

ETHICS REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING
August 29, 2023
MAIN ROOM
300 N. CAMPBELL STREET, 2ND FLOOR
5:30 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

(Virtual attendance)

Mayor Richarda Momsen

Members Absent:

In Person

District 1 – Bruce Yetter

District 2-Marco Covarrubias

District 3-Elena GrasheimVC

District 4 – Mark-Thomas Bray

District 5 – Ryan Woodcraft

District 6 - Arnulfo Hernandez

District 7 - Casey Antonio Williams C

District 8 -Casey Mangan

City Attorney-Legal/Outside Counsel

Karla Nieman - City Attorney

Frank Garza – Outside Counsel

City Staff Present

Cary Westin -Interim City Manager

Martha P. Lozano – Board Liaison

Public Present

Members of the public signed up to speak.

Lisa Turner

Alfredo Borrego

Fred Evans

Max Grossman

Virtual public comment

Veronica Carbajal

George Zavala

James Peinado (written statement)

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at **5:34 p.m.**

2. Call to the Public:

Chair Williams addressed in person and virtual members of the public to present their public comment of the item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes: August 23th, 2023, Ethics Review Commission Board.

Chair Williams moves to approve August 23th, 2023, minutes. Motion by Commissioner Yetter seconded by Commissioner Woodcraft. Chair Williams called the motion and a second to approve made all in favor. None opposed, motion passes unanimously.

4. Hearing of Ethics Complaint filed by Ms. Deborah Paz against City Representative Alexandra Annello

Commissioner Covarrubias will recuse himself from this item on the agenda since he was appointed to the Commission by Rep. Annello.

Representative Alexandra Annello's attorney, Robert Blumenfeld, filed a motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction. He addressed the commission on this item against Rep. Annello and requested the commission to focus on the two-year window period starting July 2021 to the present.

Chair Williams entertained a motion to dismiss the allegations that were made on June 8, 2021, and earlier to June 23 of 2020. Mr. Blumenfeld has asked the commission to allow him to address the independent accusation that's been made on November 9, 2021. Chair Williams called a motion to dismiss those charges. Motion by Commissioner Woodcraft seconded by Commissioner Mangan. Chair Williams called the motion and a second to approve made all in favor. None opposed, motion passes unanimously.

The complainant, Ms. Deborah Paz, presented her opening statement for the violations within 2 years period. Ms. Paz submitted evidence to the Commission regarding the dates in question, specifically, August 3, 2021, August 16, 2021, November 9, 2021, and December 21, 2021. Ms. Paz did agree that November 9, 2021, was not related to Representative Annello's use of a fuel card.

Respondent Representative Annello was also provided with time to present her opening statement. Representative Annello's attorney made a motion to dismiss the complaint by stating that Ms. Paz failed to show any ethics violation. The Commission tabled a motion to dismiss the complaint until Representative Annello provided her response to the complaint.

Executive Session (8:48 pm)

Temp Vice Chair Woodcraft entertained a motion to move into executive session. Motion by Commissioner Woodcraft seconded by Commissioner Hernandez and Vice Chair Grasheim. Chair Williams called all those in favor. None opposed, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting back in session at 9:54 pm

Chair Williams calls the meeting to order. Commissioner Mangan makes a motion to dismiss the complaint on the grounds that complainant didn't provide clear and convincing evidence to the commission of an ethics violation. Seconded by Commissioner Yetter. Chair Williams called the motion and a second to approve made all in favor. Outside Counsel Garza requests that Chair Williams calls a roll call to obtain the motions of all the commissioners.

Commissioner Momsen – No

Commissioner Mangan -Yes

Commissioner Yetter – Yes

Vice Chair Grasheim – No

Commissioner Bray- Yes

Chair Williams- Yes

Commissioner Woodcraft – Yes

Commissioner Hernandez – No

Outside Counsel verified the votes and the motion carries. Complaints against Representative Anello were dismissed.

5. Adjournment: at 10:03 p.m.

Chair Williams calls a motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. None opposed, motion passes unanimously.