



## Municipal Officials Ethics Commission

Minutes

January 19, 2022

6:00 PM

City Hall Board Room

### 1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Roll was called by Bonnie Buckmaster, Public Works Assistant. A quorum of the Commission was present.

#### Members in Attendance

Bryan Dehner, Chair

Gil Scott

Jerry Felker

Abby LacKamp

Michael Pearl

Bonnie Buckmaster, Public Works Assistant, was present on behalf of the City, Joe Vanover, Attorney, was present on behalf of the Ethics Commission.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes from Previous Meetings

**JERRY FELKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 5, 2022 MEETING; ABBY LACKAMP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

**GIL SCOTT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 13, 2022 MEETING; ABBY LACKAMP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

### 4. Consideration of Complaints

#### **A. Review of Complaint and Responses**

The Commissioners reviewed the potential courses of action and summary of the complaint.

## **B. Decisions on Investigation to Undertake for Each Complaint**

1. Violations of campaign finance laws in 2019 – No further investigation needed at this time.
2. Attempts to coerce companies doing business in Parkville
  - a. A commercial lease in 2016 – No further investigation needed at this time.
  - b. A project in 2017 – No further investigation needed at this time.
  - c. The Landmark newspaper in 2019 – No further investigation needed at this time.
3. Instructing or pressuring city officials to violate the Code of Ethics
  - a. Request to keep confidential the actions involving the commercial lease in 2016 – Attorney Joe Vanover will email Mike Kellam and ask if he felt pressured to keep the situation confidential and ask him to explain the normal practice related to elected officials injecting themselves in commercial dealings.
  - b. The 2017 project – No further investigation needed at this time.
  - c. Attempting to get an alderman and others to take action against The Landmark in 2019 – No further investigation needed at this time.
  - d. Instructing city employees to stop delivery of The Landmark to city hall and stop publishing legal notices in it – Attorney Joe Vanover will email Joe Parente and Melissa McChesney and ask what happened (what did the mayor ask and what happened) regarding stopping publishing notices in The Landmark and stopping delivery of The Landmark to city hall.
4. Violations of Sunshine laws in 2018 and 2019
  - a. Misleading a reporter – No further investigation needed at this time.
  - b. Calling records requests harassment – No further investigation needed at this time.
  - c. Obstructing compliance with records productions
    - i. Attorney Joe Vanover will ask the Missouri Municipal League or other entity to present via Zoom on 1-27-22 regarding best practices for responding to Sunshine Law requests.
    - ii. Attorney Joe Vanover will ask Joe Parente and Melissa McChesney attend a Zoom meeting on 1-31-22 (back-up date 2-2-22) to explain what was the normal process, what happened regarding the Maki requests, who stopped the release, how did this happen, where was the breakdown, why did the city have to pay so much?
    - iii. Attorney Joe Vanover will ask Chris Williams, the mayor, Dave Rittman, and Marc Sportsman attend an in-person meeting on 2-10-22 to explain what happened regarding the Maki requests, etc. I will prepare questions to ask them, share the draft questions with the Ethics Commission beforehand, and lead the questioning during the meeting.
5. Driving while intoxicated in 2020 – Attorney Joe Vanover will email the chief of police and ask, from his perspective, was the mayor trying to use him to get out of it, was a line crossed? If needed, he will ask the chief to attend a meeting to

provide further answers. The video is available online for the Ethics Commission members to watch. If a member asks, Attorney Joe Vanover will try to get a copy of the video from the sheriff's office.

6. Threatening a citizen in 2020 – No further investigation needed at this time. It is noted that Commissioner Abby Lackamp has recused herself from this item.
7. Concealing her relationship with Creekside's attorney in 2018 – No further investigation needed at this time. It is noted that Commissioner Abby Lackamp has rejoined the discussion.
8. Attempting to be appointed to hospital board of directors in 2018 – No further investigation needed at this time.
9. Destruction of public records in 2019 – Attorney Joe Vanover will ask Joe Parente and the city's IT director what happened regarding records destruction including an email account

## 5. Other Business

Schedule the following meetings:


- January 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – zoom – Best practices for responding to Sunshine Law requests
- January 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. – zoom – with a backup date of February 2, 2022 – Joe Parente, City Administrator and Melissa McChesney, City Clerk to attend to discuss Sunshine request process
- February 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., in person hearing
- End of February to discuss and debate what the recommendations are
- First week of March, final meeting

## 6. Adjourn

**GIL SCOTT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:23 P.M., ABBY LACKAMP  
SECONDED; MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

The minutes for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, having been read and considered by Municipal Officials Ethics Commission, were approved on this the 31st Day of January, 2022.

  
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Bonnie Buckmaster, Public Works Assistant

  
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Approval date