

BOWIE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 19, 2019 – Open Meeting

A meeting of the Bowie City Ethics Commission was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 in the City Manager's conference room at Bowie City Hall. Commission members in attendance were Vince Canales, Karl Stehmer, Jay Fagan, and Alternates Daniel Thomas and Ben Woolery. Also in attendance were Fred Sussman, Counsel for the Commission, and Assistant City Manager Daniel Mears, liaison to the Commission, and Awilda Hernandez, City Clerk. Not present were Alan Kolski and Jim Holderbaum.

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Member Canales.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting. Mr. Woolery moved approval of the minutes and Mr. Stehmer seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Sussman presented an overview of the Financial Disclosure Statements (FDS) for elected officials and employees and commission members received by the City as of February 15, 2019. Mr. Sussman summarized his review of the FDS. Submitted forms that were complete and OK were color coded green, and the items that had an issue were given blue color coding. Items 18 and 19 were inadvertently colored blue, when they were actually complete and should have been green.

FDS #4 from Ms. Polangin had a confusing submittal of schedule A, after discussion the Commission felt that the clerk should follow up with Ms. Polangin to get a corrected FDS. Several items were missing an email address. After discussion it was agreed, that a form missing an email would be accepted, as the form had been revised to make the email not be a required piece of information. Two of the forms cited gifts that had gifts declared on them. After discussion the commission accepted the two declarations from Levan and Stephanos. Form #41 from Ms. Rhone did not properly indicate which commission she was on. After discussion, the commission agreed that the form should be corrected. Two additional FDS forms were received before the meeting from Mr. Lott and Mr. Carl Robinson. After review, those were found complete. Mr. Fagan moved that all of the submitted FDS forms be accepted as complete, with the exception of Ms. Polangin and Ms. Rhone, and that the clerk follow up with each to get a complete form. Mr. Stehmer seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The commission discussed the imposition of penalties for the four elected officials, one staff member, and several commission members who had not submitted their required FDS forms. After discussion the commission agreed to provide more time before levying a penalty for late submittals. Mr. Woolery moved that those who had not submitted be given until March 1, 2019 to submit their forms. If they failed to do so, daily penalties going back to February 19, 2019 would be imposed. Mr. Fagan seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

During Good of the Organization, Alternate Member Woolery announced that he is resigning from the Ethics Commission.

There being no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 p.m. Mr. Stehmer seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

[The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on Tuesday March 19, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the City Manager's conference room.]

Daniel Mears
Staff Liaison to the Ethics
Commission