

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-2659

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, TEXAS, CONTAINING A PREAMBLE; AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-2648, REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTUAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF FREEPORT, TEXAS; PROVIDING THAT ANYONE VIOLATING SAID CODE SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, UPON CONVICTION, ASSESSED A PUNISHMENT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED (\$200.00) DOLLARS AND THAT EACH DAY ANY SUCH VIOLATION CONTINUES OR OCCURS SHALL CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE OFFENSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE FROM AND AFTER ITS DESCRIPTIVE CAPTION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TWICE IN THE BRAZOSPORT FACTS.

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport is committed to transparency and desires to uphold the highest standard of ethical conduct by members of its City Council; and,

WHEREAS, actual and potential financial and contractual conflicts of interest must be revealed in an even, fair, and transparent way, to benefit the trust of the citizens and public at large; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to implement a mandatory requirement of all City Council members, to disclose certain specific information, to prevent decisions by their position, that actual or perceived impropriety; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Freeport, Texas, has determined and does here now declare that the adoption of this ordinance is necessary to the fair and orderly administration of its constitutional and statutory powers as a home-rule municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, TEXAS:

First, the provisions of Ordinance no. 2021-2648 are hereby amended with the provisions provided in this Ordinance.

Second, within 30 days of the effective date of this ordinance, or within 30 days of election or appointment, all City Council members of the City of Freeport, Texas shall deliver to the City Manager in writing, the following information:

1. All current real estate assets in Brazoria County of which the person has any ownership interest or control, whether said ownership held in their personal name, the name of their spouse, their minor child(ren), or another business entity;

2. The name of all business entities, including informal partnerships, of which the person has any ownership interest or control, and the name and contact information of every person or entity with an ownership interest in the entity;

3. Any and all business agreements with any other Council member or Council appointed Board member, with a copy of the written agreement, or, if not a written agreement, a written description of the nature of the agreement;

4. Any and all agreements or contracts with the City of Freeport for the last 10 years to present.

Third, each City Council member, deliver to the City Manager in writing any change in the above information within 30 days of such change.

Fourth, the City Manager shall make available the above information to any person of the public upon request consistent with the Texas Open Records Act.

Fifth, any person violating any provision of said Code of Ordinances as amended by this ordinance, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction assessed a fine not to exceed Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars; and each and every instance any such violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense.

Sixth, in the event any section or provision of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional, void or inoperative by the final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such defective provision, if any, is hereby declared to be severable from the remaining sections and provisions of this ordinance and such remaining sections and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Seventh, this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its descriptive caption has been published twice in the Brazosport Facts.

Eighth, the City Council specifically finds and determines that the meeting at which this ordinance was passed was open to the public, and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of February, 2021- ^{BN}



Brooks Bass, Mayor

ATTEST:


Betty Wells, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:


Christopher Duncan, City Attorney