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Toni Drake, Esq.
Vice Chair

Robert Scaggs

Karen Lubieniecki

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Gail Heath,
Alternate



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Christian L. Pulley, CPM
City Administrator
Executive Officer

Dennis Whitley, III, Esq
Counsel to the Commission

Laura Christoplos
Administrative Assistant II

CITY OF LAUREL ETHICS COMMISSION

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**Laurel Ethics Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Virtual Meeting by Zoom**

The Ethics Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Chairman James Hester. Roll was called with the entire Commission present. Chairman James Hester, Vice Chair Toni Drake, Commissioners Karen Lubieniecki, Lynne Sport, and Robert Scaggs, and Alternate Gail Heath were present. Also present were City Administrator Christian Pulley, Counsel to the Ethics Commission Dennis Whitley III, Administrative Assistant Laura Christoplos, City Councilman Jeffrey Milles, and City Councilman James Kole.

The Agenda was approved as written by unanimous voice vote.

The minutes were approved by voice vote, after confirming that Commissioner Lubieniecki had written the memo mentioned in the minutes.

Chair Hester read the statement to close the session. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by unanimous roll call vote to close the session at 6:38 pm. The Commissioners, Legal Counsel and staff moved into a closed, virtual breakout room for the closed session.

The Commission came back into the main virtual meeting for the open session at 7:42 pm. Chair Hester had technical problems with his audio, which created a delay. He called in to the meeting on his phone and continued to lead the meeting at 7:52 pm

Chair Hester explained the two items under discussion. The first item was Council President Clark's request to reconsider the previous Advisory Opinion since she was paying for the dues out of her own pocket. This left the primary reason for the original opinion, which was still valid.

Vice Chair Drake asked that the specific article, which prohibits an official from being on the board of an organization, be quoted as part of the response. Commissioner Lubieniecki volunteered to draft a response with the Commission's findings.

Counsel Whitley assisted Commissioner Lubieniecki in crafting a motion to respond to the Council President, reaffirming the Commission's previous decision and clarifying other portions of the letter that justify the Commission's decision. Vice Chair Drake seconded the motion which was then passed by unanimous voice vote.

For the second item, Chair Hester described the situation surrounding Councilman Mills claim. Once again, Counsel Whitley assisted Commissioner Lubieniecki in formulating a motion to say that the complaint as outlined in Councilman Mills' letter does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission. The prohibited conduct and interest from the Ordinance would be listed in the response. Commissioner Lubieniecki added that the Commission's jurisdiction only relates to individuals under the jurisdiction of the Ordinance, and not members of the outside public. Vice Chair Drake seconded the motion which was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Hester stated that the recommendation is not to hold on to either of the letters received in this matter, and to return them to the Councilmembers since these are not things that we wish to be made public.

The General Public Hearing was opened and closed at 8:01 pm, with no one wishing to speak.

On a motion made by Commissioner Lubieniecki and seconded by Commissioner Scaggs the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.