

City of Troy

Ethics Commission

Quarterly Meeting, August 8, 2019

Minutes

Attendance:

Ryan Manley (Chair), Peter Kehoe, Steve Muller, Karen Pelland, Tiffany Morgan (appointed but had not signed oath book; attended as observer)

Call to Order: Chairman Manley determined that there was a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Public Comments: None.

Meeting:

Chairman Manley briefly reviewed and discussed the activities of the Commission over the past two years. for our new members.

Discussion then turned to a request made by City Council President Carmella Mantello for an advisory opinion. She asked if the appointment of Kaleb Winters, local chairman of the Green Party, to the Environmental Conservation Commission, was a violation of Sec. 43.6 B. of the City of Troy Code of Ethics, which prohibits political party officials from serving on boards and commissions established under the City Charter. It was pointed out that Sec. 43-4 allows political party officials to serve on purely advisory boards and commissions; however, Section 39.5 establishing the Environmental Protection Commission makes it clear that this commission has more than merely advisory powers. Chairman Manley called for a vote; the vote was unanimous that Winters's appointment was a violation of the Code of Ethics and that Winters either had to resign from the Environmental Conservation Commission or resign from his Green Party position.

Chairman Manley then reviewed a potential conflict of interest situation raised by the City of Troy Department of Housing & Community Development concerning applicants for the Homebuyers Incentive Program, a program to help first-time home buyers. Manley explained that the previous inability of the Commission to rule on this issue due to lack of quorum was causing hardship to program applicants. Pelland and Muller pointed out that the City's role in this program is relatively minor: the funds are provided by HUD and local non-profit TRIP

qualifies and educates prospective applicants. Chairman Manley called for a vote; the vote was unanimous that the issue raised was not a conflict of interest.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next Meetings: Meetings were scheduled for October 4, 2019, and December 12, 2019.

Submitted by:

Stephen H. Muller
Secretary ad hoc