



***ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
JULY 27, 2022***

The Ethics Review Commission convened in a Regular Called meeting on July 27, 2022, at Permitting and Development Center, PDC Room #1406, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas and via Videoconference.

Chair Soberon called the Ethics Review Commission Meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Luis Soberon, Secretary Nguyen Stanton, and Commissioners Michael Lovins and Mikki Teneyuca were present at the Permitting and Development Center. (Secretary Stanton joined the meeting in the beginning of revisit of item 2.)

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Commissioners Debra Danburg, Betsy Greenberg, Donna Beth McCormick, and Sydney Williams attended via videoconference.

Commissioners Absent: Vice-Chair Mary Kahle and Commissioner Raafia Lari.

Vacancy: Mayor's nominee.

City Staff in Attendance: Lizette Benitez, Staff Liaison; Caroline Webster, Acting Commission Executive Liaison & Division Chief.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No one registered to speak during Public Communication.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Approve a recommendation for potential amendments to the financial disclosure provisions of City Code Chapter 2-7 (Ethics and Financial Disclosure).**

The motion to forward the Recommendation of Amendments to City Code Chapter 2-7, Article 5 (Financial Disclosures) to the Audit and Finance Committee was approved on Commissioner Greenberg's motion. Commissioner McCormick seconded on a 7-0 vote. Voting in favor: Chair Soberon, and Commissioners Danburg, Greenberg, Lovins, McCormick, Teneyuca, and Williams. Vice-Chair Kahle, Secretary Stanton, and Commissioner Lari were absent.

The motion to forward the Recommendation for City Officials and Candidates with the addition of subsection B and switching it with subsection D and no renumbering was made by Commissioner Greenberg. Commissioner Williams seconded. Upon further discussion

from the Commission, Commissioner Greenberg proceeded to make a motion to divide the question.

The motion to amend to strike the last seven words of Subsection B, now Subsection D so as to only apply to elected Mayor and Council members failed on Commissioner Lovins' motion. Commissioner Greenberg seconded on a 4-3 vote. Voting in favor: Chair Soberon and Commissioners Lovins, McCormick, and Teneyuca. Those voting against: Commissioners Danburg, Greenberg, and Williams. Vice-Chair Kahle, Secretary Stanton, and Commissioner Lari were absent.

There was continued discussion on the item from the Commission. The motion to amend the Code with the current recommendation as-is with different lettering was approved on Commissioner Williams' motion. Commissioner Teneyuca seconded on a 7-1 vote. Voting in favor: Chair Soberon, and Commissioners Danburg, Greenberg, Lovins, McCormick, Teneyuca, and Williams. Commissioner Lovins abstained. Vice-Chair Kahle, Secretary Stanton, and Commissioner Lari were absent.

2. City Council Candidate Forum Planning, including language interpretation services.

Item 2 was taken up briefly after item 1 and postponed until Secretary Stanton arrived to the meeting. Item 2 was taken up again at approximately 7:40 p.m. after the Commission took a short recess. (Item 2 was addressed after item 4 and before item 5 on the agenda.)

Caroline Webster, Law Department, briefed the Commission. The item is to be re-added on the next Regular Commission meeting agenda for Commission to receive an update. Commissioner Greenberg was absent virtually during the remainder of the briefing of this item.

3. Approval of a statement and/or video of what the Commission does & how the public can use the Commission and/or a Statement on Equity, Access, and the need for reform by the Working Group on Race, Identity and Equity.

The item was postponed for the next Regular Commission meeting to ensure Vice-Chair Kahle is able to present. No action was taken.

4. Approve the creation of a working group or other action plan for review of lobbyist registration thresholds in City Code Section 4-8-3.

The item was discussed by the Commission; however, no action was taken. The item was postponed for the next Regular Commission meeting.

Recess: At approximately 7:33 p.m., the Commission took a brief recess. Secretary Stanton joined the meeting before the meeting resumed. The meeting resumed at 7:40 p.m.

5. Approve the creation of a working group or other action plan for preparation of a calendar of Commission duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Stanton and Commissioner Teneyuca volunteered to be on the working group. The motion to create the working group to prepare calendar commission duties and responsibilities, composed of Secretary Stanton and Commissioner Teneyuca was approved

on Chair Soberon's motion. Commissioner Lovins seconded on a 7-0 vote. Voting in favor: Chair Soberon, Secretary Stanton, and Commissioners Danburg, Lovins, McCormick, Teneyuca and Williams. Vice-Chair Kahle, and Commissioners Greenberg and Lari were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

6. Staff briefing regarding anticipated updates to the Candidate and Officeholder Campaign Finance Brochure due to anticipated changes to campaign contribution limits based on recent increases in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.

Caroline Webster, Law Department, briefed the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

7. Approve the minutes of the Ethics Review Commission Regular Meeting on May 25, 2022.

Commissioner Greenberg re-joined the meeting. The motion to approve the May meeting minutes with amendment to add title of Secretary was approved on Secretary Stanton's motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote of all members present on a vote of 8-0. Voting in favor: Chair Soberon, Secretary Stanton, and Commissioners Danburg, Greenberg, Lovins, McCormick, Teneyuca, and Williams. Vice-Chair Kahle and Commissioner Lari were absent.

8. Approve the minutes of the Ethics Review Commission Regular Meeting on June 22, 2022.

The item was postponed for the next Regular Commission meeting to allow proper due diligence. No action was taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **Chair Soberon stated that the postponed items include: items 3, 4, and 8.**
- **A staff briefing regarding updates to the City Council Candidate Forum Planning and foreign language interpretation services.**
- **Chair Soberon raised as an agenda item the potential creation of a working group to address general lobbying regulations.**
- **Chair Soberon raised as an agenda item the potential creation of a working group to consider the Commission's authority to both initiate and prosecute complaints.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Soberon adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the September 28, 2022 Regular Commission meeting on a vote of 8-0 on Commissioner Greenberg's motion and Chair Soberon's second. Commissioners Lari and Teneyuca were absent.