

City of Sandy Springs Board of Ethics Meeting was held at Sandy Springs City Hall, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500, Sandy Springs, Georgia, 30350, on January 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Swearing in of board members Jeremy Becker and Kevin Rodriguez

Judge Candiss L. Howard read the Board of Ethics Oath of Office to Jeremy Becker and Kevin Rodriguez as they separately raised their right hands. At the conclusion of the Oath, Jeremy Becker and Kevin Rodriguez signed the Oath of office.

Call to Order

Chairman Cindy Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

Roll call

Assistant City Clerk Kelly Bogner called the roll.

Board Members Present: Cindy Johnson, Jonathan Levine, John Porter, Kevin Rodriguez, and Jeremy Becker. Ronald Cato was absent.

Staff and Representatives Present: Assistant City Clerk Kelly Bogner, City Clerk Michael Casey, and Staff Attorney Kathy Williams.

Ruling on a Quorum

Chairman Cindy Johnson ruled a quorum was in place for the meeting.

Approval of minutes from August 9, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Motion and Vote: Jonathan Levine moved to approve the August 9, 2017, meeting minutes. John Porter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes from October 11, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Motion and Vote: Jonathan Levine moved to approve the October 11, 2017, meeting minutes. John Porter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

a. Review Board Member terms

Chairman Cindy Johnson welcomed the new boardmembers. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

John Porter stated he has been on the Board for about one year. He has lived in Sandy Springs since 2002. He is a retired Episcopal Priest and a teacher at Holy Innocents Episcopal School. He was the Director of the Parish for seven years. He enjoys serving on the Board.

Jonathan Levine stated he lives in Sandy Springs within walking distance from Holy Innocents School. He has been on the Board for about a year and a half to two years. He is married with three daughters. One is a senior at Texas, one is a freshman at UGA, and the other is a tenth grader at Pace Academy. He is a family law attorney in Buckhead. He was born and raised in Sandy Springs.

Chairman Johnson stated she lives in the panhandle of Sandy Springs. She has served on the Board for two terms for a total of six years. She is a real estate agent.

Jeremy Becker stated he operates the public sector working group called JLL, which is a large commercial real estate services firm. He is an attorney, but left the practice quite some time ago. He has lived in Sandy Springs since 2012 and also has three children who attend the Epstein School.

Kevin Rodriguez stated he grew up in Gwinnett County, attended Georgia Tech and purchased a home in Sandy Springs in 2012. He lives in District 3. He has two young children. This is his first time participating in public service. He is very interested in what the City has accomplished and is glad to be a resident. He works at a company called Savills Studley, which is a commercial real estate company. He operates the project management team.

Chairman Johnson thanked Assistant City Clerk Bogner for keeping the Board organized.

Assistant City Clerk Kelly Bogner thanked Chairman Johnson.

Board members and terms

	<u>Term Dates</u>	<u>1st or 2nd Term</u>
Jeremy Becker	11/7/2017 – 11/1/2020	1st
John Porter	8/2/2015 – 11/1/2018	1nd
Ronald Cato	11/1/2016 – 11/1/2019	2nd
Cindy Johnson	11/1/2014 – 11/1/2017	2nd
Jonathan Levine	11/1/2014 – 11/1/2017	1st
Kevin Rodriguez	11/1/2017 – 11/1/2020	1st

b. Reminder for Regular scheduled meeting dates for 2018

- i. January 10**
- ii. April 11**
- iii. July 11**
- iv. October 10**

c. Review and discuss 2017 Annual Report

Assistant City Clerk Kelly Bogner stated she was going to have one of the staff attorneys address the issue of when the annual report is due. After speaking to City Clerk Michael Casey, she believes there was a misunderstanding regarding whether the annual report is due in the current year or the following year.

Chairman Cindy Johnson stated at the last meeting it was interpreted that the annual report is not due until December of the following year.

Assistant City Clerk Bogner stated that is correct. One of the attorney's is available to address that today.

Chairman Johnson stated Staff Attorney Kathy Williams was at the last meeting and she explained the annual report due date as the following year. Chairman Johnson added that she has already completed the annual report for 2017, which she handed out. She reviewed the 2017 Annual Report.

Motion and Vote: John Porter moved to approve the 2017 Annual Report. Jonathan Levine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of new officers

Motion and Vote: John Porter nominated Jonathan Levine to serve as the Chair of the Board of Ethics for 2018. Jeremy Becker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Attorney Kathy Williams and City Clerk Michael Casey arrived at this time.

Motion and Vote: Jonathan Levine nominated John Porter to serve as the Vice Chair of the Board of Ethics for 2018. Jeremy Becker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Attorney Kathy Williams stated the language in the ordinance regarding the annual report is not completely clear. The language states, "no later than December 1st of each year submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council concerning its action, if any, in the preceding year". The definition of preceding year is the issue. The last meeting of each year is in October and the business is concluded for that year. Then the annual report is completed, but the Board does not meet again until January to discuss the annual report and to finalize it. Staff took the position at the last meeting that the report is due the following December. The language is not clear in the ordinance. She asked if the 2017 annual report is complete.

Chairman Cindy Johnson stated the annual report was just approved at this meeting. Even though the last scheduled meeting is in October, if there is a complaint filed against a Council Member or employee, the Board would be required to hold a special called meeting in December. She recommends to the next Board to make it more clear when the report is due, for example March 1st.

City Clerk Michael Casey stated having the annual report due in March would give the Board the opportunity to validate the annual report at the January meeting.

Staff Attorney Williams stated the language in the ordinance will allow the entire following year for submission of the report. That is how the ordinance has previously been interpreted. If the Board would like to change the date of when the report is due, it will require an amendment to the ordinance.

Johnathan Levine asked how difficult is that process.

Staff Attorney Williams stated the process is not that difficult, but there is a process. The item would have to go before Council. If the Board wants to make a change to the ordinance, that is a recommendation that staff will need to make to Council.

City Clerk Michael Casey stated it makes no sense to him to wait until December 1, 2018 for the Council to receive the 2017 Annual Report.

Jeremy Becker stated the ordinance does not state preceding calendar year, so it could be interpreted as the preceding twelve months.

Staff Attorney Williams responded yes.

Chairman Johnson asked if the ordinance is being interpreted as the 2017 annual report is due December 1, 2018.

Staff Attorney Williams stated the ordinance states in the preceding year.

Chairman Johnson stated then perhaps the ordinance does not need to be changed.

Staff Attorney Williams stated the Board does not have to wait until December 1 of the next year to submit the annual report. She thinks this discussion occurred in a prior year when the Board thought they would be submitting the report late. It was discussed and determined the report would not be late. The report needs approval by the Board first.

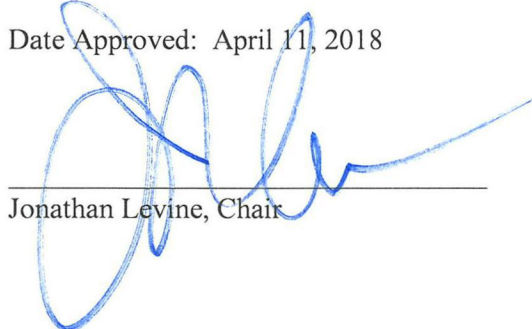
d. Other new business

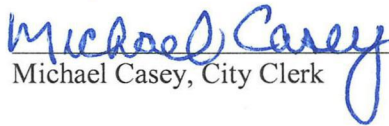
There was no other new business.

Adjournment

Motion and Vote: Jonathan Levine moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Date Approved: April 11, 2018


Jonathan Levine, Chair


Michael Casey, City Clerk