



Jason E. Mumpower, Comptroller of the Treasury

November 6, 2025

Former Celina City Clerk Indicted After Misusing City Funds

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment of Tabitha Short, the former city clerk for the City of Celina. The investigation began after city officials reported questionable purchases involving the city's debit and fuel cards.

Investigators determined that Short misappropriated at least \$1,148.71 by using debit and fuel cards to purchase items such as cigarettes, food and drink, toys, clothing, and to pay a personal utility bill. She also claimed and received overtime pay for hours not worked. Short's employment with the city was terminated on January 30, 2025.

Based upon this investigation, in November 2025, the Clay County Grand Jury indicted Tabitha Sue Short on one count of theft of property less than \$1,000.



Short also received questionable compensation and made questionable purchases using the city debit and fuel cards totaling at least \$645.16. She also received compensation totaling \$807.56 for unused vacation leave in violation of city policy.

Investigators found that city employees made questionable food and food supply purchases totaling at least \$2,870.97 using the city's charge account. The city did not have a policy governing the purchase of food or food supplies.

"This case highlights the importance of supervision, accountability, and clearly written policies," said Comptroller Mumpower. "City governments must ensure that financial duties are separated, policies are in place, and purchases are properly documented and approved."

To view the investigative report, go to tncot.cc/doireports. To view a map depicting Comptroller investigations, go to tncot.cc/mappinginvestigations

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