

City of Rochester Board of Ethics – July 13, 2021

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Board Chair Carl Steinbrenner.

Members present:

Mia Cannon Doug
Escher Kevin
Graham James
Patterson Hon.
Loretta Scott Carl
Steinbrenner
Timothy Weir

Non-Members Present:

Patrick Beath, Acting Corporation Counsel
Councilmember Mary Lupien
Jack Mottley
Dianne Stengel
Paul Flansburg
Drorah Setel

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes for the June 8, 2021 meeting were approved by all members of the Board except Carl Steinbrenner who abstained due to not being able to attend and not being present at the June meeting.

Pending Business:

- The board continued review and discussion of C21-1, a complaint concerning a written correspondence distributed to the public by City Councilmember Mary Lupien on March 11, 2021. The board agreed to address the related amended complaint (C21-1a) at the board's next meeting in August. Secretary Weir provided a brief overview of C21-1 to include a summary of the facts presented in the complaint and relevant provisions of the ethics code, specifically C4 and C5.

During the discussion, Councilmember Lupien and other members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the board. Councilmember Lupien and other speakers expressed their view that Councilmember Lupien's correspondence was not in

violation of the ethics code and was consistent with her role and responsibilities as a member of City Council. Throughout the discussion, board members offered their view of the issue and responded to questions from Councilmember Lupien and members of the public. The discussion focused on the talking points included in the correspondence and whether their inclusion afforded a specific group an advantage over other groups or the general public. In addition, the use of Councilmember Lupien's official title and the City email system were considered during the deliberations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the board agreed to continue deliberations at the next meeting in August and planned to vote on the matter at that time.

New Business:

- It was agreed that the remaining items on the meeting agenda would be addressed at the board's next meeting, August 10, 2021.

Adjournment:

- The Chair's motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm was unanimously approved.

Next Scheduled Meeting: August 10, 2020; 6:30pm
Rochester City Hall
30 Church Street
Council Chambers