



MINUTES
CITY OF CONVERSE
ETHICS REVIEW BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2015 – 7:00 PM

Be It Known That the Ethics Review Board of the City of Converse, Texas Will Meet for a Meeting at the City Hall Conference Room located at 405 S. Seguin, Converse, TX. 78109 on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM. A quorum of the City Council for the City of Converse, Texas and/or the following commissions may be present: Building & Standards, Economic Development Corporation, Park and Recreation and Planning and Zoning.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: To the U.S. Flag led by City Attorney

3. ROLL CALL & RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

*- Mr. Jim Sherman, Chair
- Ms. Hope Olds, Member 1
- Ms. Robin Benbrook, Vice Chair*

*Ms. Marilyn Wallace, Member 4
Dr. Jerry Riley, Member 5
Ms. Holly Nagy, City Secretary, Staff Liaison
Mr. Felix Arambula, City Attorney*

*Visitors: Mayor Al Suarez
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Brown*

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

This time is provided for Citizens to address the Ethics Review Board on any issues and concerns. No Ethics Review Board discussion or action can be taken if the item is not on the Agenda. Please limit your remarks to three (3) minutes and state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Suarez – Would like an explanation on an agenda item that was listed on the September 10, 2015 Ethics Review Board Agenda.

Mayor Suarez read from the September 10, 2015 agenda - Item 6 A- New Business- Discussion and Appropriate Action to Appoint Nancy Droneburg, alternate member to full member to fill in Member 3 vacancy.

Mayor Suarez stated that he found that item strange because Ms. Droneburg was a candidate, and upon

reviewing the Ethics Review Board Ordinance found Article 7- Section 1 e. 3. No member of the Ethics Review Board shall be a candidate for an elected public office.

Mayor Suarez wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the action taken at the September 10, 2015 meeting for Item 6 A-was in violation of the Ordinance and wanted to invite the Chairman to the City Council meeting to explain to the rest of the Council what happened.

Mayor Suarez also expressed concern regarding Item 6 D on the September 10, 2015 Agenda: Discussion and Appropriate Action to discuss actions/events since last meeting. Mayor Suarez stated that this is too general and borders on a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Suarez stated that he invites the Chairman to the City Council meeting on December 1st, 2015.

Chairman Sherman responded that the Board had forgotten that section of the Ordinance and is a subject of discussion for this evenings meeting.

Mayor Suarez stated that he has additional questions, but will ask them at the December 1st, 2015 City Council.

Any item on this posted agenda could be discussed in executive session as long as it is within one of the permitted categories under section 551.071 through 551.076 and section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approve Minutes of the Ethics Review Board meeting September 28, 2015.

Ms. Olds stated that approving these minutes would put the Board in the position of being an unethical Ethics Review Board. Discussion ensued regarding events that took place between members.

Ms. Olds made a motion to disapprove approval of the September 28, 2015 meeting minutes on the basis of some concerns the procedures by which Ms. Droneburg was allowed to participate in the decision making process that took place on September 28, 2015. Ms. Benbrook seconded the motion. Ms. Wallace abstained from voting due to being absent for that meeting. The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion and Appropriate Action on New Board Member Application.

Mr. Sherman stated that there are two applications for the Ethics Review Board up for consideration. Ms. Olds expressed concern that these appointments are to be made by Council.

Discussion ensued regarding vacancies.

*The replacement for Earl Boutelle, Member will be made by Mayor Suarez
The replacement for Laura Beehler, Member will be made by Councilwoman Richel
The replacement for Nancy Droneburg, Alternate will be made by Mayor Suarez*

Ms. Benbrook made a motion to refer the application of Mr. Everett Taylor, to the City Council for consideration to fill a vacancy on ERB. Ms. Olds seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- B. Discussion and Appropriate Action to continue review and revisions to Ordinance 119, Article VII, 1, d.

Discussion ensued. No action taken.

- C. Discussion and Appropriate Action to continue review and revisions to Ordinance 119, Article VII, e. 3.

Discussion ensued. No action taken.

- D. Discussion and Appropriate Action to continue review and revisions to Ordinance 119, Article VII, I.

Discussion ensued. No action taken.

- E. Discussion and Appropriate Action regarding next Ethics Review Board Meeting.

January 11, 2016.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Olds seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.