



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

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CITY COUNCIL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

**January 28, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

Location: City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall

In attendance: Committee Members Randy White (President), Kevin Carrico (Vice President), Ron Salem (Finance Chair), Nick Howland (Rules Chair), and Rahman Johnson (arr. 1:34)

Also: Council Members Ken Amaro, Ju’Coby Pittman; Kim Taylor, Phillip Peterson – Council Auditor’s Office; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Mary Staffopoulos – Office of General Counsel; Yvonne Mitchell, Sharyn Nelson – Administrative Services Division; Merriane Lahmeur, Jessica Denson – Legislative Services Division; Paige Johnston – Ethics Office; Leah Hayes – Employee Services Department

Meeting Convened: 1:33 p.m.

Chairman White convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Chief of Research position

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief of Administrative Services, announced that Chief of Research Jeff Clements will be retiring on March 7th and recommended Research Assistant Colleen Hampsey, an 8-year employee of the division, to be the new Chief. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Clements described Ms. Hampsey’s qualifications and history with the Research Division.

In response to a question about the hiring process, Leah Hayes, Director of Employee Services, said the Council is not required to publicly advertise the position and conduct a formal search process.

Council Member Johnson stated that he would move the staff recommendation to hire Ms. Hampsey.

Public Participation

John Nooney said he supported the nomination of Ms. Hampsey for the position.

Council Members Amaro, Howland and Pittman spoke highly of Ms. Hampsey's qualifications and past performance. Mr. Howland congratulated Mr. Clements on a long and successful career with the City Council. Ms. Pittman urged the council to do what it takes to keep important institutional knowledge on the staff. Council Member Salen praised Ms. Hampsey's assistance during his year as the Council President.

Motion (Johnson/2nd Howland): appoint Colleen Hampsey as Chief of the Research Division effective March 10, 2025, and direct the OGC to file a resolution on behalf of the Personnel Committee as a one-cycle emergency for City Council confirmation of this appointment - **approved unanimously via a voice vote.**

Ms. Mitchell asked the committee to amend the previous motion to change the effective date of the appointment from March 10th to March 8th.

Motion (Johnson/2nd Howland): appoint Colleen Hampsey as Chief of the Research Division effective March 8, 2025, and direct the OGC to file a resolution on behalf of the Personnel Committee as a one-cycle emergency for City Council confirmation of this appointment.

The motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

Council Member Salem asked about the Research Assistant vacancy that will be created by Ms. Hampsey's promotion to Chief; Ms. Mitchell said the staff are actively recruiting for that position.

Assistant Chief of Legislative Services position

Merriane Lahmeur, Chief of the Legislative Services Division, said Jessica Denson was hired as the Legislative Services Manager and has been serving as the Assistant Chief of Legislative Services since last August when the previous person left the job. She requested that Ms. Denson be appointed as Assistant Chief.

Motion (Salem/2nd Johnson): appoint Jessica Denson as Assistant Chief of the Legislative Services Division and direct OGC to file a resolution on behalf of the Personnel Committee as a one-cycle emergency for City Council confirmation of this appointment.

Public participation

None

The motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote.

Mary Staffopoulos of the Office of General Counsel asked for confirmation on the record that the intended salary for Ms. Hampsey was within the published salary range for the position and the amount was in the written recommendation that was previously shared with the council members; Ms. Mitchell confirmed that it was. There were no questions or objections from the committee.

Public Comment

John Nooney said he has a trespass ban from Jacksonville University and asked the Council to help him get that ban removed.

Meeting adjourned: 1:50 p.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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1.28.25 Posted 4:30 p.m.