



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 24-0343      **Version:** 1      **Name:** Ch2 - Ethics Ord Amendments  
**Type:** Agenda Item      **Status:** Consent Agenda  
**File created:** 6/27/2024      **In control:** City Council  
**On agenda:** 7/9/2024      **Final action:**

**Title:** Consider and take action on Ordinance 2024-24 amending Division 2, entitled "Code of Ethics", of Article II, entitled "City Council", of Chapter 2, entitled "Administration" to clarify and consolidate several sections of the City's Ethics Code - Second Reading (Council Member Tressler, Council Member Chadwell and Council Member Saunders)

Council postponed 5-3-0 on June 11, 2024.  
Council approved first reading 8-0-0 on June 25, 2024.

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. Ordinance 2024-24, 2. Redline Changes, 3. TML Summary - Ethics provisions enforced by state law

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Consider and take action on Ordinance 2024-24 amending Division 2, entitled "Code of Ethics", of Article II, entitled "City Council", of Chapter 2, entitled "Administration" to clarify and consolidate several sections of the City's Ethics Code - Second Reading (Council Member Tressler, Council Member Chadwell and Council Member Saunders)

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Approval of this item will authorize various amendments to the City's Ethics Code.

On March 26, 2024, through Ordinance 2024-11, the City Council established a City Council subcommittee to review and make recommendations regarding possible updates to the City's Ethics Code. After concluding its review, the subcommittee is making the following recommended changes.

**Summary of Changes:**

- Clarify Intent of Ethics Code
- Eliminate provisions regulated and enforced by state law
  - o Local Government Code Ch171 addresses conflicts of interests related to real property and business interests
  - o Local Government Code Ch176 addresses conflicts of interest related to vendor relationships
  - o Texas Penal Code Ch36 addresses bribery situations
  - o Texas Penal Code Ch37 addresses falsification and perjury situations
  - o Texas Penal Code Ch39 addresses abuse of office situations
- Eliminate Ethics Complaint Review Process
  - o Any citizen may file a criminal complaint with the district attorney, a civil complaint with the Ethics Commission, or a civil action against a candidate or officeholder for violations
- Clarify that all City Officials (not just Members of Council) must comply with ethics rules

**Companion Agenda item:**

Staff is also bringing a companion agenda item (ordinance) to re-designate and re-constitute the Texas Ethics Review Board as the Ethics and Mediation Board, which will be charged with handling certain disputes involving the Volunteer Fire Department.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Ordinance
2. Redline Changes
3. TML Summary - Ethics provisions enforced by state law

FUNDING

- Funds are available from Account # \_\_\_\_\_
- Requires Budget Amendment to transfer from Account # \_\_\_\_\_ to Account # \_\_\_\_\_
- NOT APPLICABLE

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Addresses Strategic Planning Critical Success Factor # \_\_\_\_\_
- NOT APPLICABLE