



City of Salisbury
ETHICS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2024

Commission Members Present

Paula Turner
Anthony Sarbanes Dr.
Timothy Stock
Sandeep Gopalan
Neill Carey

In Attendance

Ashley Bosche, *City Attorney*
Jessie Turner, *Mayor's Office*
John Rankin, *Member of the Public*

The Ethics Commission met at 3:00 pm in the HQ Conference Room

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.

Review and Approval of October 19, 2023 Minutes

- Mr. Sarbanes motioned, and Ms. Turner seconded a motion to approve the Ethics Commission meeting minutes from October 19, 2023. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion of Opinion 2023-03

- Ms. Bosche reviewed the advisory opinion and updated the Commission with new information based on the questions that were generated at the October Ethics Commission meeting.
- The purpose of the Commission was reviewed in that one is to answer Ethics complaints and the other is to provide non-binding advisory opinions in situations where Ethics violations could be occurring.
- The Commission agreed there was not a need for interviews of the involved parties at this time.
- Mr. Stock suggested a draft be done similar to Advisory Opinion 2023-02.
- Mr. Sarbanes motioned that the draft be completed. Mr. Carey seconded, and the Commission agreed.

A motion by Mr. Stock and seconded by Mr. Carey to adjourn open session and was agreed upon unanimously.

A motion was made to convene in closed session by Mr. Stock, seconded by Mr. Carey, and

agreed upon unanimously in accordance with the annotated Code of Maryland 3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. And (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The reason for closing the open session was to discuss follow-up to an Ethics Violation Complaint received.

A motion was made, seconded, and agreed upon unanimously to reconvene in open session.

Discussion of Ethics Code for City Boards/Commission/Committees

- The Commission reviewed two drafts of an Ethics Code for City Boards/Commission/Committees and discussed the pros and cons of each.
- A Google document will be created where Commission members can continue to review the Ethics Code and propose changes to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Discussion on Timeliness of Approving Agendas

- Mr. Stock recommended a review of a draft of minutes and if changes need to be made they will be discussed at an open meeting and if not, they can be approved and posted to the public. The Maryland Open Meetings Act provides for this open for Commissions that only meet on an "as-needed" basis.
- This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Ethics Commission meeting will be scheduled as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Minutes Recorded By: Jessie Turner, *Mayor's Office*