



Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Senate Room A, Pocahontas Building

Council members present:

Senator Jennifer L. McClellan
Delegate M. Keith Hodges
Delegate Vivian E. Watts
John C. Blair
Tracy Retchin
The Honorable Wilford Taylor, Jr.
The Honorable Bruce D. White

Council members absent:

Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Sharon E. Pandak

Staff members present:

Stewart Petoe, Executive Director
Elizabeth Sundberg, Filing Coordinator
Valerie Mizzell, Assistant Filing Coordinator

Staff members absent:

Rebekah Stefanski, Attorney

Summary:

- I. The meeting began at 1:15 p.m. Judge Taylor opened by requesting Mr. Petoe to announce the COVID-19 protocol for the meeting. Mr. Petoe announced that the current policy states that if you are fully immunized, it is not necessary to wear a mask; however, it is recommended. Judge Taylor then formally called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. The following new members of the Council introduced themselves: Mr. Blair, Ms. Retchin, and Judge White. Judge Taylor recognized the current Council members present at the meeting. The election of a vice-chair for the Council was the first order of business. Judge Taylor presented Judge White as a possible candidate. Ms. Retchin made a motion to accept Judge White as the new vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Delegate Hodges and unanimously approved by the Council.

- II. Judge White made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 18, 2020, Council meeting. This motion was seconded by Senator McClellan and unanimously approved by the Council.
- III. Mr. Petoe presented "Formal Advisory Opinion – 2021-F-001: Personal Interest in a Transaction Exists When Officer of State Agency Provides Volunteer Services to an Organization." After discussion, Judge White made a motion to approve the formal advisory opinion as drafted. Ms. Retchin seconded the motion. The Council voted to approve the formal advisory opinion; Senator McClellan abstained from voting.
- IV. Mr. Petoe presented for consideration the policy of whether officers and employees who file a Statement of Economic Interest should be required to disclose in Schedule C whether they own any cryptocurrencies. After deliberation, Mr. Blair made a motion to amend Schedule C to require the disclosure of ownership of cryptocurrencies. After further discussion, Mr. Blair withdrew his motion. No further motions were made.
- V. Mr. Petoe presented proposed legislation to require notification to local clerks if a person is compensated for attempting to influence certain local government actions. Senator Jeremy S. McPike and Ms. Phyllis Errico from the Virginia Municipal League addressed the Council regarding the proposed legislation. After discussion, the Council recommended that the proposed legislation include exemptions for contractors and their employees if they are performing services for a local government and that all the existing exemptions to the requirement that a person register as a lobbyist apply to the proposed legislation. Senator McClellan made a motion to recommend that this proposed legislation be adopted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Retchin. After no further discussion, the Council recommended the proposed legislation with the Council's changes; Delegate Hodges abstained from voting.
- VI. Ms. Sundberg presented information on the Council's filing operations. No discussion nor approval was required.
- VII. Mr. Petoe presented the draft of the Council's 2021 Annual Report. Senator McClellan made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Delegate Hodges and was unanimously approved by the Council.
- VIII. Judge Taylor asked for public comment. No public comment was given.
- IX. Judge Taylor adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.