

BOWIE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

Minutes

May 20, 2014 – Open Meeting

A meeting of the Bowie City Ethics Commission was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 in the City Manager's conference room. Commission members in attendance were Benjamin Woolery, Chair, Lee Weimer, Jim Holderbaum and Vince Canales. Also in attendance was John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager and liaison to the Commission. Betsy K. Dawson, Attorney to the Commission, did not attend the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Chairman Woolery.

The members reviewed and approved the Minutes from the March 18, 2014 meeting.

The members reviewed the February 21, 2014 letter from Mayor Robinson asking City committees to evaluate how they are functioning and to suggest ways that committees can improve their operations. Chairman Woolery will prepare a letter to be sent to Mayor Robinson that addresses the following issues:

- A copy of the April 7, 2014 Power Point presentation to City Council will be attached to letter.
- The need for more committee members.
- The suggestion that a Bowie High School student be made an associate member of the Ethics Commission.
- The need for the Ethics Commission Attorney to be paid for her services rather than operating in a pro bono status.
- The need for a budget to perform educational outreach efforts.
- A response to the questions raised by City Council at the April 7, 2014 meeting will be provided.

The members reviewed responses to the questions raised by City Council at the April 7, 2014 meeting. It was agreed that the Commission should add clarification to the Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) that defines the terms "joint tenancy", "tenancy by the entireties" and other legal terms that may be unclear to those filling out the FDS.

The members reviewed a proposed article for the City Newsletter concerning "lobbying" prepared by Ms. Dawson. The Commission decided to rewrite aspects of this article and to have this added to the next edition of the newsletter following the current edition.

There being no further business to conduct in an open session, a motion was made (Canales) and seconded (Holderbaum) to close the meeting pursuant to §10-508 of the Maryland Open Meetings Act to discuss an administrative matter. The motion was carried unanimously by written vote.

Public Minutes of Closed Session

During the closed meeting, the following actions were taken:

The Commission reviewed Financial Disclosure Statements that were submitted by City Councilmembers, staff and committee members required to submit these forms and authorized staff to follow-up with several Councilmembers concerning their submittals.

There being no further business to be conducted in closed session, Mr. Woolery adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

[The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 3:00 in the City Manager's conference room.]

John L. Fitzwater
Staff Liaison to the Ethics Commission

STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

May 20, 2014

Motion By: *VINCE CANALES*

Seconded By: *JIM HOLDERBAUM*

Vote to Close Session: AYE NAY ABSTAIN ABSENT

Benjamin Woolery, Chairman
Lee Weimer
Ismael "Vince" Canales
James Holderbaum

BW
JHW
(Signature)
(Signature)

**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 closed session:

- 1. Review of financial disclosure statements, forms, and activity report received
- 2. Consideration and review of procedures necessary for administration of ethics law.
- 3. New Business for closed session: