



Merit System Council

**Andrew Johnson Office Building
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Gina Oster, Chairperson
Jim Jennings, Council Member
Jim Wright Jr., Council Member
John Marshall, Alternate Council Member

Paula M. Taylor
Executive Director

**MERIT SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2022, 10:00 A.M., Main Assembly Room,
City/County Building, 400 W Main Street**

Chairperson Oster called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present at this meeting: Gina Oster, Chairperson; Jim Jennings, Council Member; Jim Wright, Jr., Council Member; John Marshall, Alternate Council Member; Myers Morton, Knox County Law Director; Paula Taylor, Executive Director.

Chairperson Oster stated that there were a couple of things that she would like to state on the record, she stated that she had discussed appointing a hearing officer in an executive session with the Council's attorney, Melanie Davis, and that there was no sunshine violation. She also stated that when she referred to "we" in stating that we have decided to appoint a hearing officer for the Dooley hearing at a previous meeting that she was referring to herself and Ms. Davis.

Chairperson Oster stated that Merit Council rule 9.4.2 (b) states that the Council may appoint a hearing officer and that she feels the hearing would run smoother and be fairer to all parties involved if there is a hearing officer.

After lengthy discussion among the Council, Chairperson Oster made a motion to appoint Sharon Bell as the hearing officer for the Dooley hearing; Jim Wright seconded, motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the Council adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Paula M. Taylor
Executive Director

Gina Oster
Chairperson