



## MINUTES OF AN OFFICIAL MEETING:

Regular / Special Meeting: Ethics Board

Date and Time: September 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

Location: City Hall, Common Council Chambers - North, 2000 North Calhoun Road

Members Present: Chair Monica Riederer, Vice Chair Christopher Steffe, and Karen Flaherty.

Members Excused: None.

Others Present: Attorney Nicholas Cerwin as Counsel to the Board, Attorney Miriam Horwitz, Alderwoman Jenna Meza, Attorney Julie Gay, Alderman Michael Hallquist, Human Resources Analyst Allie Gerschwiler, and Human Resources Director James Zwerlein.

### 1. Roll Call

After noting a quorum was present, Chair Riederer called the Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

### 2. Minutes of the August 2, 2022 Meeting

***Vice Chair Steffe moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Flaherty. Motion carried 3-0.***

### 3. New Business

- a. Receipt and evaluation of stipulation regarding record of testimony of complainant.

The parties could not come to an agreement regarding the record of testimony of the complainant.

- b. Continue evidentiary hearing regarding Amended Ethics Board Complaint dated April 11, 2022, if necessary.

***Ms. Flaherty moved to continue the evidentiary hearing regarding the Amended Ethics Board Complaint dated April 11, 2022. Seconded by Vice Chair Steffe. Motion carried 3-0.***

The Board took testimony from the complainant, Alderman Hallquist. Once the testimony was complete, the Board reversed the following two agenda items and allowed for ten minutes for argument and case summation.

- c. Respondent argument and case summation.

Attorney Gay presented the respondent's argument and case summation.

- d. Complainant argument and case summation.

Attorney Horwitz presented the Complainant's argument and case summation.

- e. Deliberations on Amended Ethics Board Complaint dated April 11, 2022.

***Ms. Flaherty moved to move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(a) and (g). Seconded by Vice Chair Steffe. Motion carried 3-0.***

**Ms. Flaherty moved to adjourn from closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(2). Seconded by Vice Chair Steffe. Motion carried 3-0.**

- f. Determine the action to be taken in regard to the Amended Complaint dated April 11, 2022.

**Under the evidence and testimony presented, the Board finds that there was not a violation of the Brookfield Code of Ethics Sections 2.20.060(B) or 2.20.010 as the Code is currently written because the Board did not find that the conduct was incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties nor would tend to impair the independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties.**

**The board is concerned that Alderwoman Meza's conduct in the Fourth of July Parade in 2021 could give the appearance of impropriety to citizens and recommends that to avoid this type of conduct in the future, the Brookfield Common Council consider a revision to the appropriate City codes and/or policies that would address the issues complained of herein.**

#### 4. Adjournment

**Ms. Flaherty moved to adjourn the hearing. Seconded by Vice-Chair Steffe. Motion carried 3-0. 8:45 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

James Zwerlein

Human Resources Department/Human Resources Director