



**STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE ABLE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

January 3, 2024

The filing of the meeting and posting of the agenda were in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. The notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on December 27, 2023. The agenda was posted on December 29, 2023, on the front and back doors of the 50 Northeast 23<sup>rd</sup> Street building in Oklahoma City, the door of the ABLE Commission’s Office Reception area, and the ABLE Commission website.

Chairman Jonathan Brooks called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the office of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission at 50 Northeast 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. A quorum was met with the presence of the following Commission members: Jonathan Brooks; Robert “Bob” Usry; A. Ainslie Stanford II; and Austin Benton.

The visitors that were in attendance were: Assistant Attorney General James Crawford, Office of the Attorney General; Brian Bobek, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Office of Governor Stitt; Will Milam, Governor’s Office; Anne McKinney, Oklahoma Beer Alliance; J.B. Jarboe, Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits; Patrick Gaines, Craft Brewers Association; Julie Jernigan and James Leewright, Oklahoma Restaurant Association; Gordon Green, Capital Distributing; Mark Yates, Cornerstone Govern Affairs on behalf of Institute for Responsible Alcohol Policy; Brett Robinson, Heidi Shadid and Haley Faulkenberry, Beer Distributors of Oklahoma; Randy Malone, Oklahoma Beverage Law; Justin Naifeh, Republic National Distributing Company; Dirk Van Veen and Robert Jernigan, Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma; Mike Thompson, Lobbyist for Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma; Ellen Spiropoulos, Phillips Murrah Law Firm; Carman Foreman, Oklahoma Voice; Charles Outlaw, LegisOK; and Tyler Talley, Quorum Call.

The following ABLE Commission employees in attendance were: Executive Director Brandon Clabes; Assistant Director/General Counsel Lori Carter; Deputy General Counsel Leif Arvidson; Chief Law Enforcement Agent Todd Peck; Captain Scott Smith; Lieutenant Cody Rekstad; Agent Brooke Calvert, Agent Steven Riha, Agent Nathan Watson, Executive Secretary Shae Isaacs; and Legal Administrative Assistant Kimberly Yates.

A roll call of the following ABLE Commissioners was announced: Chairman Jonathan Brooks; Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry; Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford II; and Commissioner Austin Benton. A quorum was then established for the ABLE Commission special meeting dated January 3, 2024.

Assistant Attorney General James Crawford acknowledged that a quorum of Commissioners has been established and the ABLE Commission is compliant with the Open Meeting Act. A notice of the meeting and agenda were posted 48 hours prior to the meeting and in accordance with Oklahoma statute 25 O.S. §311.

Chairman Jonathan Brooks moved on to Item #5, comments from the public:

- Ellen Spiropoulos with Phillips Murrah Law Firm made a statement and suggestion regarding the proposed emergency rule OAC § 45:20-14-1.
- Robert Jernigan with the Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma requested for the record to reflect that the Retail Liquor Association was not involved in this decision making process of proposed emergency rule OAC § 45:20-14-1.

Assistant Director Carter presented the proposed emergency rule OAC § 45:20-14-1 and explained the purpose of the proposed emergency rule and how it will affect the current issue about mandatory taste testing and consumption of alcohol while on duty.

Chairman Jonathan Brooks moved on to Item #6, consideration, discussion and possible action to adopt, amend, or reject proposed emergency rule OAC § 45:20-14-1, educational alcoholic beverage training/tastings for licensees and their employees. Commissioner Benton made a motion to adopt the emergency rule as written. Commissioner Stanford seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes  
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes  
Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford – Yes  
Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

Commissioner Usry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Benton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes  
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes  
Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford – Yes  
Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

The meeting was then adjourned at 1:18 p.m.



Jonathan Brooks, Chairman