

BOWIE CITY ETHICS COMMISSION

Minutes

August 21, 2014 – Open Meeting

A meeting of the Bowie City Ethics Commission was held on Thursday August 21, 2014 in the City Manager's conference room. Commission members in attendance were Benjamin Woolery, Chair, Lee Weimer and Vince Canales. Also in attendance was Betsy K. Dawson, Attorney to the Commission and John Fitzwater, Assistant City Manager and liaison to the Commission. Jim Holderbaum was excused.

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

The members reviewed and approved the Minutes from the June 17, 2014 Ethics Commission meeting.

The members reviewed possible ways to improve lobbying registration. Among the ways considered were:

1. Getting witness lists from City Council meetings. Since the City Council does not currently keep witness lists, the Commission determined that this was not a practical alternative at this time.
2. Have the Commission write a letter to possible lobbyists when they find out from City staff, from someone else who attends a Council meeting, or from the newspapers
3. Have the Commission write to individual members of the City Council and ask them to let the Commission know if they are being lobbied.
4. To have the Commission review minutes of City Council meetings to identify those who testified that may be possible lobbyists.
5. To have copies of lobbying forms available at meetings.

Chairman Woolery indicated that he will include recommendations two through five in the letter he is preparing to City Council regarding the operation of City Committees.

There being no further business to conduct in an open session, a motion was made (Weimer) and seconded (Canales) 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 meeting was closed at 3:10 p.m.

Public Minutes of Closed Session

During the closed meeting, the following actions were taken:

The Commission approved an Advisory Opinion.

The Commission reviewed Lobbying Disclosure Forms and Activity Statements which had been submitted.

The Commission reviewed a Financial Disclosure Statement with a question that had been previously raised by the Ethics Commission.

There being no further business to be conducted in closed session, Mr. Woolery adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

[The next meeting of the Ethics Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 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

August 21, 2014

Motion By:

Seconded By:

Vote to Close Session: AYE NAY ABSTAIN ABSENT

Benjamin Woolery, Chairman

BTW

Lee Weimer

SPW

Ismael "Vince" Canales

(circled initials)

James Holderbaum - excuse absent

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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. [x] 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. [x] 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. Inquiry about non-participation