

Final Action: MEC No. 18-0096-I, Jan Fisk

Date: January 7, 2021

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of this complaint at its January 6, 2021 meeting. Ms. Fisk is on the Springfield City Council.

The complaint filed with the Commission included three allegations: (1) a violation of the conflict of interest statutes; (2) a violation of the statutory requirements for disclosing financial interests; and, (3) a violation of Springfield's City Charter and another local ordinance.

Based upon the investigation report, the Commission found there was no statutory conflict of interest violation. The Commission did however find probable cause with respect to the remaining two allegations and referred those matters to the City of Springfield pursuant to the provisions of Section 105.961.3, RSMo, which provides:

If the commission determines by a vote of at least four members of the commission, that probable cause exists that a violation has occurred, the commission may refer its findings and conclusions to the appropriate disciplinary authority over the person who is subject of the report[.]

The City of Springfield recently reached a settlement agreement with Ms. Fisk, wherein she agreed to amend her personal financial disclosures and J. Howard Fisk Limousines, Inc. agreed to disgorge itself of any income resulting from the transactions leading to the alleged violations. A copy of Springfield's Resolution attesting to this settlement is attached.

From the facts presented, the Commission voted to close this case.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler Executive Director

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	COUNCIL BILL	2020 - 251	RESOLUTION	N <u>10533</u>	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
			A RESOLUTION		
	REPEALING -	Resolution 10478 as to the conduct of Councilmember Jan Fisk referred to Hearing Examiner Kenneth Thompson pursuant to Section 2-60(o)(1) of the Code of the City of Springfield.			
	WHEREAS, in accord with the provision of Section 2-60(o) of the Code of the City of Springfield on October 7, 2019, this City Council adopted Resolution 10478 appointing Kenneth Thompson as Hearing Examiner to investigate possible violations of the City Code and the City Charter by Councilmember Jan Fisk; and				
	WHEREAS, since that time the hearing process has gone forward and extensive evidentiary discovery and analysis has taken place, pre-hearing motions have been filed, and a fuller understanding of the facts and circumstances involved is now possible; and				
	WHEREAS, Councilmember Fisk, to her credit, has voluntarily filed amended Personal Financial Disclosure forms; and				
	WHEREAS, J. Howard Fisk Limousines, Inc., has voluntarily paid to the City funds associated with the transactions at issue; and				
	WHEREAS, the requisite number of Councilmembers have now signed a Withdrawal of the Letter of Referral which underlies the process reflected in Resolution 10478; and				
	WHEREAS, City Council therefore wishes to repeal Resolution 10478 and conclude the hearing process without further expense to the City.				
	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, as follows, that :				
	<u>Section 1</u> – Resolution 10478 as previously adopted on October 7, 2019, is hereby repealed as of the effective date hereof.				

Section 2 – City Council believes it is important to underscore that by this action the Council is not endorsing and does not endorse the conduct of any person or party involved. Section 3 – Nor does City Council wish to minimize the toll these circumstances, whether intentional or not, can impose on the public's trust in the City and in City Council. Section 4 – But City Council also must take into account the voluntary steps taken by Councilmember Fisk to remedy these circumstances, and weigh the cost and benefits of prolonging a process that has already gone on for far too long and at appreciable cost both in money and in diverting attention from other critical public concerns. Section 5 – This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage. Passed at meeting: November 16, 2020 Filed as Resolution November 16, 2020 Approved as to form: Special Counsel Approved for Council action: