

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the
Alexandria Civil Service Commission
September 27, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Connie Baker at 4:39 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance were Commissioners: Ms. Connie Baker, Ms. Terri Blaisdell, Mr. Michael Brewer, Mr. Donald Collins, and Mr. Charles Harvey. A quorum was present. Staff members present were: Ms. Leisa Lawson, Director of Civil Service (recused); Ms. Mildred Price, Assistant Director of Civil Service; Ms. Candice Saucier, Compensation Analyst; Ms. Toria Banks, Examination Analyst, and Ms. LaKisha Dotson Valentine, Personnel Technician. Also present were: Ms. Monza Williams, Director of Human Resources, Mr. Stacy Auzenne, Conflict Counsel for the Commission; and Ms. Deirdre Fuller, Counsel for the Commission.

Ms. Baker read a statement regarding rights of the public to comment on matters on the agenda prior to action being taken on them, as required by the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Ms. Baker presented the **minutes of regular meeting held September 21, 2022** for approval. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Ms. Blaisdell. On vote, the motion carried.

Ms. Baker addressed agenda item **to hear pre-trial motions in the Appeals of Candice Saucier (Docket No. 2021-03 consolidated with Docket No. 2022-02)**. Present were Allison Jones, counsel for Candice Saucier, and Joshua Dara, counsel for the Appointing Authority. Julia Coleman was present as court reporter. Ms. Baker asked whether witnesses would be allowed to remain in the room during argument on the motions. Mr. Auzenne responded that he understood that the motions were non-testimony and would be argued only by the attorneys. Ms. Jones and Mr. Dara confirmed that they did not intend to call any witnesses.

Mr. Auzenne advised the Commission that he recommended taking the Appointing Authority's Motion to Consider Appointing an Independent Special Referee first. Counsel agreed to take the Motion to Consider Appointing an Independent Special Referee first. Counsel for the Appointing Authority argued in support of the motion. Counsel for Ms. Saucier argued in opposition to the motion. Counsel for the Appointing Authority responded to the opposition.

Ms. Baker requested a **Motion to Recess for Executive Session**. Mr. Brewer asked Mr. Auzenne whether it was appropriate for Ms. Fuller to be present during executive session. Mr. Auzenne stated that he understood that he was present as conflict counsel because Ms. Fuller is counsel for the Commission through special appointment by the City Attorney's office. Ms. Fuller clarified that she is chosen by the Commission, not through appointment by the City Attorney. Ms. Baker stated that in the past, when the Commission went into executive session with conflict counsel, the Commission's regular counsel was not present. Counsel for Ms. Saucier and counsel for the Appointing Authority made a joint objection to Ms. Fuller being present during executive session.

Mr. Brewer moved to recess to executive session; Mr. Collins seconded. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. The Commission and Mr. Auzenne recessed to executive session.

On roll call, the Commission voted unanimously to exit executive session.

Ms. Baker stated the executive session was to determine the appointment of a special referee to determine the merits of the appeal. On roll call vote, the Commission voted unanimously to appoint a special referee.

Mr. Auzenne discussed the Commission's decision to appoint a special referee. He stated that under the Louisiana Constitution, the parties would be able to appeal the decision of the special referee to the Commission within 15 days of the decisions.

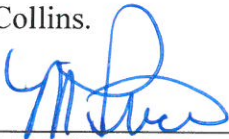
Ms. Baker stated the remaining motions would be heard by the special referee.

Ms. Jones asked what procedure and timeline would be in place to select the special referee. Mr. Auzenne discussed the procedure, timeline, and desire for the special referee to hear the appeals on October 10, 2022.

Mr. Dara stated the Appointing Authority's expert witnesses were not available on October 10, 2022. He suggested the first appeal could be heard on October 10, 2022.

Mr. Brewer stated scheduling and witness availability were issues for the special referee. He stated his appreciation was the Commission was out of the appeals until such time as a decision of the special referee is appealed to the Commission.

The Commission adjourned at 6:30 p.m. following a motion by Ms. Blaisdell and second by Mr. Collins.



Ms. Mildred Price
Assistant Director of Civil Service



Ms. Connie Baker
Chairman