

By LARRY PHILLIPS and EARL WATT

• Leader & Times

In an irregularly called special session, the Liberal City Commission conducted an “Executive Session” at 5 p.m. Wednesday in commission chambers to approve exploratory “procedures necessary for ouster proceedings against commissioner Ron Warren.”



In the minutes released by the city, Mayor Dave Harrison, vice-mayor Janet Willimon, commissioners Dean Aragon, Joe Denoyer and Ron Warren were present with city manager Mark Hall, finance director Chris Ford and city attorney Shirla McQueen initially.

The commission met in privacy claiming “the purpose of consultation with an attorney for the body or agency which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship.”

In the minutes, it noted the first “Executive Session” lasted 30 minutes, and two additional sessions were conducted lasting 15 and 10 minutes respectively.

Warren left the chambers before the vote on a move to explore ouster procedures against him.

After the three sessions, the remaining four commissioners approved the move, 4-0.

However, according to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, discussing elected personnel in executive session is against the law.

Representatives of the 26th Judicial District Court confirmed that mechanic's liens have been filed by JAG Construction against Warren. Other sources verified that those liens involved the City of Liberal's Self-Help Housing properties of which Warren was the general contractor.