



City of Denton

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

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Internal Audit

CITY AUDITOR: Madison Rorschach

DATE: June 5, 2023

SUBJECT

Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding the creation of a public comment period for Board of Ethics meetings.

BACKGROUND

During the February 6, 2023 meeting of the Board of Ethics, the Board gave staff direction to look into options to have a public comment option at future Board of Ethics meetings.

Based on review, the Board of Ethics' Rules of Procedure currently prohibit public comments from being accepted at meetings held for an Advisory Opinion and for a Preliminary Assessment. In addition, the format of a Hearing held by the Board of Ethics is specific and does not currently include a time for public comment. Public comment is currently not addressed by the Ethics Ordinance, or the Rules of Procedure for regular meetings of the Board.

During the May 1, 2023 meeting of the Board of Ethics, the Board gave staff direction to implement the following for regular meetings of the Board:

- eComment on agenda items;
- In-person comment on agenda items limited to three minutes per item; and
- In-person presentation from members of the public (i.e. allows for comment on items not listed on the agenda) limited to three minutes per speaker and five speakers per meeting.

DISCUSSION

Based on the received direction, Staff is creating a redlined version of the Board of Ethics' Rules of Procedure. It should be noted that currently, members of the public are allowed to comment on posted agenda items per Texas state law; however, the Rules of Procedure must be amended to allow for presentations from members of the public and to adopt reasonable rules, including the time and speaker limitations directed by the Board.

Staff plans to present these changes to the City Council during the July 18, 2023 regular Council meeting. If adopted, the changes should be implemented for the Board of Ethics' August 7, 2023 regular meeting.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

None.

EXHIBITS

1. Agenda Information Sheet

Respectfully submitted:
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City Auditor