



Office of the County Clerk

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION MINUTES OF RECALL PETITION CLARITY HEARING

201 McMorran Boulevard
Room 2700
Port Huron, Michigan 48060

Date and Time of Meeting:

March 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Subject of Recall Petitions:

- **Michael Bembas**, City of Algonac Council Member
 - **Cathy Harris**, City of Algonac Council Member
-

Present:

- Prosecuting Attorney Michael D. Wendling
 - Treasurer Kelly Roberts-Burnett
 - Clerk/Register Angie Waters
 - Elections Manager Cara DenUyl
 - Members of the public
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Call to Order:

The hearing was called to order by Clerk Waters at 9:01 a.m.

Acknowledgement: Acknowledgement that Prosecuting Attorney Michael D. Wendling will be present on the Commission in the absence of Judge Tomlinson. Motion to approve was made by Roberts-Burnett and seconded by Waters. Motion passed.

Roll Call:

All present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2026:

Motion to approve was made by Roberts-Burnett and seconded by Waters. All approved; motion carried.

Petition Language Read into the Record:

Waters read the submitted language for Michael Bembas.

Waters read the submitted language for Cathy Harris.

Public Comment:

Sandra Simmons, sponsor: Discussed information that was submitted to the commission which covered the reasons to support the recall. Stated that she felt the petition language was concise and clear.

Dawn Davey, City of Algonac Mayor Pro Tem: Discussed city duties regarding public notices and hearings. Stated that she felt this language should be rejected due to the fact that the conduct in the language was not from the current term of office.

Cathy Harris, City of Algonac Council Member: Discussed the issue of notice oversight. Stated that the language should be rejected due to the incident taking place prior to her being reelected in 2024.

Michael Bembas, City of Algonac Council Member: Discussed the language's use of the term "failure" being up for interpretation. In addition, stated that this occurred in a previous election cycle and that he was reelected in 2024 and that the language should be rejected based on this information.

Artie Bryson, City of Algonac Manager: Stated that this language should be denied due to it discussing an action done in the previous term and that the language portrays an opinion not fact.

Greg Abbey, Cottrellville Township Supervisor: Stated that the language does not discuss an issue from this term of office and that the language was ambiguous, broad and does not define a fact and therefore should be rejected.

Commission Discussion and Determinations:

Prosecutor Wendling stated that the commission's role is not to determine whether the notice was provided, but to determine if the petition language is clear and describes conduct from the current term of office. He concluded that both petitions should be rejected because they describe actions that occurred prior to the current term.

Roberts-Burnett made a motion to reject both petitions, Wendling seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Recall Petitions: **Michael Bembas and Cathy Harris**

Result: **The clarity of the petition language for both petitions was rejected by a 3-0 vote.**

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the Clarity Hearing was made by Roberts-Burnett and seconded by Wendling. The meeting was adjourned without objections at 9:21 a.m.

St. Clair County Election Commission Chair

Date Approved on

