

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ETHICS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 28, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:** Michael Church, Chair; Tony Lopez, Kara Murphy, Haroldo William, Lori Torrano (8:09 p.m.); Nora Niedzielski (8:20 p.m.)

**OTHERS:** Atty. Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel's Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Church called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**\*\* KM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27,2020.**

**\*\* HW SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27,2020 PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (MURPHY AND WILLIAMS) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (LOPEZ)**

**NEW INTRODUCTIONS**

**Welcome Tony Lopez**

Mr. Church welcomed Mr. Lopez and explained to him that the Board Members had been reviewing and updating the City's Code of Ethics and the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics. He suggested that Mr. Lopez read through the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics first because that would give the Board a fresh perspective on the document.

Mr. Church said that the Board tries to leave room for discretion in the Code because it is impossible to address every situation.

*Ms. Torrano joined the meeting at 8:09 p.m.*

**PUBIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no members of the public present.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Review Code of Ethics and the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics. Discuss and vote on potential changes to both documents.**

Atty. Candela thanked everyone for attending the Ordinance Meeting. He said the largest section of the Code, 32-12, had been on the Ordinance Committee agenda and the Council Members had approved sending it to a Public Hearing. He said he would be recommending that Section 32-8 be placed on the June Ordinance Committee Agenda and hopefully sent to the full Council in July. That will leave Section 32-4 to be revised and after that the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics can be updated.

Once this is completed, the Board can then work on setting up educational sessions for the staff.

Atty. Candela said that the Board had made some recommended changes for Sections 32-4 and 32-8 to present to the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Church said that he would email the Board Members the last revisions of 32-4 and 32-8. He said that he would prefer to review the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics. Discussion followed.

*Ms. Niedzielski joined the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

Atty. Candela said that at the Ordinance meeting, there had been a question regarding criminal activity and how it pertains to the Code of Ethics specifically. Ms. Torrano asked if any other town codes addressed this. Atty. Candela said that he had not seen anything regarding criminal acts in other codes. Mr. Church commented that upon joining the Board, he had told that criminal actions were the jurisdiction of the police. He said that the Board only deals with ethics. Discussion followed about the potential violations due to failure to disclose criminal activity.

Atty. Candela said that he will do some research on this matter. Atty. Murphy said that she would send some documentation on criminal activity from New London and Groton to Atty. Candela. Ms. Torrano asked Atty. Candela to check with Mr. Burney regarding the disclosure statement and to verify it was in the Employee Handbook. Mr. Church said that it would be good to know that the Board had reached out to the Personnel Director to verify that this matter was address by Personnel.

Atty. Candela said that where the Citizen's Guide to Norwalk's Code of Ethics has red lettering, it indicates that the language has not be finalized because the final decisions have not been made in the Code. Once the Ordinance Committee has approved the final language, the Board will need to come back and review some of the time lines in case some of the times have been changed.

Atty. Candela said that he believed that the last section that had been presented to the Common Council was at the end of last summer. He gave an overview of the last few changes and said that it had been about nine months since they had gotten a section approved by the full Council.

Mr. Church said that they haven't looked at this in the last three months, the Board Members should review it with fresh eyes. He said that it should flow easily and avoid legal jargon. Atty. Murphy said that they would have to review the timing in the process since the Ordinance Committee had made some changes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to consider at this time.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MS. TORRANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* ATTY. MURPHY SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services