

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Ethics Ordinance Drafting Committee  
Monday, January 11, 2021**

Zoom meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Jan Pemberton, Brian Geraghty, Rob Squiers, John Clark, Joe Ghanem, Scott Houghton, Matt Seely

Committee Members Not Present: Not Applicable

Guests Present: Dan Pullen

Discussed attendance. The Mayor has asked that meeting attendance be recorded. Attendees have been, and will continue to be, listed in the minutes, beginning with the meeting of September 23, 2020.

Unanimously approved the Minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting.

Squiers presented proposed updates to the Draft Ethics Ordinance dated January 11, 2021, which was previously circulated to committee members. This was done in an interactive format with frequent exchange among the committee members at various points.

Squiers further explained that he followed the previous convention of updates in italics and underlined to distinguish from language that had been conditionally approved. These updates included adoption of the original "Purpose" section with modifications, additional civility/decorum language, definition of candidate for office, definition of censure, definition of illegal gratuity, alternate definition of immediate family, additional language concerning illegal gratuities, additional language concerning solicitation of gifts, proposed language concerning resident donations, additional language concerning conflict disclosures, additional language concerning subsequent conflicts of interest, language concerning tabling council voting on a matter if a councilmember refuses to abstain in spite of a conflict of interest, language concerning social media, additional language including censure as a potential sanction, disclosure of relationships with the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, and, lastly, various housekeeping corrections and modifications.

During this presentation, Clark gave further background on the rationale behind the clause concerning council voting on a matter being tabled and the source (Robert's Rules).

Also during this presentation, Geraghty provided an in depth review of the social media and disclaimer language and their sources (Cities of Chicago and Seattle) as well as the rationale for each category.

Clark reported he has concluded his research concerning e-mail and retention of records and has concluded they do not apply to the committee. He informed the Chair to remove this item from future agendas.

Geraghty confirmed he had updated the committee rules and procedures to reflect previously agreed upon modifications including that the committee has no authority to take actions on attendance issues. He reiterated that attendance records would be periodically reported to the mayor and council.

During New Business, committee members Houghton and Seely resigned, each citing, among other reasons, scheduling obstacles and over-commitment/prioritization of their time. Their resignations were accepted.

The applicability of the Open Meetings Act to the committee's communications was discussed. The committee members fully understand that there have been no commitments by the mayor or council to do anything more than accept the committee's work product. The committee members understand that council may adopt the committee's work product in whole, in part, not at all or just ignore it. Therefore, since the committee has not been empowered to exercise or perform governmental or proprietary authority, it is not subject to the OMA. Nonetheless, the committee will continue to hold scheduled meetings open to the public until its project concludes.

The agenda item, "Distinguishing Characteristics of Ethics Committees vs Ethics Commissions" was skipped and will carry over to the next meeting.

Guest Dan Pullen commended the committee on its work.

The next meeting was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.