



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting February 20, 2024  
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting February 27, 2024

**DATE:** January 23, 2024  
**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager  
**FROM:** Miles Risley, City Attorney  
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826-3360

Ordinance amending the Code of Ethics as requested by the Ethics Commission

### **CAPTION:**

Ordinance amending Sections 2-312, 2-326, 2-340, 2-342, and 2-349 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas to update definitions and language for clarity, duties of the Ethics Commission, disclosure of interests for contractors, and eliminate the use of short form annual reports.

**SUMMARY:** The Ethics Commission is requesting amendments to the Code of Ethics.

### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Ethics Commission is requesting amendments to the following Sections and Subsections of the City's Code of Ethics:

- Amend § 2-312 to insert the definition of "City Official" into the definitions section to clarify the ordinance and make it more intuitive.
- Amend § 2-326 to change "publish pamphlets" to "public electronic information online" to update the code to a modern process.
- Amend § 2-326(a)(3) of Section 2-326 to add a definitive deadline for officials to file responses when requested for additional information.
- Amend § 2-326(a)(6) to repeal the section due to redundancy.
- Amend § 2-340 to remove the option for reporting officials who have no changes to report since their most recent complete report to file a short form annual report to increase the effectiveness and accuracy of the Financial Disclosure Reports by ensuring annual analysis is performed by the reporting parties.
- Amend § 2-342(k) to change the wording in the first sentence to read "The names and addresses of any persons from whom the reporting official received gifts or favors,

including but not limited to trips, excursions, food, lodging, money, commodities or services, cumulatively exceeding \$200 in value” to increase perceived accuracy in reporting.

- Amend § 2-349(b) to change the wording in the first sentence that refers to any business desiring to sell goods or services to the city that reads that business shall file with the city’s purchasing agent a statement specifically naming any city employee, official and board member having “any ownership into best...” to “any ownership interest...” to correct a clerical error in the original drafting.
- Amend § 2-349(d) to delete the sentence “unless the interest of the city official or employee in the matter is apparent” when disclosing requested action that will confer an economic benefit on any city official or employee to broaden the obligation to disclose to increase transparency.

The City Ethics Commission approved the proposed changes during its meeting on December 21, 2023.

**ALTERNATIVES:**      **Maintain existing language.**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**      **None.**

**Funding Detail:**      **Not applicable**

**RECOMMENDATION:** **Approval of the Ordinance to amend City Code of Ethics with the administrative and substantive changes regarding Financial Disclosure Reports.**

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Ordinance