



# City of Denton

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

## Meeting Agenda

### Board of Ethics

Monday, April 1, 2024

5:30 PM

Council Work Session Room

#### **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 March 29, 2024, 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 Regular Meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024 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:

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

##### **1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

This section of the agenda permits a person to make comments regarding public business on items as listed on the agenda and in-person presentations (allows for comments on items not listed on the agenda.) Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes with up to five speakers per meeting.

##### **2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- A. [BOE24-020](#) Consider approval of minutes from March 4, 2024.  
[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]  
*Attachments:* [Exhibit 1 - Draft Regular Meeting Minutes](#)
- B. [BOE24-018](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the definition of Complainant as it relates to the City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI

(Ethics).

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 30 minutes]

**Attachments:** [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)

- C. [BOE24-019](#) Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]

**Attachments:** [Exhibit 1 - Agenda Information Sheet.pdf](#)  
[Exhibit 2 - Board of Ethics Tentative Meeting Topics \(April 2024\).pdf](#)

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 March 29, 2024, in advance of the 72-hour posting deadline, as applicable, and in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

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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 48 HOURS 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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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** BOE24-020, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Consider approval of minutes from March 4, 2024.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]

## City of Denton Board of Ethics

After determining that a quorum was present, the Board of Ethics of the City of Denton, Texas, convened in a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, 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:

**PRESENT:** Chair Annetta Ramsay, Vice-Chair Dustin Pavelek, and Members Patricia Reinke and Andrea Eberhard.

**ABSENT:** Member David Zoltner.

### 1. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

### 2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**A. BOE24-011** Consider approval of minutes from February 5 and February 8, 2024.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Member Eberhard moved to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pavelek.

AYES (4): Chair Ramsay, Vice-Chair Pavelek, and Members Reinke and Eberhard.

NAYS (0): None.

ABSENT (1): Member David Zoltner.

**B. BOE24-012** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding draft redlines for potential proposed amendments from the Board of Ethics to 1) repeal and replace Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-273 (a) Conflicts of Interest, and 2) eliminate Sec. 2-281 (c) (4) Burden of Proof, including amending the Board of Ethics' Rules of Procedure to adjust Evidentiary Hearing procedures to reflect the elimination of the requirement of the Complainant to testify at an evidentiary hearing.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

**C. BOE24-013** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take necessary action regarding forwarding proposals to amend City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics) and the Board of Ethics Rules of Procedure to the City Council.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Vice-Chair Pavelek moved to forward the proposed amendments to the City Council; motion seconded by Member Eberhard.

AYES (4): Chair Ramsay, Vice-Chair Pavelek, and Members Reinke and Eberhard.

NAYS (0): None.

ABSENT (1): Member David Zoltner.

**D. BOE24-014** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the definition of Complainant as it relates to the City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics).

The item was presented, and discussion followed. Vice-Chair Pavelek moved to postpone the item to the next regular meeting; motion seconded by Member Eberhard.

AYES (4): Chair Ramsay, Vice-Chair Pavelek, and Members Reinke and Eberhard.

NAYS (0): None.

ABSENT (1): Member David Zoltner.

**E. BOE24-015** Management Reports

1. City Council Candidate Letter (Financial Disclosures Information)
2. February 2024 Advisory Opinion Responses Report

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

**F. BOE24-016** Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

The item was presented, and discussion followed. The item BOE24-014 will be discussed in the next meeting on April 1, 2024.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annetta Ramsay  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Haddad  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED ON: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** BOE24-018, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the definition of Complainant as it relates to the City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics).

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 30 minutes]

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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Board of Ethics  
**CITY AUDITOR:** Madison Rorschach  
**DATE:** April 1, 2024

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the definition of Complainant as it relates to the City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics).

### **BACKGROUND**

City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics), Sec. 2-277 (i) states that the Board of Ethics may recommend amendments to Article XI (i.e., the Ethics Ordinance) to the City Council from time to time.

### **DISCUSSION**

During the February 5, and March 4, 2024, meetings the Board of Ethics gave staff direction to place on a future agenda an item to discuss the way Complainant is defined in the City's Ethics Ordinance.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

May 1, 2018: Ethics Ordinance Adopted by City Council  
Jun. 2, 2020: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations  
Jan. 25, 2022: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council to eliminate Member experience requirements  
Jul. 19, 2022: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations  
Jul. 18, 2023: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council based on Board of Ethics Recommendations  
Dec. 12, 2023: Ethics Ordinance Amended by City Council to eliminate Alternate Members

### **EXHIBITS**

1. Agenda Information Sheet

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



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## Legislation Text

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**File #:** BOE24-019, **Version:** 1

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### **AGENDA CAPTION**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

[Estimated Presentation/Discussion Time: 5 minutes]



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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** City Auditor's Office

**CITY AUDITOR:** Madison Rorschach

**DATE:** April 1, 2024

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding future meeting topics.

### **BACKGROUND**

City of Denton Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article XI (Ethics), Sec. 2-277 (i) states that the Board of Ethics may recommend amendments to Article XI (i.e., the Ethics Ordinance) to the City Council from time to time.

### **DISCUSSION**

Based on direction received at previous meetings the following meeting topics have been proposed. Those items that are struck through may no longer need to be addressed based on current proposed amendments to the ordinance.

| <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Est. Time</b> |
|--|------------------|
| Review Complaint Reconsideration Process                       | 0:30             |
| Comprehensive Review of Current Sanctions; Frivolous Sanctions | 1:30             |
| Preliminary Panel Member Objection Process                     | 0:30             |
| Order to Show Cause Process                                    | 0:45             |
| Potential Campaign Financing Restrictions                      | 0:30             |
| Definition of Complainant                                      | 0:30             |

To help plan for future meetings, a document outlining tentative future meeting topics has been prepared based on direction received previously from the Board of Ethics.

Due to the City Council's current work session schedule and upcoming elections, the Packet of Proposed amendments has been scheduled to be presented to the City Council on June 4, 2024.

### **DIRECTION**

Based on this information, Staff would like direction from the Board on the following:

- What topic(s), if any, does the Board of Ethics want to be added to May 2024;
- What topic(s), if any, does the Board of Ethics want to be added to June 2024; and
- Any additional topics that the Board wishes to discuss at future meetings.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

May 1, 2018: Ethics Ordinance Adopted

Jun. 2, 2020: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations  
Jan. 25, 2022: Ethics Ordinance amended by City Council to remove profession preferences  
Jul. 19, 2022: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations  
Jul. 18, 2023: Ethics Ordinance amended based on Board of Ethics recommendations  
Dec. 12, 2023: Ethics Ordinance amended by City Council to eliminate Alternate Members

**EXHIBITS**

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Board of Ethics Tentative Meeting Topics (April 2024)

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

## Board of Ethics Tentative Meeting Topics

Updated: March 27, 2024

| Meeting       | Item                         | Est. Time   |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| April<br>2024 | Minutes                      | 0:05        |
|               | Definition of Complainant    | 0:30        |
|               | Future Meeting Topics Update | 0:05        |
|               | <b>Total Est. Time:</b>      | <b>0:40</b> |
| May<br>2024   | Minutes                      | 0:05        |
|               | <i>TBD</i>                   |             |
|               | Management Reports           | 0:05        |
|               | Future Meeting Topics Update | 0:05        |
|               | <b>Total Est. Time:</b>      | <b>0:15</b> |
| June<br>2024  | Minutes                      | 0:05        |
|               | <i>TBD</i>                   |             |
|               | Management Reports           | 0:05        |
|               | Future Meeting Topics Update | 0:05        |
|               | <b>Total Est. Time:</b>      | <b>0:15</b> |