



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 23-0039-I City of Black Jack

Date: 10/24/2023

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against The City of Black Jack at its October 24, 2023 meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged a violation of 77.450 RSMo, when in May of 2023, “without legal protocol or proper procedure,” they illegally appointed a council member to serve on the board for the City of Black Jack.

Chapter 77.450, RSMo, specifies that “if a vacancy occurs in any elective office other than the office of mayor, a successor to the vacant office shall be selected by appointment by the mayor with the advice and consent of the majority of the remaining members of the council.”

The May 16, 2023, City of Black Jack meeting minutes confirm that the mayor and councilmembers acted in accordance with MO. Rev. Statute 77.450, RSMo, when the newly elected mayor referenced a vacancy in the office of Council Member for Ward 3 and made a nomination for appointment to that vacancy. A motion to approve the appointment was duly made and seconded. Six of the seven members of the Council voted in favor of the appointment and the oath of office was given, and the seat was assumed.

Further, the meeting minutes from June 20, 2023, confirm that the meeting minutes from May 16, 2023, were unanimously approved by the City Council in open session and without rejection. Finally, the mayor and six of the seven members of the City Council provided evidence that they were present at the May 16, 2023, City Council meeting and that the events set forth in the minutes of the meeting took place exactly as stated in the minutes and that every step of this process was fully in accord with the procedures and requirements of Section 77.450, RSMo.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds to support one or more violations of Chapter 77, RSMo, and dismiss.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director