



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney St.
Denton, Texas 76201
www.cityofdenton.com

Meeting Agenda

Board of Ethics

Monday, August 3, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Work Session Room

SPECIAL CALLED

REGISTRATION GUIDELINES FOR ADDRESSING THE BOARD OF ETHICS

Citizens are also able to participate in the following way (NOTE: Other than public hearings, citizens are only able to comment one time per agenda item; citizens cannot use both methods to comment on a single agenda item. Public comments are not held for work session reports.):

- eComment – On Tuesday, July 28, 2026, the agenda was posted online at <https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>. Once the agenda is posted, a link to make virtual comments using the eComment module will be made available next to the meeting listing on the Upcoming Events Calendar. Within eComment, citizens may indicate support or opposition and submit a brief comment about a specific agenda item. Comments may be submitted up until the start of the meeting at which time the ability to make an eComment will be closed. Similar to when a citizen submits a white card to indicate their position on an item, the eComments will be sent directly to members of the Board of Ethics and recorded by the Secretary.

Members review comments received in advance of the meeting and take that public input into consideration prior to voting on an agenda item. The Chair will announce the number of Comment Cards submitted in support or opposition to an item during the public comment period. Comments will not be read during the meeting. The Secretary will reflect the number of comments submitted in favor/opposition to an item, the registrant's name, address, and (summary of) comments within the Minutes of the Meeting, as applicable.

After determining that a quorum is present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, will convene in a Special Called Meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas at which the following items will be considered:

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. [BOE26-014](#) Request for Advisory Opinion No. 26-001, received July 21, 2026, from Mayor Chris Watts concerning potential conflicts of interest.

Attachments: [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet](#)
 [Exhibit 2 - Received Request](#)

NOTE: The Board of Ethics reserves the right to adjourn into a Closed Meeting on any item on its Open Meeting agenda consistent with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, or as otherwise allowed by law.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the official website (<https://tx-denton.civicplus.com/242/Public-Meetings-Agendas>) and bulletin board at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas, on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, in advance of the three (3) business day posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY

NOTE: THE CITY OF DENTON'S DESIGNATED PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, SUCH AS SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, IF REQUESTED AT LEAST TWO (2) BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING. PLEASE CALL THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT 940-349-8309 OR USE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES FOR THE DEAF (TDD) BY CALLING 1-800-RELAY-TX SO THAT REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CAN BE ARRANGED.



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AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: City Auditor's Office

CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach

DATE: August 3, 2026

SUBJECT

Request for Advisory Opinion No. 26-001, received July 21, 2026, from Mayor Chris Watts concerning potential conflicts of interest.

BACKGROUND

The Ethics Ordinance (i.e., City of Denton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI) Sec. 2-278, allows any City Official to request an Advisory Opinion on a question of compliance with the Ordinance. A request is forwarded to a three-member Panel of the Board of Ethics, which must issue a written Advisory Opinion within 30 calendar days.

Per the Board of Ethics' Rules of Procedure, an Advisory Opinion should be based on the facts presented in writing by the requestor without additional material being considered. The Panel shall issue the written opinion based on the majority position of the Panel. The Advisory Opinion may contain conclusions and recommendations regarding how the Ethics Ordinance applies (if at all) to a particular situation or behavior.

DISCUSSION

On July 21, 2026, the City Auditor received an Advisory Opinion request from Mayor Chris Watts regarding potential conflicts of interest that may arise due to his status as a client of the McAdams Group.

Based on the request received, the Board of Ethics has been asked to determine if Mayor Watt's status as a client of the McAdams Group would require him to recuse or abstain from the following:

1. Any deliberation or vote of the City Council on any matters brought before council by the McAdams Group where he holds no interest in the pending matter.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

None.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Received Request

Respectfully submitted:
Madison Rorschach, 940-349-7228
City Auditor

Advisory Opinion Request

From Burton, Sarah <Sarah.Burton@cityofdenton.com>
Date Tue 7/28/2026 3:46 PM
To Burton, Sarah <Sarah.Burton@cityofdenton.com>

From: Watts, Chris <Chris.Watts@cityofdenton.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 6:13 AM
To: Rorschach, Madison <Madison.Rorschach@cityofdenton.com>
Subject: Advisory Opinion Request

Dear Madison,

I am requesting and Advisory Opinion from the Board of Ethics pursuant to Section 2-278 of Code of Ordinances Chapter 2: Administration Article XI. Ethics.

The relevant facts are as follows. The McAdams Company is a firm that will have matters before the City Council for deliberation and action. The matters primarily involve land use requests. I am a current client with the McAdams group. They represent my company, together with two other owners, in a land use request before the city. We originally engaged 97Land Company over a year and a half ago. The company was merged with McAdams recently.

I do not meet any criteria defining Conflicts of Interest as described in Sec 2-273 A-H of the Ethics Code with pending matters from McAdams that do not involve my client status. I have no ownership or financial interest the company, I am a client only. I acknowledge and understand I must recuse myself from any votes or deliberations regarding any pending matter McAdams may bring on my behalf before council that meets the criteria of Conflicts of Interest as described in Sec 2-273 A-H of the Code of Ethics.

I request an Advisory Opinion from the Board of Ethics to determine if I should recuse from deliberating and voting on any matters before the council brought by the McAdams Group where I have no interest in the pending matter? Does client status alone require recusal?

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Watts

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Additional information

From Burton, Sarah <Sarah.Burton@cityofdenton.com>

Date Tue 7/28/2026 3:46 PM

To Burton, Sarah <Sarah.Burton@cityofdenton.com>

From: Watts, Chris <Chris.Watts@cityofdenton.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 8:28 AM

To: Rorschach, Madison <Madison.Rorschach@cityofdenton.com>

Subject: Additional information

Madison,

Please incorporate the following additional facts in the request for Advisory Opinion submitted earlier this morning.

Myself and two other independent landowners decided to submit a combined land use request instead of submitting three separate applications. We are all independent and have no common interests, financial, business or otherwise with one another except for our common interest in the application submitted to the City by McAdams on our behalf. To my knowledge, the two landowners do not have a financial, business or other client relationships with the McAdams group.

Thank you for your attention.

Chris Watts
Mayor, City of Denton
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas 76201
(940) 349-8307