

BOWIE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

Minutes

March 3, 2015 – Open Meeting

A meeting of the Bowie City Ethics Commission was held on Tuesday March 3, 2015 in the City Manager's conference room. Commission members in attendance were Benjamin Woolery, Chair, Vince Canales (by phone), Karl Stehmer and Lee Weimer. Also in attendance was John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager, and liaison to the Commission. Jim Holderbaum was excused.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Lee Weimer. Chairman Woolery arrived at 3:20 p.m.

The Commission welcomed new member Karl Stehmer. Mr. Stehmer provided a background of his previous work experience and his life as a resident of Bowie.

The Commission discussed the proposed presentation for City Council scheduled for March 16, 2015. A PowerPoint of the presentation the Commission made to City Council on April 7, 2014 was reviewed. Mr. Canales suggested that the questions and responses to the questions that City Council had during the April 7, 2014 presentation be incorporated into the PowerPoint presentation. It was requested that staff update the presentation along these lines. The Commission members will let staff know if they have any additional recommended changes for the presentation. The Commission also decided to move this presentation from the March 16, 2015 City Council meeting to the May 18, 2015 Council meeting.

Staff announced that City Council has agreed to appoint Fred Sussman as Legal Counsel for the Commission. Mr. Sussman will be formally approved by Council on March 16, 2015. Staff was requested to see if Mr. Sussman could attend the March 17, 2015 meeting of the Ethics Commission.

Staff also indicated that an ordinance was introduced at the City Council meeting of March 2, 2015 expanding the alternate membership on the Commission from one alternate to two alternates. Council will consider this ordinance on March 16, 2015.

Ms. Weimer indicated that she would like to see Betsy Dawson be recognized for her work as Ethics Counsel for the Commission. Staff indicated that the Mayor sent Ms. Dawson a letter recognizing and thanking her for her service to the City and to the Commission. Ms. Weimer will coordinate sending a thank you card from the Commission members as well.

There being no further business to conduct in an open session, a motion was made (Weimer) and seconded (Stehmer) to close the meeting pursuant to §10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Act to discuss administrative matters. The motion was carried unanimously by written vote and the open portion of the meeting was closed at 3:40 p.m.

Public Minutes of Closed Session

During the closed meeting, the following actions were taken:

The Commission reviewed a Lobbying Activity Report.

The Commission reviewed Financial Disclosure Statements that had been submitted by City Council, City staff and City Committee members for calendar year 2014.

There being no further business to be conducted in closed session, Mr. Woolery adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

[The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 17 2015 at 3:00 in the City Manager's conference room.]

John L. Fitzwater
Staff Liaison to the Ethics Commission

STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

March 3, 2015

Motion By: Lee Weimer

Seconded By: Karl Stehner

Vote to Close Session AYE NAY ABSTAIN ABSENT

Benjamin Woolery, Chairman BSW
Ismael "Vince" Canales DEPARTED
James Holderbaum EXUSED
Karl Stehner KKS
Lee Weimer LW

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION
State Government Article §10-508(a):

- 1. To discuss:
 - (i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance, evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or
 - (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- 2. To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.
- 3. To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.
- 4. To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
- 5. To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
- 6. To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

Topics to be discussed in close session: