

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Ethics Ad Hoc Committee  
Of the City of Georgetown, Texas**

**Monday, February 26, 2018**

The Ethics Ad Hoc Committee met on Monday, February 26, 2018 at **6:00 PM** in the Main Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 113 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Georgetown, Texas. All members were in attendance, with the exception of Peggy Moore. Bob Glandt, Jerry Lawhon, Kelly McClennahan, Camarie Perry, Tim Smith, Paula Trietsch Chaney and Cass Wheeler were present.

**REGULAR SESSION**

A. Call Meeting to Order – Tim Smith, Chair

Chair, Tim Smith, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. Consideration and possible action to approve the minutes from the meeting held January 29, 2018 – Tim Smith, Chair

Smith asked the Committee if they had any discussion regarding the draft minutes from the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion by Wheeler, second by Glandt to approve the minutes.

Approved: 7-0 (Moore absent)

C. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding recommendations to the City of Georgetown City Council on amendments to the City of Georgetown Ethics Ordinance – Tim Smith, Chair

City Attorney, Charlie McNabb, provided the Committee copies of a draft ethics ordinance. He explained that the draft included the direction the Committee had given at their January 29, 2018 meeting to start with the old ordinance 2012-09 and insert their recommended changes taken from Chapter 171 and the Ethics Ordinance from the City of Sugarland. McNabb noted that the language highlighted in yellow represented

direction from the Committee that was already included in the old ordinance 2012-09. He explained that the underlined language in the draft represented language added at the Committee's direction.

The Committee reviewed the draft ordinance in detail and also reviewed and held discussion regarding comments and suggestions made by City Councilmembers.

The Committee's recommendations for sanctions and violations were discussed. Discussion took place on a violation constituting a misdemeanor punishable as provided in the Code.

The degree of consanguinity was discussed. The Committee recommended using a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of consanguinity and asked the City Attorney to research definitions of a family member. It was suggested to change the language to "Spouse or Domestic Partner". The Committee also asked McNabb to look into step family, step relative, and step children language.

Consistency in the ordinance was discussed. It was discovered that language in the Ethics Commission bylaws was not consistent with the language in the ethics ordinance. McNabb said he would check both for any conflicts or inconsistencies and bring his findings to the Committee at the next meeting. He noted that he will make sure the terms are consistent throughout.

Discussion took place on abstaining from voting and filing a conflict of interest affidavit. McNabb said that filing a conflict of interest in order to abstain was in the Council Procedures, as well as the ethics ordinance. The Committee reviewed a Conflict of Interest form and asked that the language in the Ethics Ordinance require that one must file a Conflict of Interest affidavit in order to abstain from a vote. It was determined that the language added from the Sugarland ordinance took care of any issues of not being able to take action when a quorum was not met because of conflicts.

Motion by Trietsch-Chaney, second by Wheeler, to require City Officials, as well as Boards and Commissions members, to file a conflict of interest affidavit if abstaining from a vote.

Approved: 7-0 (Moore absent)

The Committee discussed gifts to City Officials. They determined that setting a specific amount would remove ambiguity. An amount of \$25 was agreed upon. City Officials would not be permitted to receive a gift of \$25 or greater.

Motion by Glandt, second by Trietsch-Chaney to set the gift amount for City officials at \$25.

Approved: 7-0 (Moore absent)

Discussion followed regarding preventing former City Councilmembers from seeking employment with the City or petitioning the City Council or Boards and Commissions for a period of 2 years. McNabb noted that this refers more to a lobbying ordinance. The Committee asked McNabb to pull language from other city ordinances as they find this to be appropriate.

The Committee spoke about the appointment of members to the Ethics Commission. Discussion included the intention to have a member from each district in the City in order to have full representation for all. The Ethics Commission bylaws were examined for language, as well as the ordinance. Discussion followed about a Councilmember being able to appoint a member outside of their district, if unable to find a willing member inside their district. City Attorney, Charlie McNabb, said he will look into this and synchronize the bylaws with the ordinance. He will bring any changes to the Committee at their next meeting.

Discussion began on "Abuse of Power" and "Unfair Advancement" as suggested for discussion from a City Councilmember. The Committee determined that they were unclear on the intention and asked the City Secretary to clarify this with the City Councilmember for discussion to continue at the next Ethics Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

- D. Discussion regarding future agendas and meeting dates and times – Tim Smith, Chair

The Committee set the next Ethics Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM at City Hall.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trietsch-Chaney, second by Wheeler to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM.

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Approved by the Ethics Ad Hoc Committee

3/26/2018  
Date

  
Board Chair

  
Board Secretary