

Minutes
Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity
Board of Directors November Special Called Meeting
JCCEO Headquarters
Monday, November 1, 2021
11:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bruce E. Grant, Vice President
Mr. Kamonte Kelly
Pastor T. L. Lewis
Mr. Donald T. Lupo, Jr
Ms. Sherry McClain
Mayor Gary R. Richardson, Sr., President
Mrs. Kelli Solomon
Mr. Charles Tyler
Mrs. Alice R. Williams, Secretary
Mrs. Chastiti Shepherd
Ms. Willine Body (Phone)
Ms. Jasmine Fells

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. James Ernest
Mr. Toraine Norris
Mrs. Debra W. Smith
Mr. Barakas Taylor
Mrs. Latrice Little-Jackson

GUEST: Attorney Tom Scroggins

STAFF: Ms. Sharon Myles, Executive Director
Mrs. Patrice Smith
Mrs. Tonia Price
Mrs. Tiffany Moore

Mayor Gary Richardson, President, called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.

Mrs. Patrice Smith called the roll and there was a quorum.

Pastor T. L. Lewis gave the invocation and greetings. Everyone recited The Promise of Community Action.

Chair tended a motion to approve the agenda. On a motion duly made by Mr. Charles Tyler, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Chair tended a motion to approve the minutes from the October Special Called Meeting on October 14, 2021. On a motion duly made by Pastor T. L. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Don Lupo, Jr., the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the October Special Called Meeting on October 14, 2021.

Mr. Charles Tyler presented the recommendation for the Personnel Committee's candidate for Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Danny McCullars, CPA. Pastor T. L. Lewis raised concerns regarding the process for selecting/hiring the CFO. He was assured that the process was done in the correct manner and the Board decided to move forward with the vote.

Chair tended a motion to hire Mr. Danny McCullars, CPA as the new agency CFO. On a motion duly made by Mr. Charles Tyler, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to hire Mr. Danny McCullars, CPA as the new agency CFO.

The next item on the agenda for discussion was the review of Contract for Services with JCCEO for the following individuals as Independent Contractors:

1. Pastor Lawrence Jackson
2. Mr. Thompson Nsuk
3. Mr. Keenan Nsuk
4. M. Derrick Bryant
5. Ms. Michelle Ortiz
6. Anne Massa, Interim CFO (Mississippi Early)

Ms. Brenda Singgellos, Chief HR Officer raised concerns when it was brought to her attention that these contractors were entered into ADP, not required to use the time and attendance system and employment taxes were not being withheld from their compensation. Upon an investigation by agency Attorney Tom Scroggins and Ms. Singgellos speaking with some other employees, the conclusion is that these contracts were entered into under false pretenses to avoid having to go through the normal hiring processes which includes background check, fingerprint submission and drug tests. The Board recommended that these contracts be terminated (except for Mississippi Early) giving them 30 days' notice and for all JCCEO property be returned to HQ.

Chair tended a motion to terminate the following contracts giving 30 days' notice of:

- 1. Pastor Lawrence Jackson**
- 2. Mr. Thompson Nsuk**
- 3. Mr. Keenan Nsuk**
- 4. Mr. Derrick Bryant**
- 5. Ms. Michelle Ortiz**

On a motion duly made by Mr. Don Lupo, Jr., seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to terminate the contracts giving 30 days' notice.

The job performance of the Executive Director, Ms. Sharon Myles was the next item to be discussed on the agenda. There have been several reports of misuse of agency funds, misuse of credit cards, her power/position as Executive Director and rumors of an intimate relationship between contracted Facilities Manager, Thompson Nsuk and Ms. Sharon Myles. The Board offered to give Ms. Myles a chance to respond to the allegations that were being made against her. Ms. Myles stated that the contracted workers were hired with funds from the American Rescue Act temporarily which is why they are not permanent employees of the agency. She also went on to inform the Board that Mr. Nsuk is a long-time family friend who she let use her address to receive mail from time to time.

Mayor Gary Richardson then proceeded to make a motion to terminate Ms. Sharon Myles from her position as Executive Director immediately. There were ballots distributed to the Board on whether to let Ms. Myles continue in her position as Executive Director or terminate her pending the outcome of the vote.

Chair tended a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. On a motion duly made by Mr. Charles Tyler, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session.

Chair tended a motion to end Executive Session at 12:55. On a motion duly made by Mr. Charles Tyler, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to end Executive Session.

Upon resuming the Board Meeting, Chair tended a motion to terminate the employment of Ms. Sharon Myles as Executive Director of JCCEO. On a motion duly made by Mr. Charles Tyler, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to terminate the employment of Ms. Sharon Myles as Executive Director of JCCEO.

Mayor Gary Richardson counted the ballots regarding the termination of Ms. Sharon Myles. There 9 yes votes, 2 no votes and 1 abstention. Ms. Myles was then informed of her termination and given one hour to pack her personal property and leave the premises.

Chair tended a motion to name Ms. Brenda Singgellos as Interim Executive Director. On a motion duly made by Mrs. Kelli Solomon, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to name Ms. Brenda Singgellos as Interim Executive Director.

A statement to be presented to the media outlets regarding the termination was then prepared by Board member, Chastiti Shepherd and IT Media Specialist, Gary Miller.

Chair tended a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion duly made by Mr. Charles Tyler, seconded by Mr. Kamonte Kelly, the motion was carried, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Signature Sheet
Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
for Monday, November 1, 2021

Attestation of the JCCEO Board of Directors' Approval of its November 1, 2021
Board Meeting minutes.

Mayor Gary Richardson

Date

Patrice Smith, Recorder

Date