



Christian
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Headliner News
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⁸⁰⁰ Sparta court clerk remains suspended

Headliner News
still awaiting
investigation
results.

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Headliner News

For more than two weeks, Sparta City Clerk Jessie Erickson has manned Sparta City Hall by herself. Erickson suspended Court Clerk Karen Allen without pay Feb. 11 for insubordination.

At that time, Erickson said Allen was suspended until the board could meet. However, after a closed-session meeting Feb. 23, Allen remains suspended without pay. Another closed-session meeting is slated for 4:30 p.m. March 3 at City Hall.

According to the Feb. 23 minutes, which the Headliner News received through a Sunshine Law request, Allen did not attend the meeting, "although her presence had been required through certified mail."

Discussion was held on "personnel issues" and Erickson said she "would not be responsible for computer tampering."

Alderman Carl Hull did make a motion to remove

Allen from her position on the grounds of insubordination. However, the motion died for lack of a second.

"Alderman Campbell states he wants Ms. Allen to be present at the next meeting and telephoned her to see when she could attend," the minutes say. "Ms. Allen did not state for certain when that might be."

Erickson suspended Allen Feb. 11 because she did not attend a Feb. 10 mandatory closed-session meeting. Three of the four aldermen also did not attend. Because there was no quorum, no action was taken. However, according to the minutes Erickson did tell Younker and Alderman Carl Hull that she was going to suspend Allen without pay for insubordination.

According to the minutes, Erickson "stated concerns she had with insubordination issues with Karen Allen."

The Headliner News is still awaiting the results of the Missouri State Highway Patrol investigation. Sparta Mayor Mike Younker said Allen's recent suspension and the Highway Patrol investigation on Sparta's Municipal Court are not related.

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