City of Denton Board of Ethics Special Called Advisory Opinion Panel

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 Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Dustin Pavelek, and Members Patrica Reinke and David Zoltner.
ALSO PRESENT: Special Counsel Dottie Palumbo – Bojorquez Law Firm

1. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. BOE24-010 Request for Advisory Opinion No. 24-001, received February 1, 2024, from Councilmember Byrd concerning potential improper use of influence applicability and recusal recommendation.

The item was presented, and discussion followed.

Member Reinke moved that moderating a virtual "Meet the Candidate" event would not be considered improper use of influence, per the Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-273 (e) as long as all candidates were invited to participate in the Candidate Forum held by the public service group; motion seconded by Member Zoltner. Motion carried.
AYES (3): Vice-Chair Pavelek, and Members Reinke and Zoltner.
NAYS (0): None.

Member Reinke moved to provide Council Member Byrd with the following recommendations regarding a potential recusal:

1. The moderator should make clear that she is not representing the City in her Official Capacity.
2. All Candidates should be invited.
3. The moderator could be perceived by attendees, viewers, or participants to have violated Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-273 (e) based on how she questions the candidates.

Motion seconded by Member Zoltner. Motion carried.
AYES (3): Vice-Chair Pavelek, and Members Reinke and Zoltner.
NAYS (0): None.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Annetta Ramsay
Vice-Chair

Madison Rorschach
Recording Secretary

MINUTES APPROVED ON: March 4, 2024