



TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Executive Session Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Capitol Extension, Room E1.014
Austin, Texas 78701



COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chad M. Craycraft, Chair; Mary K. “Katie” Kennedy, Vice Chair; Randall H. Erben, Chris Flood, Patrick W. Mizell, Richard S. Schmidt, Joseph O. Slovacek and Steven D. Wolens

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Anne Temple Peters, Executive Director

MINUTES

These minutes are a summary record of the Commission’s actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the audio recordings on file at the Commission’s office.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order/Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Craycraft. Anne Temple Peters, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Mizell, who arrived at 1:15pm.

Agenda Item 2: Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion of pending litigation to seek legal advice relating to the following:

- A. Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 250th Judicial District Court in Travis County, Texas; Cause No.03-17-00392-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas; and Cause No. 18-0580: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Supreme Court of Texas.**
- B. Cause No. D-1-GN-14-001252: *Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. State of Texas Ethics Commission; Natalia Luna Ashley, in her capacity as Executive***

Director of the Texas Ethics Commission; Tom Ramsay, individually and in his capacity as Commissioner; et al.; in the 53rd Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-17-00770-CV: Empower Texans, Inc., and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Tom Ramsay in his individual capacity, et al.; in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.

C. Cause No. D-1-GN-15-004455: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan, in the 345th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-16-00872-CV: Empower Texans, Inc., and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.*

Agenda Item 4: Discussion of personnel matters, including matters specifically related to applicants for, and possible appointment to the position of, General Counsel.

Agenda Item 5: Reconvene in open session for the appointment of, General Counsel by vote on Item 4.

The Commission reconvened in open session at 1:36 p.m. Motion by Commissioner Flood to appoint JR Johnson as General Counsel of the Commission, at the salary listed in the General Appropriations Act for the 2020 – 2021 biennium, effective on March 16, 2020; second by Commissioner Schmidt. **Motion passed by a vote of eight ayes.**

Agenda Item 6: Adjourn.

Motion by Chair Craycraft to adjourn. **Commission meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.