

# **BOWIE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION**

## **Minutes**

### **May 9, 2017 - Open Meeting**

A meeting of the Bowie City Ethics Commission was held on Tuesday May 9, 2017 in the City Manager's conference room at Bowie City Hall. Commission members in attendance were Vince Canales, Chair, Jay Fagan, Jim Holderbaum, Alan Kolski, Daniel Thomas and Benjamin Woolery (arrived at 3:20 p.m.). Karl Stehmer was excused. Also in attendance were Fred Sussman, Counsel for the Commission and John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager, and liaison to the Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Canales.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting. Mr. Kolski moved approval of the minutes and Mr. Holderbaum seconded. All voted in favor.

The Commission reviewed the modifications to the Financial Disclosure Statements submitted by Councilman Esteve, Councilman Marcos and Councilwoman Polangin. The Commission had been previously provided electronic copies of the modified version of these statements. Mr. Sussman indicated that these forms were acceptable from his perspective. The Commission noted one additional adjustment that was required on Councilman Marcos' statement and requested that City staff contact Councilman Marcos to get this modification. The Commission also reviewed the Financial Disclosure Statement of Tori Johnson that had previously been provided electronically to the Commission members. Mr. Sussman indicated that this form was acceptable from his perspective. It was moved by Mr. Holderbaum and seconded by Mr. Fagan to approve these four Financial Disclosure Forms. This motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Commission reviewed a Lobbying Registration Form submitted by Robert Antonetti. The Commission had previously been provided an electronic copy of this form. Mr. Sussman indicated the form was acceptable from his perspective. Mr. Thomas moved approval of this form. Mr. Kolski seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Commission received an overview of HB 879 from Mr. Sussman. This bill was passed during the State General Assembly Session in 2017 and pertains to public ethics of State officials. Mr. Sussman indicated that there were provisions of this bill that may impact the City of Bowie Ethics Ordinance in the following areas:

- expansion of lobbying provisions after leaving public office
- use of the prestige of office to influence the award of a contract
- use of the title of office to solicit political contributions
- the requirement to provide a list of entities doing business with the City

- the requirement to post on line after January 1, 2019 Financial Disclosure Statements

Because the City's ordinance must be as restrictive as the State ordinance there likely will need to be modifications to the City's ordinance. The State Ethics Commission will provide guidance to localities and is likely to provide model language to be incorporated at the local level. A time frame has not yet been established as to when this model language will be provided. No action is required by the Bowie Ethics Commission at this time.

The Commission reviewed and modified the Power Point Ethics Commission educational presentation that is made to City Council each year. As part of its mission, the Ethics Commission is required to educate the public about the roles and responsibilities of the Ethics Commission. The Commission requested that this presentation be added to the September 18, 2017 meeting of the Bowie City Council.

The Commission determined that their next meeting would be held on Tuesday September 12, 2017 at 3 p.m. at Bowie City Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Woolery moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fagan seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

**[The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on Tuesday September 12, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager 's conference room.]**

John L. Fitzwater  
Staff Liaison to the Ethics Commission