

MINUTES
STATHAM BOARD OF ETHICS
October 17, 2019
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Statham Board of Ethics meeting was called to order by the Chair, Tammy Hitchcock, at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were the Chair and Members Johnnie Ellington and Lee Weems; no members were absent.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

(a) The Chair noted that this was the initial meeting of the Board of Ethics and introduced the members of the Board. She suggested that the Board retain attorney Bill Berryman to advise the Board and to prepare draft minutes for review and approval at the next meeting. Ms. Ellington moved for approval, Mr. Weems seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

(b) The Chair requested that attorney Berryman briefly review the Statham Ethics Ordinance, and he summarized the ordinance and its requirements.

(c) The Board reviewed the written complaint filed by Catherine Corkren against Mayor Robert Bridges and Councilwoman Betty Lyle. After review and discussion, the Board concluded that the complaint was not subject to dismissal on the basis that it was unjustified, frivolous, patently unfounded, or fails to state facts sufficient to invoke the disciplinary jurisdiction of the City Council. Mr. Weems moved that the complaint filed by Ms. Corkren move forward for further consideration by the Ethics Board, Ms. Ellington seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

(d) Noting that an evidentiary hearing would be required for review of Ms. Corkren's complaint, the Board then considered draft rules of procedure prepared by attorney Berryman to be used for the upcoming hearing and future hearings. Mr. Weems moved that the rules of procedure be adopted, Ms. Ellington seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A copy of the rules is attached to this summary.

(e) The Board then conferred with the complainant, Ms. Corkren, and the Respondents, Mayor Bridges and Councilwoman Lyle, regarding hearing dates. After confirming the availability of the parties, the Board scheduled an evidentiary hearing for November 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Statham City Hall. The City Clerk then served the parties with a hearing notice at the meeting.

(f) Mr. Weems moved that the meeting be adjourned, Ms. Ellington second the motion, and it passed unanimously.