

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ETHICS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Michael Church, Chair; Miklos Koleszar, Kara Murphy,
Haroldo Williams, Lori Torrano, (7:07 p.m.)

STAFF: Atty. Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Church called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Church called the roll. A quorum was present.

NEW INTRODUCTION

There were none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one from the public present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

• September 26, 2019

The following corrections were noted:

Page 3, first motion, please change the following from:

“ THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY.”**

To: ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Page 3, second motion, please change the following from:

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY.**

To: ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Torrano joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Page 3, paragraph two following the second motion, line 5: please change the following from: " for the worst sandals. She said she was very leery to give carte blanc to non-profits."

To: " for the worst scandals. She said she was very leery to give carte Blanche to non-profits."

Page 4, **ADJOURNMENT**, please change the following from:

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

To: **** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. MURPHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. WILLIAMS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) IN FAVOR (CHURCH, MURPHY, KOLESZAR, AND WILLIAMS) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (TORRANO).**

OLD BUSINESS

Atty. Candela said that he had attended the Ordinance Committee meeting and said that the Committee had not voted to send Sections 32-16 and 32-17 to the Common Council. He gave a summary of the concerns and discussion that occurred at the meeting. Mr. Corsello had concerns about 32-16 and stated that Sections A and B were redundant. Mr. Hempstead and Mr. Corsello disagreed over the wording in 32-17 regarding whether the Council would be responsible for legal costs if someone is accused of an ethics violation and has to hire legal counsel.

The discussion moved to the indemnification clause. Atty. Candela said that if a person who was serving on a Commission was accused of an ethics violation, they would have to retain their own attorney. The Board Members then discussed the definition of reasonable fees.

Atty. Candela reminded everyone that the election was coming up and that at least five members of the incoming Ordinance Committee will be new Council Members.

**** MS. MURPHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO SECTION 32-17 AS DISCUSSED.**

**** MS. TORRANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The discussion then moved to the wording of Section 32-16. Ms. Torrano pointed out that businesses have mandatory ethics training. Atty. Candela said that there had been various ethics programs presented and he had worked with the Director of Health and the Personnel and Human Resources Director regarding the training. Atty. Candela said that he had a conversation with a BOE employee who had been unaware of the Ethics training. He said that he had contacted Dr. Adamowski and the other BOE administrators about this.

Ms. Murphy said that there had been a member of the public that had repeatedly attended the Ordinance Committee and requested Training.

Atty. Candela said that there had been mandatory training on sexual harassment and cyber security for the staff.

Ms. Torrano had several questions about which department would be responsible for the training. It was pointed out that if someone had ethics charges lodged against them, having documentation on mandatory training could be critical. Atty. Candela said that CCM had come to Norwalk and held a 3 hour seminary on Norwalk's Ethics Code in the past. He pointed out that the Personnel Department would have a vested interest in seeing that the staff and appointed officials had training. Discussion followed.

Atty. Candela said that he would email everyone copies of the revisions for Section 32-16 and if anyone had suggestions, they should use the "Reply All" function on the email. Mr. Church said that if there were two or three Board Members who wished to discuss a topic, he would suggest the items be held over to the January meeting.

Mr. Williams asked what happened with Sections 32-4; 32-8 and 32-12 that were listed under New Items on the Ordinance Committee agenda. Atty. Candela said that it was the last meeting for the Ordinance Committee and they chose not to address those Sections at that time. He reminded every one that Sections 32-4; 32-8 and 32-12 had not gone to public hearing. Discussion followed about bringing Sections 32-17 and 32-16 back before the newly elected Ordinance Committee first and then bringing the last three items to the Committee.

**** MS. MURPHY MOVED TO APPROVE SECTION 32-17 AS DISCUSSED AND AMENDED.**

**** MS. TORRANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There was no vote on Section 32-16 at this time. Atty. Candela announced that the next Ordinance meeting is scheduled for December 17th.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and vote on the Board of Ethics' 2020 schedule.

The Board Members then reviewed the proposed meeting dates as listed on the last page of the information packet.

**** MR. KOLESZAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF ETHICS' 2020 SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.**

**** MS. MURPHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

There was no need for an Executive Session at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. TORRANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. MURPHY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services