

Ethics Board

Minutes

Minutes of the Ethics Board held on March 3, 1999.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lee Sisson at 11am. Present were members Stan Smith and Mike Neuens and Secretary Bill Bowers. Also present was Alderman Dave Patzer.

Minutes

Motion by Smith to approve the minutes of the February 9, 1999 meeting. Seconded by Neuens and carried unanimously.

Indoctrination for Michael Neuens

Neuens was welcomed as the newest member of the board. Sisson reviewed the structure of the Ethics Board, past issues that the board reviewed, and the general overview of the board's responsibilities.

Alternate Board Member

Discussion about how the choice would be made. Neuens would like to review the applications and perhaps suggest another person to be considered. Motion by Smith to defer the alternate member selection until the next meeting. Seconded by Neuens and carried unanimously.

Complaint Review

No complaints were received by the board.

Aldermanic request for opinion

Patzer explained that his wife works part-time at Applewood, perhaps 15-20 hours a week. Applewood has some issues coming before council and would like the Ethics Board to give an opinion about his ability to enter into the discussion and vote. City Attorney Paul Reilly has written Patzer stating that there would be no violation of the Ethics Code if he were to speak and vote. Patzer further stated that he will notify council about this before any discussion takes place.

Smith said that based on this request, the code is working. The alderman got an opinion from the City Attorney and then asked the Ethics Board for a final opinion. Smith further

stated that he has no problem with Patzer being able to enter the conversations and vote.

Neuens said he agrees with the City Attorney and Smith. He was pleased that the Alderman will reveal this to the full council before the issue is to be discussed.

Further discussion about this issue. Sisson asked if there were any problem abstaining from the vote to avoid the appearance of impropriety? Perhaps you could talk but not vote.

Bowers stated that talking and voting must be considered together. Allowing someone to speak but not vote still leave the door open to criticism as they are allowed to sway the vote. Bowers further stated that he would recommend that, to avoid any possible criticism, Alderman Patzer refrain from joining the discussion and abstain from voting.

Patzer stated there are some issues he would like to address if allowed.

Motion by Smith that the Ethics Board accepts City Attorney Reilly's opinion and approves Alderman Patzer's request to discuss and vote on any Applewood issue. Seconded by Neuens and carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on June 8, 1999 at 11 am.

Motion by Smith to adjourn at 11:35 am. Seconded by Neuens and carried unanimously.

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