

**MINUTES OF MEETING
WAYNE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 – 11:00 A.M.
COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
2 WOODWARD AVENUE, ROOM 211
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226**

****Meeting held in person & via Zoom Video Conferencing****

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.

Members present: Honorable Freddie G. Burton, Jr., Chief Judge, Probate Court
Honorable Eric Sabree – Wayne County Treasurer
Honorable Cathy M. Garrett, Secretary – Wayne County Clerk

Members absent: None

Also present: Rebecca Camargo, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Gregory Mahar, Director, Wayne County Elections
En’Joli Conley, Administrative Assistant, Wayne County Elections
Edward McRae, Administrative Assistant, Wayne County Elections
Sao Hang Charley Johnson
Martin Droulliard Edward Plato

Agenda item: Consideration of Agenda approval

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Garrett, duly supported by Member Sabree, moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2024

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2024. Member Sabree, duly supported by Chair Burton, moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2024. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: Determination of Clarity – Charley Johnson, City Council, City of Taylor

Chair Burton asked Corporation Counsel Rebecca A. Camargo to remind the commission of its role in making a determination of clarity. Corporation Counsel Camargo reminded the commission of its role and duties for a determination of clarity. Ms. Camargo summarized

the section of Michigan Election law regarding the role of the Election Commission and the basis for a determination of clarity.

Chair Burton requested a motion for determination of clarity on item 5A-1.

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-1 for Charley Johnson:

“On January 8, 2024. Councilman Charley Johnson was arrested for allegedly soliciting a prostitute.”

Chair Burton asked if the petitioner had any additional information he wished to offer the Commission. Mr. Martin Drouillard stated that the petition complied with the section of election law related to recall petitions.

Attorney Edward Plato, counsel for Charley Johnson, stated that the petitions were not factual and are defamatory in nature. He requested that the petitions be rejected by the Commission.

Board action on agenda item: No motion was offered, item died for lack of a motion.

Agenda item: Determination of Clarity – Charley Johnson, City Council, City of Taylor

Chair Burton requested a motion for determination of clarity on item 5A-2.

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-2 for Charley Johnson:

“City Councilman Charley Johnson was named in former Mayor Rick Sollars’ federal criminal indictment as an unindicted co-conspirator for allegedly taking monetary bribes from a city contractor.”

Board action on agenda item: Member Sabree, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to approve item 5A-2. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: Determination of Clarity – Charley Johnson, City Council, City of Taylor

Chair Burton requested a motion for determination of clarity on item 5A-3.

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-3 for Charley Johnson:

“The City of Taylor was sued in federal court as a result of city councilman Charley Johnson’s defamatory remarks he made publicly about Shane Anders, owner of Area Towing.”

Board action on agenda item: No motion was offered, item died for lack of a motion.

Agenda item: **Determination of Clarity – Charley Johnson, City Council, City of Taylor**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion for determination of clarity on item 5A-4.

Reason for recall as printed on the Recall Petition 5A-4 for Charley Johnson:

“At the February 6, 2024 meeting of the Taylor City Council, Councilman Charley Johnson introduced a resolution requiring the City of Taylor to solicit bids for towing services for the City of Taylor.”

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to approve item 5A-4. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: **New Business.** None

Agenda item: **Public Comment.** Ruben James Crowley, Jr. made a comment regarding the Detroit City Clerk and the absentee ballot process.

Agenda item: **Adjournment.** Chair Burton requested a motion to adjourn. Member Sabree, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.