

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ETHICS
SPECIAL MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
July 23, 2020**

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Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Brian Candela at candela@norwalkct.org to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Michael Church, Chair; Tony Lopez, Kara Murphy; Nora Niedzielski; Miklos Koleszar; Haroldo Williams (joined the meeting at 7:04PM.)

OTHERS: Attorney Brian Candela, Corporation Counsel’s Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Church called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. NEW INTRODUCTION

There were no additions to the agenda this evening.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments this evening.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2020

**** ATTORNEY MURPHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. LOPEZ SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION- MR. KOLESZAR**

Mr. Williams joined the meeting at 7:04PM.

5. 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.

Attorney Candela provided an overview from the Common Council meeting that was held on Tuesday and thanked Mr. Lopez for attending. He said section 32-12 was approved by the Common Council and it was forwarded to be inserted in the General Code of Ethics and if it's not already should be on the website soon.

Attorney Candela said under old business in section 32-8 after some discussion they had recommended some changes and moved to forward it to a public hearing at the next Common Council meeting which will be held in August. He said all of the comments were in section 32-8, Subsection C which are the exceptions. He said they recommended that in subsection 8, to change "provide" to "provided" and he will make the change prior to the next Common Council meeting. In section 32-8 subsection C, they have recommended that section 12 replace section 6 and that section 12 is deleted, and to "add officer or employee" to the language so that appointed, elected and employed people with the City of Norwalk would be covered by this. Mr. Koleszar pointed out that in section 12 employee recognition incentive program is capitalized but in section 6 it is not. Attorney Candela suggested it be changed the Employee recognition incentive program. Discussion followed.

Attorney Candela said the Ordinance Committee has asked why we removed the numerical value in section C-2 and C-7. Attorney Murphy said she has a vague recollection of an Ordinance Committee meeting where Mr. Hempstead was concerned about the dollar amount for meals and refreshments because the dollar amount was lower than the ticket price at almost every event that Common Council members get invited to including the Mayor's Ball.

Attorney Candela read section 12 for the record as follows:

Certificates, plaques or other ceremonial awards having a value of not more than \$200 as well as any other things of value given to officers or employees as part of an official employee recognition/ incentive program.

**** ATTORNEY MURPHY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGES THAT WERE DISCUSSED FOR SECTION 32-8
** MR. KOLESZAR SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Lopez asked if in section 32-4 section 7 and 8 can be combined. Mr. Church said that Section 7 had to do with an individual and section 8 is in regards to a person's business. Attorney Murphy said that person includes both individuals and associations, firms, partnerships, political bodies and corporate. Attorney Candela said in this situation it would be very difficult to combine the two because in section 7 it talks about a person that is working for the city and are granting some type of special consideration based on power to some person as opposed to someone in the same person but are receiving a benefit. Mr. Lopez said he is not suggesting eliminating the words but just consolidate them. Attorney Candela said it will depend on how the Ordinance Committee feels about having them consolidated. Discussion followed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed this evening.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need to hold an Executive Session at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. LOPEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MS. NIEDZIELSKI SECONDED THE MOTION
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services