

Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

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1 City Manager Trudgeon announced the 2024 Ethics Training will take place on April 10,
2 2024 at 6:30 p.m. and stated that City requires all Commissioners, Department Heads,
3 and elected officials to attend. Mr. Trudgeon mentioned that he will be asking for the
4 City Attorney Rachel Tierney to return and present about the Ethics Code.

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6 Mr. Trudgeon asked City Attorney Tierney about the topics she covered. City Attorney
7 Tierney indicated that she reviewed the City's Ethics Code, the State's Ethics Code, open
8 meeting law, and data practices.

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10 Mr. Trudgeon asked if there should be any change in the topics covered by the City
11 Attorney.

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13 Commissioner Bester indicated that he appreciated the topics covered and thought they
14 should continue to be reviewed.

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16 Chair Murphy asked that it would be great to include any Minnesota cases involving
17 ethics that could be used as an example. Commissioner Arneson stated that it would be good
18 to cover the material that has been discussed in the past and add any info about relevant
19 ethics issues.

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21 Mr. Trudgeon indicated that he and the City Attorney will look to see if any examples
22 can be dug up and used as part of the presentation. If nothing else, coming up with
23 hypothetical scenarios will help others understand the nuances of the ethics code

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25 Chair Murphy asked about discussing a situation when a Commissioner may have a
26 conflict with a vote and what resources are in place to help the Commissioner.

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28 Mr. Trudgeon indicated that there is a process where the Commissioner can reach out
29 directly to the City Attorney and ask for advice. City Attorney Tierney indicated that she
30 would include it in the presentation.

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32 Members discussed voting when a super-majority is needed and open meeting law
33 violations.

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35 City Attorney Tierney indicated that she would bring forward some examples of open
36 meeting law and data practices violations.

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38 Commissioner Bester asked if there have been any ethical code issues brought to the City
39 Manager. Mr. Trudgeon indicated that there has not been any brought forward.

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41 Commissioner Arneson discussed the challenges some school districts have with public
42 comments and how they regulate it. City Attorney Tierney indicated that should would
43 cover that topic during the presentation.

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1 Mr. Trudgeon indicated that barring any other input, the Ethics Training would follow the
2 same format of walking through the provisions of the code, giving some examples and
3 scenarios of potential ethics violations, and discuss the Open Meeting Law, data
4 practices, and public comment at city meetings.

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6 In response to a question from Commissioner Arneson, Mr. Trudgeon indicated that the
7 date is April 10, 2024.

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10 **VI. Other Business**

11 Mr. Bester asked about promises made by Council candidate and how it relates to the
12 Ethics Code. City Attorney Tierney stated the ethics code is about improper influence
13 versus personal opinions.

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15 Commissioner Bester asked about a situation where he is President of his homeowners
16 association is working with the city regarding an easement and wondered if there is any
17 conflict. City Attorney indicated that it should not be a problem if a Commissioner, as he
18 doesn't have specific access to information about the HOA request.

19

20 **VII. Adjourn**

21 Commissioner Hodder moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:21 p.m.,
22 seconded by Commissioner Arenson.

23

24 **Ayes: 4**

25 **Nays: 0**

26 **Motion carried.**

27

28 Respectfully submitted,
29 Patrick J. Trudgeon, City Manager

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