

City of Coolidge
Investigating Committee Meeting
Official Minutes

May 14, 2024
6:00 PM

Call to Order

Members of Investigating Committee:

Freddie Johnson, Chairman
Todd Braswell
W.C. Smith

Consider Complaint of David Hurst against Councilmember Melissa Johnson:

* REVIEW ETHICS ORDINANCE:

* DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS A SPECIFIC CODE SECTION IN THE ETHICS ORDINANCE FOR THE BOARD OF ETHICS TO CONSIDER OR WHETHER THERE IS NO SPECIFIC CODE SECTION THAT APPLIES IN THIS CASE:

Councilmember Smith feels Councilmember Melissa Johnson violated Section 2.56, Part A, 1-3 of the Ethics Ordinance by interrupting the complainant, David Hurst, from her seat at the Council table during an open Council meeting. Mr. Hurst had requested to speak to Council prior to the meeting and was given the floor to address Council concerning a complaint he had filed against Councilmember Melissa Johnson regarding her being in violation of the Animal Ordinance with her dogs. During the time Mr. Hurst had the floor and was speaking, Councilmember Melissa Johnson interrupted Mr. Hurst with a rebuttal in the middle of his address to Council, and Councilmember Smith feels, at that time, she was acting in her own interest, not as a member of the Council as a whole, and should not have interrupted Mr. Hurst from her seat during an open meeting. Councilmember Smith feels Council needs to hold themselves and each other accountable and emphasized, especially since most meetings of Council are usually being live-streamed on Social Media to the public.

Councilmembers F. Johnson and Braswell agree with Councilmember Smith about holding themselves and each other accountable, they feel the incident should not have happened and was out of order, but they do not feel the complaint against Councilmember Melissa Johnson is in violation of the Ethics Ordinance.

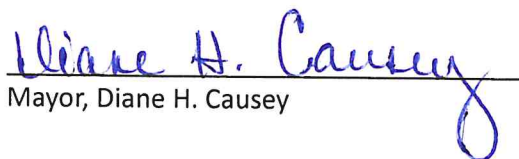
In the complaint of David Hurst against Councilmember Melissa Johnson, the Investigating Committee finds there is no specific Code Section that applies in this case.

Motion-Braswell; Second-F. Johnson; Smith-Opposed

Motion carries.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn-Braswell; Second-F. Johnson; Smith-aye
Unanimously approved.


Mayor, Diane H. Causey


Asst. City Clerk, Stephanie Mock

Present

Councilmember Freddie Johnson, Chairman
Councilmember Todd Braswell
Councilmember W.C. Smith

Absent