

**Anderson County Legal Services Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2024**

**Members Present:** Terry Frank, Tracy Wandell, Sabra Beauchamp, Josh Anderson, Tim Shelton, Russell Barker, Regina Copeland, Johnny Alley, and Gary Long

**Members Absent:** Rex Lynch and Jeff Cole

**Others Present:** Kim Jeffers-Whitaker, Denise Palmer, Lean Tupper, Robby Holbrook, Nichole Brooks, Shain Vowell, and Annette Prewitt

Terry Frank called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Members and meeting attendees observed a moment of silence in memory of Jay Yeager.

Commissioner Beauchamp made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

Prior to today's meeting, members had received an electronic copy of the meeting agenda, which included a copy of Private Act Chapter No. 77, along with electronic copies of minutes from previous Committee meetings.

Nichole Brooks, Chief Deputy, Anderson County Law Director's Office, provided Committee members with an update about current litigation cases and property maintenance/codes violation cases on file in the office.

**Addressing the Vacancy in the Law Director's Office**

Mayor Frank read to the Committee members a letter from current Anderson County Chancellor Jamie Brooks, whose term of office ends August 30<sup>th</sup>, who said he is willing to serve as interim law director.

After much discussion, Gary Long made a motion, seconded by Russell Barker for discussion, to offer Jamie Brooks the interim law director's position effective 9/1/2024 until 2026. After further discussion, Gary Long and Russell Barker withdrew their motion and second.

Tracy Wandell moved that the Legal Services Advisory Committee recommend to Purchasing Committee and Operations Committee that the county enter a "special counsel contracted services agreement" with Jamie Brooks for the next 90 days, with a proposed salary of \$15,000 per month, effective September 1, 2024. Sabra Beauchamp, who seconded the motion, said she wants to make it known that Jamie Brooks and Nichole Brooks have no affiliation with one another. **Motion carried.**

Tim Shelton moved, seconded by Russell Barker, to set a Legal Services Advisory Committee meeting soon to review and approve the job description and hiring process for the position of interim law director before the HR Department posts the job opening and accept applications. **Motion carried.**

Tracy Wandell made a motion, seconded by Gary Long, to authorize Mayor Frank to write a letter to the Cities of Norris and Oak Ridge, to notify the cities that, with the vacancy in the

law director's position, Anderson County does not have the authority to follow through on recent City of Norris and City of Oak Ridge delinquent tax property lawsuits that were filed by Mr. Yeager. **Motion carried.**

Sabra Beauchamp moved to recommend that between now and September 1<sup>st</sup> Mayor Frank review any county contracts to legal form, and pass them to Nichole Brooks for review, who then will give them to assistant attorney Rachel Wallace for signature. Second by Russell Barker. **Motion carried.**

Tracy Wandell made a motion that the Legal Services Committee notify the State that we are addressing the vacancy in the ombudsman position for the county's Ethics Committee, and that the Ethics Committee reconvene and appoint an ombudsman. Second by Sabra Beauchamp. **Motion carried.**

It was stated that the Anderson County Sheriff's Office can ask County Commission for authorization to contact an attorney (at an hourly rate) for emergency issues, if necessary, between now and September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Frank will distribute some dates, and the next meeting will be set.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.