott Hefner commented on documents filed by the Mayor and that his client should receive 30 days in writing to respond

Discussion was held.

Mr. Farmer swore in Mayor Maness.

Discussion was held.

Considering the Motion to Dismiss filed by Commissioner Hefner:

Motion made by Georgina Hughes to consider the Motion to Dismiss filed by Commissioner Hefner , 2nd by Chairperson Belcher.

Vote on motion to dismiss:

Yea: Belcher, Hughes

Nay: Barlow, Penny

Discussion was held.

Motion made by Georgina Hughes to go forward on th Motion to Dismiss, 2nd by Chairperson Belcher.

Vote: Yea: Belcher, Hughes

Nay: Barlow, Penny

Mayor Maness called for a Point of Order.

Discussion was held.

Motion made by Andy Barlow to reconsider, 2nd by Chairperson Belcher.

Vote Yea: Unanimous

Motion made by Andy Barlow to consider the Motion to Dismiss, 2nd by Georgina Hughes.

Vote Yea: Barlow, Belcher, Hughes

Nay: Penny

Discussion was held on the Motion to Dismiss:

Motion made by Chairperson Belcher to dismiss for failure to meet requirements of the ordinance, 2nd by Georgina Hughes.

Vote Yea: Belcher, Hughes

Nay: Barlow, Penny

Discussion was held.

Casey Mallory, Attorney for Scott Hefner recommended an Executive Session and allow him to speak with his client.

Motion made by Georgina Hughes and 2nd by Chairper Belcher to recess until 5:30.

No objections voiced. Recess was held.

The Ethics Commission returned to session at 5:30 pm

Mayor Maness presented his complaint.

Casey Mallory Attorney for Scott Hefner presented Commissioner Hefner's complaint.

Mr. Farmer swore in Commissioner Hefner.

Discussion was held.

Motion to advance the complaint for discussion made by Leslie Penny, 2nd by Andy Barlow.

Vote Yea: Unanimous

Discussion was held.

Motion to dismiss the complaint against Commissioner Hefner made by Chairperson Belcher, 2nd by Georgina Hughes.

Discussion was held.

Vote to Dismiss: Vote Yea: Unanimous

4.C. Commissioner Milele Ethics Complaint v Commissioner Hefner and Responses **0527**

Attachments:

Mr. Farmer swore in Commissioner Milele.

Commissioner Milele presented her complaint.

Discussion was held

Casey Mallory, Attorney for Scott Hefner spoke on behalf of Commissioner Hefner.

Motion to dismiss the complaint made by Georgina Hughes, 2nd by Chairperson Belcher.

Discussion was held.

Vote to Dismiss: Yea: Unanimous

4.D. Commissioner Hefner Ethics Complaint v Mayor Maness and Responses **0528**

Attachments:

Casey Mallory Attorney for Commissioner Hefner stated that Commissioner Hefner was volunteering to dismiss his complaint.

Motion made by Georgina Hughes to consider the withdrawal of the complaint, 2nd by Andy Barlow.

Vote to approve the withdrawal of the complaint: Yea: Unanimous

- 4.E.** Commissioner Hefner Ethics Complaint v Commissioner Milele and Responses **0553**

Attachments:

Motion made by Chairperson Belcher to dismiss the complaint against Commissioner Milele, 2nd by Andy Barlow.

Vote to dismiss the complaint: Yea: Unanimous

- 4.F.** Vice Mayor Trivett Ethics Complaint v Commissioner Justice and Responses **0529**

Attachments:

Mr. Farmer swore in Vice Mayor Bill Trivett.

Vice Mayor Bill Trivett presented his complaint.

With no objections a break was taken and everyone was asked to return at 7:20 pm. The Ethics Commission reconvened at 7:20 pm

Mr. Farmer swore in Commissioner Ray Justice.

Commissioner Justice presented his complaint.

Vice Mayor Bill Trivett stated he was willing to drop his complaint.
Commissioner Justice stated he was willing to drop his complaint.

Motion made by Georgina Hughes to drop both complaints, 2nd by Andy Barlow.
Vote to drop both complaints: Yea: Unanimous

- 4.G.** Commissioner Justice Ethics Complaint v Vice Mayor Trivett and Responses **0530**

Attachments:

This complaint was dropped under item 4.G.

4.H. Mr. Bill Farmer Ethics Commission Report**0548****Attachments:**

Bill Farmer explained the Ethics Commission Report from the prior Ethics Commission. And stated they were trying to save embarrassment to all concerned. Chairperson Belcher asked for clarity with a new Ethics Ordinance. Chairperson Belcher asked if the Ethics Commission would like to work on recommendations for the new ordinance. All members responded yes.

5. Adjournment

Motion made by Andy Barlow to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., 2nd by Chairperson Belcher.

Chairperson Yancy Belcher

City Recorder Sheila S. Lockett, MMC