



Ethics Board Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2026
6:00 p.m.

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Rodney Anderson at 6:03 pm.

II. Roll Call by City Clerk Deannia Ray found the following members present:

Rodney Anderson
Michelle James
Danita Jones
Vera Raglin

Tony Smith
Lee Walton
Maya Osun arrived at 6:07 pm
City Attorney Rory Starkey

III. Adoption of the Ethics Board Agenda:

Lee Walton made a motion to approve the agenda. Danita Jones provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Approval of the Minutes:

1. **Approval of Minutes: Ethics Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026.**

Tony Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2026, as written. Vera Raglin provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Regular Agenda Items

2. **General Introductions**

Michelle James said she is a ten-year resident of Fairburn and has served on multiple city boards and committees, including the Planning and Zoning Board.

Lee Walton said he is a certified planner and consultant and has lived in Fairburn for over ten years. He has extensive experience in facilitating board meetings.

Tony Smith said he is a ten-year Fairburn resident, a former HOA president, and current Planning and Zoning Board member.

Apostle Danita Jones said she is a twenty-seven-year resident, has served on several boards, and leads "In a Straight-Line Ministry" within the community.

Rodney Anderson said he is a nineteen-year resident of the Fairburn community and has served on numerous school, community boards, and committees.

Maya Osun said she has been a Fairburn resident since 2008, serves on the Durham Lake HOA Board, works in real estate, and is a director for an appellate law firm.

Vera Raglin said she is a twenty-two year Fairburn resident, retired educator, consultant, and serves on both the Appeals Board and the Ethics Board.

City Attorney Rory Starkey said he has fifteen years of experience working with Ethics Boards and an extensive background in local government law.

City Clerk Deannia Ray said she has thirty-two years of local and county government experience, including five years with the City of Fairburn.

Deputy City Clerk Randi Rainey said she has fifteen/sixteen years of local government experience and previously served as an Ethics Board liaison in East Point.

3. Review of Governing Documents

City Attorney reviewed the Procedural Rules, Ethics Policy, and Chapter 2 of the Ordinances.

Board Member Danita Jones inquired about prior ethics-policy changes. City Attorney Mr. Starkey reported that Plan-of-Defense protections were implemented while revisions to the preliminary determination process remain delayed due to litigation, with Mayor and Council retaining final authority.

Mr. Starkey explained that ethics complaints are routed by the city clerk to uninvolved Mayor and Council members for initial review before referral to the Ethics Board and final action by Council. He said in East Point, the city attorney performs the initial determination and further clarified that in Fairburn, all boards including the Ethics Board itself are subject to ethics complaints. Any board member could be named as a respondent, underscoring the need to avoid ex parte communications, use no city resources for political activity, and maintain the appearance of impartiality.

Mr. Starkey and the board discussed alternatives to reduce potential bias in the initial review process and the board supported using a rotating panel of outside attorneys to determine whether complaints meet legal and procedural requirements. He stated the City Charter is under review and noted the need for a comprehensive update of ordinances.

The next Ethics Board meeting was scheduled for April 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

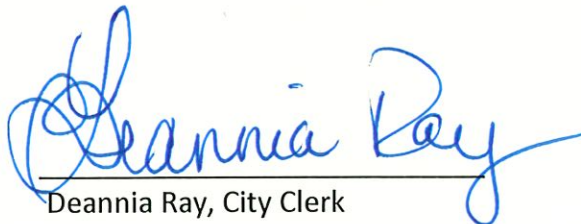
VI. Executive Session:

Michelle James made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:29 pm to discuss litigation. Lee Walton provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Michelle James made a motion to reconvene the Ethics Board meeting at 6:44 pm. Danita Jones provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**

VII. Adjournment:

Michelle James made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Lee Walton provided the second. **The motion carried unanimously.**


Deannia Ray, City Clerk


Maya Osun, Chairperson