



It's real.

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Seguin Mayor and Council
From: Andy Quittner, City Attorney *AQ*
Date: June 30, 2022
Re: Ordinance Amending Ethics Ordinance

The City's ethics ordinance establishes a commission to review and investigate complaints involving the City Council and certain other delineated individuals. In the section of the code establishing the commission there exists a requirement to meet each year – in June – to elect commission members to serve as officers for the commission. Each individual commissioner is appointed by a single council member after that member is elected to office.

The June date was established when city council elections were held in May. With the change in election dates, the June date is no longer practicable. The Ordinance under consideration creates flexibility by stating the required meeting date will be 90 days after a uniform election day wherein a council member is elected. The 90 days is suggested for two reasons: (1) due to the holidays, late November and December are difficult times to schedule meetings; and (2) considering the growth of the City the likelihood of occasional run-offs increases. Any time a run-off occurs the certification for the run-off will occur, at the earliest, in mid-December. From a practical perspective a January meeting makes the best sense. The change also allows officer to serve two years if there is no intervening special election. A requirement to hold a meeting just to elect officers is not the best use of time for a volunteer commissioner.

The Ethics Committee at their June 29, 2022, meeting approved this change and voted to recommend that the Council approve the ordinance revision.