

**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE**

KIRBY OBERDORFER  
*Chair*



BRAXTON GILLAM  
*Vice-Chair*

**ETHICS COMMISSION**

GENE FILBERT  
L. E. HUTTON  
HELEN LUDWIG  
PATRICK PLUMLEE

SCOTT SHINE  
MARY SWART  
RHONDA PEOPLES-  
WATERS

**MINUTES**

January 25, 2010  
5:00 p.m.  
Don Davis Room,  
1st Floor, City Hall - 117 W. Duval Street

Attendance: Chair; Kirby Oberdorfer, Vice Chair; Braxton Gillam, Gene Filbert, L.E. Hutton, Helen Ludwig, Rhonda Peoples-Waters, Pat Plumlee, and Mary Swart

Also in attendance: Carla Miller, Ethics Officer; Jon Phillips, Office of General Counsel; and Susan Stewart, Ethics Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present.

The Chair presented the Annual Ethics Awards to Clay Yarborough and Marvin Edwards. Gene Filbert was presented a certificate of appreciation for serving as Chair and Patt Sher received a certificate for her service on the Ethics Commission. Mr. Edwards and Patt Sher made a few brief remarks.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2009 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Rhonda People-Waters provided samples of proposed ethics pledge for review to be discussed at a later meeting.

The Chair announced the Charter Revision Commission will be meeting Thursday, January 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Carla provided the ethics thought.

Carla also provided clarification regarding the Times Union article titled "Webb No Show, Doesn't Upset Ethics Panel." The October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the issue as reported in the papers was discussed. There was a request for CM Webb to come to the next Ethics Commission Meeting. Soon after, CM Webb resigned from the oversight

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committee and he resigned from his representation of that particular client that was at issue. After that, the subcommittee of this group met to talk about procedures and moving forward unless we are sure about what procedures are. After that meeting She and the Chair spoke and it was determined that Jack Webb would not be on the agenda because of the subcommittee was in the process of working on the procedures. She called CM Webb and told him he was not on the agenda because the EC was still working on procedures. When she returned and read the article it sounded as if the EC asked him to come and he didn't come and that needed to be corrected.

Gene Filbert, past Chair, also had a conversation with Mr. Webb, and it was indicated he was not on the agenda.

The Chair announced the following subcommittee would be: Hotline Subcommittee, Legislative, Procurement and Contract Subcommittee is now the Transparency and Open Government subcommittee and the Internal Operating Procedures/Bylaws subcommittee.

Carla provided copies of Chapter 602 with comments in red, for the members review. She and Jon will work together to complete and is happy to receive input from members. She also circulated a book containing the original notes and minutes from the when the ethics board was in the charter.

Subcommittee Reports:

Hotline Subcommittee, did not have a report

The Legislative Subcommittee offered a motion to recommend changes to City Council to amend Chapters 50 and 602 of the Ordinance Code. That it be conformed to already existing state law that permits local ethics commissions to engage in preliminary investigations in the shade, in order to make a determination if there should be an investigation to make it perfectly clear.

A friendly amendment was offered to authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to get the process moving. The amended motion: proposed to City Council to amend Chapters 50 and 602, of the Ordinance Code to confirm and clarify that when the commission receives complaints in any form, that during the probable cause finding phase, the subcommittees and ethics commission can meet in the shade. The resolution will be handled through Jon preparing legislation, distributed to the commission by email and unless there is objection, a resolution will be signed by the chair. If there is an objection, it will come before the ethics commission for discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Procurement and contract subcommittee did not have a report.

Internal Operating Procedures/Bylaws subcommittee, Carla sent via email a draft of the internal operating procedures.

The ethics award correspondence was deferred to the next meeting.

The Chair recognized Joe Andrews from the TRUE Commission for a few brief

comments. Questions and answers followed.

The date and time of the next meeting was announced. It is Monday, February 22 at 3:00 p.m. Alternate locations of meetings were discussed.

The Chair recognized the newest member of the commission, L. E. Hutton.

Public comments followed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.