COBI ETHICS BOARD
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2015
Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Dennis Willerford, Susan Buckles and Michael Yesley.

2. No changes or additions to the agenda.

3. No conflicts of interest disclosed.

4. Communications. Michael reported his meeting with Mayor Blair regarding the appointment of an applicant to fill a vacancy on the Board. As directed by city personnel in November, Michael interviewed this applicant without Councilmembers present, and he recommended her appointment. Mayor Blair related that the Council took no action on the appointment because Councilmembers did not participate in the interview. Accordingly, Michael will request that an interview of this applicant be re-scheduled with Councilmembers participating, and also that the current vacancies be re-advertised.

5. Minutes of the Board's November meeting were approved.

6. There was no public comment.

7. The Board discussed Robert Dashiell's letter of January 7, 2015, asking the Board to address whether Councilmember Bonkowski's actions in the recent public records litigation violated the COBI Ethics Code or, if not, whether the Board should initiate changes in the Ethics Code to cover such actions. The Board agreed that the actions of Councilmember Bonkowski, as described in the press, were not covered by the Ethics Code (Article II of the Ethics Program), which focuses on gifts, city property, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest. Further, the Board agreed that any changes to cover such actions in the Ethics Code (if warranted) would require action by the City Council, which the Board considered unlikely. Accordingly, the Board took no action on Mr. Dashiell's request. The Board noted that it has no authority to determine violations of the broader aspirational provisions enunciated in Article I of the Ethics Program, and accordingly the Board did not analyze whether Councilmember Bonkowski's actions violated those provisions. (Mr. Dashiell was present at the discussion.)

8. Ethics Training for Committees and Commissions. Susan will organize a training schedule.

9. Future Board meetings. The Board agreed to change its regular meeting date from the third to the fourth Monday of each month, commencing February 23.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Dennis Willerford, Chair *Pro Tem*