

City of Chula Vista
Regular Board of Ethics Meeting
MINUTES

May 21, 2025, 5:15 p.m.
City Hall, Bldg. A, Executive Conference Room #103
276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA

Present: Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, Chair Barragan

Also Present: City Attorney Verdugo, Board Secretary Montalvo

Minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Ethics of the City of Chula Vista was called to order at 5:19 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Secretary Montalvo called the roll.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None was provided.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes

Moved by Member Salas

Seconded by Member Gersten

Board to approve the minutes dated April 16, 2025.

Yes (6): Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, and Chair Barragan

Result: Carried (6 to 0)

4.2 Discussion and Action to Establish a Campaign Contribution Enforcement Authority Selection Process Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

City Attorney Verdugo shared that the Board of Ethics is responsible for selecting the Campaign Contribution Enforcement Authority rotating panel. This panel has three to five firms that are used on an as-needed basis. The Board of Ethics has two options: They may review applicants as a whole or create an ad-hoc subcommittee. This subcommittee would interview applicants and present their choice to the board for the final vote of confirmation.

Member Gersten shared that it is a good use of the board's time to set up a sub-committee.

Member Velissaropoulos liked the idea of a sub-committee.

Member Torres agreed that having a sub-committee would be easier.

Moved by Member Salas

Seconded by Member Gersten

Board to establish a Campaign Contribution Enforcement Authority Selection Process Ad Hoc Sub-Committee consisting of Member William Gersten, Member Bobby Ray Salas, and Member Alexia Velissaropoulos.

Yes (6): Member Gersten, Member Salas, Member Torres, Member Velissaropoulos, Vice Chair Hurst, and Chair Barragan

Result: Carried (6 to 0)

5. PRESENTATION

5.1 Update from Lobbying Ordinance Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

Chair Barragan shared that at the next meeting the committee will provide a more formalized document. They still need to compare a few other regions.

Member Salas shared that the committee has quality work.

The question was proposed of how will the fee structure be set? City Attorney Verdugo shared that the Board may propose a fee structure, but ultimately it would be up to the City Council.

5.2 Update from Ex Parte Communication Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

Member Gersten shared that the draft is ready but would like to review old notes he found. He has asked his fellow committee members to present at the next meeting as he will be on vacation.

5.3 Update from Amendments to Code of Ethics Ad Hoc Sub-Committee

Member Hurst shared that the committee has been unable to get a copy of their working draft. They are going to re-write it.

Member Velissaropoulos shared she will be adding a section on how to streamline the complaint process.

6. STAFF COMMENTS

Secretary Montalvo shared that there is one applicant to join the Board of Ethics.

7. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair thanked everyone for coming.

8. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Member Hurst asked if there was any further thought on meeting as a whole. Board members shared they would like to keep their sub-committees. City Attorney Verdugo shared that the Sub-Committees are welcome to meet prior to or after board meetings, just schedule with Secretary Montalvo.

Member Gersten shared that he will be on vacation next meeting.

Member Torres shared he might be out next meeting as well.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Sydnie Montalvo, Board Secretary

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