



Merit System Council

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Gina Oster, Chairperson
Jim Wright Jr., Vice Chairperson
John Marshall, Council Member
Christopher Manning, Alternate Council Member

Paula M. Taylor
Executive Director

**MERIT SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022, 4:00 p.m., City/County Building, Room 575
400 W. Main Street**

Present at this hearing representing the Merit Council: Gina Oster, Chairperson; Jim Wright, Jr., Vice Chairperson; John Marshall, Council Member; Christopher Manning, Alternate Council Member; Chancellor Sharon Bell, Hearing Officer; Attorney Gary Prince, Knox County Sheriff's Office Legal Counsel; Attorney Dan Gass, Knox County Sheriff's Office Legal Counsel; Attorney John Valliant, Legal Counsel for Martha Dooley; Myers Morton, Knox County Law Director; Paula Taylor, Executive Director.

Chancellor Bell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

John Marshall made a motion for the Council to go into executive session; motion passed. Once the meeting reconvened, there was lengthy discussion regarding the "Motion for Reconsideration" before the Council as well as discussion regarding the potential remedies of the decision. After discussion, Attorney Valliant asked for a 10-minute recess.

Chancellor Bell called the meeting back in session.

Attorney Valliant stated that Ms. Dooley would not be pursuing the car, the gas card, or attorney fees. After some discussion, Jim Wright, Jr. made a motion "to dismiss the Petition for Reconsideration"; there was not a second, motion failed.

Chairperson Oster made a motion for the Council to go back into executive session.

Once the meeting resumed, Chancellor Bell asked Attorney Gass in order to resolve the matter today without future hearings what that motion would be. Attorney Gass stated that the motion would need to include that there is no legal authority in the Merit rules or the statute for an award of attorney fees and that part of the award would need to be withdrawn by the Merit Council. John Marshall made a motion to modify the ruling of the Dooley decision to take away the awarding of any attorney fees; Chairperson Oster seconded; motion passed.

Chancellor Bell concluded that this would end the portion of the meeting regarding the Dooley hearing.

Chairperson Oster proceeded with the agenda items and opened the floor for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meetings; Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the minutes incorporating the transcripts from the Dooley hearing; Chairperson Oster seconded; motion passed.

The next meeting was left to the call of the Chair.

Chairperson Oster stated that with Ivan Harmon withdrawing his request for a grievance hearing that the motion filed before the Council regarding Harmon was now moot.

There being no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Paula M. Taylor
Executive Director

Gina Oster
Chairperson