



City of Kingston Board of Ethics
Meeting
February 19, 2020

Minutes to the Board of Ethics Meeting

Board Members present were Allen Nace, Jackie DeCicco, Mike Decker and Dana Blackmon

Public present were Joann Mead, Ellen DiFalco, Debra Brown and Maryann Mills

The meeting was called to order by Allen Nace at 4:01pm on February 19, 2020 in conference room 2 of City Hall.

The meeting minutes were read. Motion was made by Mike Decker to accept the meeting minutes from January 6, 2020. Seconded by Jackie DeCicco.

Old business: This meeting was scheduled as a result of a press release by the Mayor regarding an appointment of his wife to a new position resulting in a substantial increase in her salary and the comments on Facebook regarding the Board of Ethics. As of the creation of the agenda on February 12, 2020 no complaints had been received by the City Clerk's Office.

New Business: Review the 2020 Financial Disclosure Statements which were due by February 15, 2020.

Financial Disclosure Statements were reviewed by the Board. There were seven statements with errors or missing information and eleven statements which hadn't been submitted as of the date of the meeting.

Letters will be sent out to those who need to submit as well as those with errors or missing information with 30 days to comply with the Code otherwise they may incur a fine.

Three complaints were received by the City Clerk's Office on February 14th and February 18th and given to the Board on February 19th. Because the women who submitted the complaints were present at the meeting Chairman Allen Nace allowed each of them to speak about their complaints as well as those who did not submit formal complaints.

Complaint #2192020-1 was submitted by Ellen DiFalco.

Complaint #2192020-2 was submitted by Ellen DiFalco.

Complaint #2192020-3 was submitted by Maryann Mills.

All three complaints were reviewed by the Board at which time Allen Nace allowed Maryann Mills to speak on behalf of her complaint.

Debra Brown expressed concerns over the public perception of nepotism, however did not submit a formal complaint to the Board.

Ellen DiFalco spoke on behalf of the two complaints she submitted.

Both Maryann Mills and Corporation Counsel have reached out to the Attorney General's Office for their opinion on the recent proposal by Mayor Noble regarding merging the departments of Parks & Recreation and Public Works and creating a new Deputy of Environmental Services. The request was made to get an opinion on the Mayor appointing his wife to the new position of Deputy of Environmental Services reporting to the Superintendent of DPW.

Allen Nace summarized the concerns each attendee had by stating we hear their concerns and will address as necessary. Both Allen Nace and Mike Decker intend to stay for the Laws and Rules meeting to hear firsthand what the public is saying and to hear what the members of the Laws and Rules are planning to do. That meeting is being held at 6:30pm on February 19th.

Mike Decker suggested a letter of recommendation be prepared for the Mayor with the concerns the Board of Ethics has in light of the complaints received.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2020 at 4:00pm in Conference Room.

Motion was made by Mike Decker to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Dana Blackmon. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie DeCicco
Secretary