

MINUTES OF NORWICH ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING
November 14, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Ballard
Christopher Dixon
Carol Menard
Gregory Schlough

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathryn Lord

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Anthony Black- seated as regular member

ALTERNATES ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Melinda Wilson - Recording Secretary

1. Call to order: Carol Menard, Chair, called the November 14, 2016 meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present. Anthony Black was seated as a Member.
3. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Greg Schlough, seconded by Mac Ballard, the minutes of October 11, 2016 were unanimously approved as presented.
4. Citizen Comment:

Peter Nystrom, 36 Laurel Heights, shared previous minutes of the Ethics Commission back to 2010 when an advisory opinion was given regarding a trip to China. He left a copy of these minutes with the Ethics Commission. He spoke in favor of full disclosure by the Norwich Board of Public Utilities Commission and restitution.

David Burley, 638 Scotland Road, questioned the connection between attendance at the event of May 7, 8 and 9, 2016 and the May 24, 2016 vote by the Norwich Board of Public Utilities Commission to increase rates for water and sewer.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Avenue, spoke regarding policies for gifts which were in place when he was a federal employee. He recommended the City's personnel department be responsible for making sure employees are well versed in this type of thing.

Nick Macko, Jr., 110 Ox Hill Road, gave an example of how his wife handles attendance at seminars where she has an itinerary and achieves Continuing Education Units (CEU). He recommended these people be removed from duties without pay pending an investigation.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr Street, said he was surprised when he read this in the newspaper. He was often involved in similar events in which he was kept very busy with the topics.

Paul McCary spoke as an attorney representing two respondents. He commented that he understands that a lot of people are troubled about trip; however, just because people are troubled doesn't translate into a violation of ethics code.

5. New Business: On a motion by Chris Dixon, seconded by Mac Ballard, the Ethics Commission unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 5:20 PM.

The Ethics Commission came out of executive session at 6:40 PM. Carol Menard, Chair, stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

On a motion by Chris Dixon, seconded by Mac Ballard, the Ethics Commission unanimously voted no probable cause found in Case 2016-1.

Greg Schlough made a motion, seconded by Chris Dixon, to form a subcommittee to further investigate Cases 2016-2, 2016-3 and 2016-4. The motion carried unanimously.

The Ethics Commission chose Greg Schlough, Anthony Black, Chris Dixon and Mac Ballard as the subcommittee members.

6. Old Business: None

7. Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn by Mac Ballard, seconded by Anthony Black, the Ethics Commission adjourned at 6:46 PM.