

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Knox County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County, Main Avenue. Those members present were Commissioners McKenzie, Strickland, Mark Harmon, Broyles, Norman, Ivan Harmon, Saunders, Hammond, Leuthold, Briggs, Anders, Lambert, Smith, Carringer, Armstrong, Wright, Brown and Pinkston. Commissioner Shouse was absent from the meeting. Also present were Mr. Joe Jarret, Knox County Chief Deputy Law Director, Mr. Richard Walls, Knox County Internal Auditor and news media.

The following proceedings were had and entered of record to-wit:
Commissioner Strickland, Chairman, presided.

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IN RE: ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Angie Nesbitt, Minutes Clerk to the Knox County Clerk called the roll.

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IN RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Strickland led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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**IN RE: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
KNOX COUNTY LAW DIRECTOR, WILLIAM S. LOCKETT, JR.**

Discussion and possible action regarding Knox County Law Director, William S. Lockett, Jr. was before the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Joe Jarret, Knox County Chief Deputy Law Director, was present and spoke on the matter.

Mr. Richard Beeler, Attorney, and former Knox County Law Director, was present and spoke on the matter.

**IN RE: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE
COMMISSION OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, APPROVING A
LETTER FROM COMMISSION TO BE HAND DELIVERED TO
WILLIAM SOAPER LOCKETT, JR., KNOX COUNTY LAW
DIRECTOR, REQUESTING HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE
ELECTED OFFICE OF LAW DIRECTOR OF KNOX COUNTY,
TENNESSEE; RESOLVING TO CENSURE WILLIAM SOAPER
LOCKETT, JR. FOR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT; ASKING THE
KNOX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL TO INITIATE AN
OUSTER INVESTIGATION IN CONSONANCE WITH TENNESSEE**

LAW; ASKING THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT TO EXPEDITE ITS HEARING PROCEDURE ON THE PETITION FOR DISCIPLINE CURRENTLY FILED AGAINST WILLIAM SOAPER LOCKETT, JR.: R-09-6-101-SS:

Consideration of a Resolution of the Commission of Knox County, Tennessee, approving a letter from Commission to be hand delivered to William Soaper Lockett, Jr., Knox County Law Director, requesting his resignation from the elected office of Law Director of Knox County, Tennessee; resolving to censure William Soaper Lockett, Jr. for unprofessional conduct; asking the Knox County District Attorney General to initiate an ouster investigation in consonance with Tennessee Law; asking the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court to expedite its hearing procedure on the petition for discipline currently filed against William Soaper Lockett, Jr. was before the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Briggs moved to have a resolution to censure William S. Lockett, Jr. Knox County Law Director for unethical behavior. Commissioner Saunders seconded the motion.

Commissioner Pinkston moved to call for the question to end debate. Commissioner Briggs seconded the motion and upon roll call vote Commissioners Mark Harmon and Saunders voted aye. Commissioners McKenzie, Strickland, Broyles, Norman, Ivan Harmon, Hammond, Leuthold, Briggs, Anders, Lambert, Smith, Carringer, Armstrong, Wright, Brown and Pinkston voted no. The motion failed 2-16-0-1. Commissioner Shouse was absent from the meeting.

Commissioner Leuthold moved as a substitute motion to approve Commissioner Armstrong's Resolution - R-09-6-101-SS - Consideration of a Resolution of the Commission of Knox County, Tennessee, approving a letter from Commission to be hand delivered to William Soaper Lockett, Jr., Knox County Law Director, requesting his resignation from the elected office of Law Director of Knox County, Tennessee; resolving to censure William Soaper Lockett, Jr. for unprofessional conduct; asking the Knox County District Attorney General to initiate an ouster investigation in consonance with Tennessee Law; asking the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court to expedite its hearing procedure on the petition for discipline currently filed against William Soaper Lockett, Jr. with the following amendments: Censure William S. Lockett, Jr. Knox County Law Director for unethical behavior. Requesting all of the agencies to expedite any investigations that are going on. William Soaper Lockett, Jr. tender his resignation to the chairman of the Knox

County Commission within five (5) business days of June 10, 2009, and should William Soaper Lockett, Jr. fail to do so, he will henceforth be discharged from representing the County Commission and all other boards and committees appointed by said Commission. County Commission authorize the Chairman to deliver a letter to the State Attorney General asking to investigate any complaint of improper conduct by this elected official and if he finds reasonable cause to initiate ouster investigation in consonance with Tennessee Law. Commissioner Anders seconded the motion and upon roll call vote Commissioners McKenzie, Strickland, Mark Harmon, Broyles, Norman, Ivan Harmon, Saunders, Hammond, Leuthold, Briggs, Anders, Smith, Carringer, Armstrong, Wright and Brown. The motion carried 16-1-0-2. Commissioner Lambert voted no. Commissioner Pinkshton was absent from the vote. Commissioner Shouse was absent from the meeting.

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Commissioner Mark Harmon was the spokesperson representing County Commission to censure and reprimand William S. Lockett, Jr., Knox County Law Director for repugnant behavior in the failure to disclose financial improprieties to the County Commission.

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IN RE: ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Strickland declared the meeting adjourned.

THOMAS STRICKLAND, CHAIRMAN