



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL ETHICS COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **Council Conference Room, City Hall**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 19, 2014**
Meeting Time: **3:30 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

Present: Councilor Cheney, Councilor McManus, Councilor O'Connor, and General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop.

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop asked for nominations for chairperson. Councilor Cheney nominated Councilor McManus; seconded by Councilor O'Connor. Councilor McManus accepted the nomination.

Vote: 3/0.

2. DISCUSSION

The Councilors and General Legal Counsel discussed that the purpose of the meeting was organizational in nature. The Chair requested the General Legal Counsel to provide an overview of the relevant sections of the City Charter and City Code.

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop provided the Subcommittee with copies of Chapter 22 of the Dover Code, as well as copies of Jeffrey Clay's January 2014 complaint against the Ethics Commission. For background the Subcommittee was also provided copies of Jeffrey Clay's November 2013 complaint against certain School Board members and the former Superintendent, as well as the Ethics Commission's December 2013 decision on that complaint. General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop explained the process that led to the recusal of the Ethics Commission from consideration of the January 2014 complaint and the formation of the Subcommittee.

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop provided an overview of the relevant sections, including Article X of the Charter and Charter section C11-4. Additionally, City Code Chapter 22 was discussed at length. Particular attention was paid to reviewing the provisions and requirements of Code Section 22-13, which includes the requirements for the filing of a complaint and the initial review process the Subcommittee must undertake. It was discussed that the initial review would take place in a public meeting.

During the overview the Councilors all asked general questions about process and the requirements of Chapter 22. General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop made clear that the matter before the Subcommittee is the January 2014 complaint against the Ethics Commission and the Subcommittee will not be reconsidering the complaint against the School Board members and former Superintendent, which the Ethics Commission has issued an order/decision on. Per the requirements of the Charter, the Ethics Commission's order/decision on that matter was forwarded to the School Board, and a copy was provided to the Council.

The Councilors decided to leave any discussion regarding the specifics of the complaint before them to their initial review meeting, which they would schedule as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, Councilor Cheney discussed the amount of effort that was put into drafting Chapter 22 a number of years ago and the need to carefully review the provisions of the Charter and Code in reviewing the complaint.

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop departed the meeting room.



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The members discussed scheduling of the initial review meeting and agreed on Friday, March 7, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.
Councilor Cheney moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm, seconded by Councilor O'Connor.
Vote: 3/0.

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