

Regular Meeting | Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 10:00 AM
Minutes of Commission Meeting

Location: Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Room 606, 18 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Hillary Stringfellow, Chair
R. Lawton Jordan III, Vice-Chair
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member
Mary Paige Adams, Commission Member
Administrative Assistant

Commission Members via Phone:

Heath Garrett, Commission Member

Office

Commission Staff:

Stefan Ritter, Executive Secretary
Robert Lane, Staff Attorney
Bethany Whetzel, Staff Attorney
Nancy Sandberg, Legal

DeAngelo Hall, Videographer
Maria Bazile, IT

Office of the Attorney General:

Christian Fuller, Attorney General's

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

OPENING COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR:

Chair Stringfellow opened the meeting and welcomed the public and identified all board members present as Vice Chair Jordan, Commissioner Cathey. Commissioner Adams was running late and arrived at 10:24 am and Commissioner Garrett would be available via telephone between 10:30 and 10:45 am.

Chair Stringfellow stated that there would be the following revision to the Agenda:

- ◆ Item number 8: Advisory Opinion 2015-03 will be deferred until the next meeting.
- ◆ Item number 9: Rule 189-3-.01 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports will be deferred until the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes of the December 15 and 16, 2015 Commission Meeting were motioned and approved as prepared with no corrections or revisions.

Motioned by: Commissioner Cathey

Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan

Carried: 3 to 0

LATE FEE HARDSHIP WAIVERS:

Staff Attorney Bethany Whetzel gave a review of the Criteria for Late Fee Hardship Waivers. The following Late Fee Hardship Waiver Appeals were heard, motioned and approved.

In the Matter of John Keys:

It was motioned and approved to waive the late fees and refund in total the reduced \$275 late fee fine that had been previously paid

Motioned by: Commissioner Cathey

Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan

Carried: 3 to 0

In the Matter of Eric John:

It was motioned to waive his fee.

Motioned by: Commissioner Cathey

Seconded by: No second

Commissioner Cathey withdrew his motion.

It was then motioned and approved to assess a \$25 nominal late fee fine.

Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan

Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey

Carried: 3 to 0

In the Matter of James Touchton:

It was motioned and approved to reduce the late fee fine in half to \$400.

Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan

Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey

Carried: 3 to 0

In the Matter of Johnny Crist:

It was motioned and approved to reduce the late fee fine to \$175.

Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan

Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey

Carried: 4 to 0

In the Matter of Joe Cook:

It was motioned and approved to reduce the late fee fine to \$200.

Motioned by: Commissioner Adams

Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey

Carried: 4 to 0

PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS:

The following cases were motioned and approved as follows:

- 2012-0010PC: In the Matter of Irby Allen Meadors (BW): to find reasonable grounds to believe (probable cause) that violations have occurred. Also noted that he has the opportunity to enter into a Consent Order.
Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan
Carried: 3 to 1 (Commissioner Cathey)
- 2013-0049: In the Matter of Daniel Scott Chastain (BW): to find reasonable grounds to believe (probable cause) that violations have occurred.
Motioned by: Commissioner Cathey
Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan
Carried: 4 to 0
- 2015-0056PC In the Matter of James Marcus “Mark” Cantrell (RL): to find reasonable grounds to believe (probable cause) that violations have occurred.
Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan
Seconded by: Commissioner Adams
Carried: 4 to 0

CONSENT ORDERS:

Chair Stringfellow stated that they were moving out of order of the Agenda to hear the following Consent Order since Commissioner Garrett would be available via telephone during this time. Commissioners Cathey and Adams have recused themselves from this case. Commissioner Garret entered the meeting via telephone at 10:39 am and exited the meeting at 10:45 am.

- 2015-0040: In the Matter of Robert James (BW):
Motioned and approved the Consent Order as presented
Motioned by: Commissioner Jordan
Seconded by: Commissioner Garrett
Carried: 3 to 0 unanimous

The following Consent Orders were heard after the Probable Cause Hearings and were motioned and approved as presented:

- 2015-0029: In the Matter of Jeffrey Brown (BW):
Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
Seconded by: Commissioner Cathey
Carried: 4 to 0

- 2015-0053PC: In the Matter of Nicholas D. Chester (RL):
Motioned by: Commissioner Adams
Seconded by: Commissioner Jordan
Carried: 4 to 0

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Executive Secretary, Stefan Ritter gave the following presentations:

- Summary of the Administrative Dismissals for the following:
 - ◆ 2014-0061(b): In the Matter of Scott Stambaugh (RL)
 - ◆ 2014-0061(c): In the Matter of Stambaugh Aviation (RL)
 - ◆ 2014-0061(d): In the Matter of Aviation & sales Maintenance. Inc. (RL)
 - ◆ 2014-0061(e): In the Matter of EJC Investments LLC (RL)
 - ◆ 2014-0061(f): In the Matter of Mary C. Hunt (RL)
 - ◆ 2014-0066: In the Matter of Lorenzo McCall (BW)
 - ◆ 2015-0060: In the Matter of Micah Gravley (BW)
- Current Case Count and Backlog:
 The case count was reduced by 20 cases, but 18 new cases have come in. Some of the collection cases at the Attorney General's financial office are moving
- Development of Policies:
 Policies have been put in place for confidentiality and procedures of dealing with the media and press.
- Legislative Update:
 Amnesty bill HR370 which gives local fliers until the end of 2016 to catch up with filings has given an opportunity for the drafting of a new Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report (CCDR) for consolidated filings to catch up.
- Office Space Update:
 Phase one of the office renovations is complete.
- Employee Update:
 Auditor Natalie Harper has left the agency to accept a position with Norfolk southern. One new auditor has been hired. Positions to still be hired for are a paralegal, two data entry and additional audit staff.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS:

Christian Fuller of the Attorney General's Office stated that the Advisory Opinion that the Commission has requested is still in the process of being drafted. He gave an update on the cases in their office for collection.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR:

Chair Stringfellow notified the Commission that this will be her last commission meeting and that her resignation will be effective upon the appointment of her successor.

It was then motioned and approved for the new Chair to be R. Lawton Jordan, III and the new Vice-Chair to be Mary Paige Adams.

Motioned by: Commissioner Cathey

Seconded by: Chair Stringfellow

Carried: 4 to 0

It was further motioned by Commissioner Cathey for a Resolution for Commissioner Hillary Stringfellow in her selfless dedication during the challenges and crises of the Commission and in restoring protocol to the Commission. Chair Jordan seconded Commissioner Cathey's comments and commented on the amazing work she has accomplished during her appointment and commended her for stepping up to her role as Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting was motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 am.

Motioned by: Chair Jordan

Seconded by: Vice-Chair Adams

Carried: 4 to 0

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the March 24, 2016 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on June 23, 2016.



R. Lawton Jordan III, Chair



Date