

BOWIE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

Minutes

March 22, 2016 - Open Meeting

A meeting of the Bowie City Ethics Commission was held on Tuesday March 22, 2016 in the City Manager's conference room at Bowie City Hall. Commission members in attendance were Benjamin Woolery, Chair, Vince Canales, Jay Fagan, Jim Holderbaum, Karl Stehmer, Alan Kolski and Daniel Thomas. Also in attendance was Fred Sussman, Counsel for the Commission, and John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager, and liaison to the Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Woolery.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting. Mr. Fagan moved approval of the minutes and Mr. Canales seconded. All voted in favor.

The Commission reviewed the Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) that had been submitted since their last meeting on February 16, 2016. These FDSs had been previously electronically distributed to Commission members and to Mr. Sussman. Mr. Sussman prepared an analysis of the FDSs for Commission consideration. The Commission determined that additional information was required from Councilmen Marcos and Gardner and from Board of Personnel Appeals member Rhone. The Commission also determined that the adjustments made to the forms of Mayor Robinson and Councilwoman Polangin were acceptable. Chairman Woolery offered to meet with Councilman Marcos to review the additional information required since he has a business and personal relationship with Councilman Marcos and yet indicated that he'd defer to Counsel and/or the Commission's members as a body on the point. Mr. Sussman advised that Mr. Woolery should recuse himself from this matter because of this business and personal relationship (with Mr. Canales reminding everyone that Chairman Woolery has always recused himself from matters involving Councilman Marcos) and the other Commission members concurred with this action. The Commission requested City staff to prepare a letter for Mr. Woolery's signature to be sent to the two Committee members who had not yet filed their FDSs. The Commission also determined that they would take action at their next meeting to approve all of the FDSs that had been previously reviewed and found to have no problems associated with them.

The Commission then reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that was used in April 2015 for a presentation to City Council about the roles and responsibilities of the Ethics Commission. Modifications to the PowerPoint were made and staff was tasked with making these modifications and bringing these back to the Commission at their next meeting for review and approval. The Commission also determined which Commission member would present which item. Finally, the Commission determined that they wished to make this presentation to City Council on June 20, 2016.

Mr. Sussman brought to the attention of the Ethics Commission SB 395. This bill was approved by the Senate and was scheduled for a hearing in the House. The gist of the bill pertained to the State Ethics Commission creating standards by which local modifications to local Ethics Ordinances in certain communities could be made.

The Commission determined that because there were no items scheduled for the April meeting of the Commission, the Commission would cancel their April 19, 2016 and next meet on May 17, 2016.

There being no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Stehmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Canales seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

[The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on Tuesday May 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager's conference room.]

John L. Fitzwater
Staff Liaison to the Ethics Commission