

## City of Denton Board of Ethics

After determining that a quorum was present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, convened in a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Hannah Klaassen, Members Dustin Pavelek, Andrea Eberhard, Tom Pryor and Alternate Members Deborah Cosimo, Rob Rayner, and David Zoltner.

**ABSENT:** Chair Lara Tomlin, and Member Annetta Ramsay.

### 1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### A. **BOE22-028** Consider approval of minutes for August 1, 2022.

Vice-Chair Klaassen moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Member Eberhard. Motion carried.

AYES (7): Vice-Chair Klaassen, and Members Pavelek, Eberhard, Pryor, Cosimo, Rayner, and Zoltner.

NAYS (0): None.

ABSENT (2): Chair Tomlin and Member Ramsay.

#### B. **BOE22-029** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take necessary action regarding potential recommendations to amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) Sec. 2-273 Prohibitions.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

The Board gave direction to draft language to update the ordinance to newly require City Officials to recuse from deliberations on pending matters if they have involvement in an undertaking in one of the following forms:

- Solicited, received, or accepted an offer of employment;
- Directly or indirectly engaged in business opportunity negotiations;
- An economic interest in an affiliated or partner business entity or non-profit;
- An outside client; and
- A substantial debtor or creditor relationship with a group or Business Entity.

In addition, direction was given to make no changes Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-273 (a) (E) and (F).

#### C. **BOE22-027** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take necessary action regarding potential procedures to identify and process Accepted Ethics Complaints that may be frivolous.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

The Board gave direction to draft language to update the ordinance to create an “order to show cause” process for complaints that may be frivolous to replace the current recommend a hearing to determine frivolity process detailed in Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-280 (d). This direction included the following:

- Allow a preliminary panel to issue an order to show cause by a simple majority;
- Do not allow the Respondent to end the order to show cause process once begun by the Board;

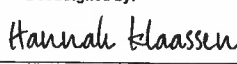
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- Require an Accepted Ethics Complaint to be found Baseless by a simple majority prior to an order to show cause being issued;
- Allow the Respondent to provide a written response to an order to show cause; and
- Do not allow the Respondent to participate in a hearing held in response to an order to show cause.

**D. BOE22-030 Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.**

The item was postponed to the next meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Lara Tomlin  
Chair

  
Tammy Peal  
Recording Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED ON: November 7, 2022