

**DRAFT MINUTES
LANSING CITY BOARD OF ETHICS
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2024 5:30 PM**

Meeting Room
Reo Elections Office
1221 Reo Rd Lansing

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim DeLine, Chairperson
R Cole Bouck,
John Folkers
Jim Cavanagh
Keith Kris, Vice Chairperson
Rachelle Franklin

ABSENT: Janielle Houston, Excused

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian P Jackson, City Clerk's Office
Chris Swope, City Clerk
Joe Abood, City Attorney's Office
Katherine Nichols-Leindecker, City Attorney's Office

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Keith Kris to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition to the Secretary's Report of "Louise Alderson Resignation".

MOTION CARRIED

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Cole Bouck to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2024 as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Cole Bouck to accept the resignation of Louise Alderson

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Jim Cavanagh to accept the Meeting Schedule for 2025 with the amendment to change the November meeting to Tuesday, Nov. 18 to avoid Veteran's Day.

MOTION CARRIED

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Joe Abood thanked all veterans for their service to our Country as the day before was Veteran's Day.

CHAIR'S REPORT: None.

TABLED ITEMS:

Affidavit of Disclosure, Randy Watkins, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board

Moved by Keith Kris to recognize Jim Cavanagh recusal of himself from voting since he has a friendship with Mr. Watkins.

MOTION CARRIED

Joe Abood shared the City Attorney's Office opinion that even though Randy Watkin's is about to resign and accept an appointment to the Police Board of Commissioners, it is best that the Board of Ethics still act on Mr. Watkin's Affidavit.

Moved by Cole Bouck to place Randy Watkins' Affidavit of Disclosure on file, having found no violation of the Ethics Ordinance or other issues to further debate or discuss at this time.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Cole Bouck and Jim DeLine shared their experiences at the Regional Ethics Conference 2024 and how other communities have very different missions and procedures.

It led them to have questions about City of Lansing procedure of which some were answered by Deputy Clerk Jackson about the ethics' complaint process.

As a result, the Ethics Board request copies of materials that are provided to City employees in onboarding and continuing education of City employees.

Clerk's Office provided electronic copies of the Ethics Manual that was created by the Board of Ethics.

Jim DeLine brought to Board attention several items within the Rules of Procedures which should be reviewed. These items are:

Item 7.2: Question whether motion to recuse is required or should the recusal process be made more clearer in this section.

(City Attorney's Office was going to review that question)

Item 8.4 and 8.5: whether clarification is necessary that ex officio officers are non-voting members

Item 13: Should the Board consider changing meeting procedures to Robert's Rules of Order

(City Attorney's Office was going to review if there was a legal justification for staying with current Mason's rules)

Item 15: Request information on how complaints are handled and what determine that process. Board was informed that Ethics Ordinance sets the procedure.

Deputy Clerk Jackson shared with the Board with the process in which revisions of Rules of Procedures must be approved to form by the City Attorney. Then upon approval of the Board of Ethics, the revised rules would be included in the next Council packet for potential rejection.

ADJOURNED 6:34 p.m.