

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COPPELL, TEXAS

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COPPELL, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2 ‘BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS’ BY ADDING NEW ARTICLE 2-10 ‘SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL/ETHICS REVIEW PANEL’ TO ESTABLISH AN ETHICS REVIEW PANEL; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish Panel of qualified persons to administer as special counsel and panel members; and,

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

SECTION 1. That Chapter 2, “Boards and Commissions” of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding a new Article 2-10 “Special Legal Counsel / Ethics Review Panel” to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 2 – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 2-1 – LIBRARY BOARD

.....

ARTICLE 2-10 - SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL/ETHICS REVIEW PANEL

Sec. 2-10-1.- Special Ethics Legal Counsel

The special ethics legal counsel shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the City Council and shall be a resident of the city and licensed in good standing to practice law in the State of Texas; and shall not be in arrears in the payment of taxes or other liability to the city or have been a party to or represented any party to any litigation involving and/or with adverse interests to the city. The special counsel shall be selected to act on any complaint under Chapter 1A on a rotation basis from a list of such attorneys established by the city council for these purposes; said attorney(s) shall have all the powers of investigation as are given to the city council by reason of the City Charter when discharging their duties under said article.

A request for participation of who is a resident of the City and is a registered voter to serve on the Special Legal Counsel under this article and qualified to serve as special counsel, shall be placed on the city website, official newspaper or through social media. Applications for such participation shall be filed with the city secretary at the same time the city council seeks applicants for boards and commissions. Applicants shall be interviewed in the manner adopted by the city for the interviewing of such applicants.

Sec. 2-10-2. –Ethics Review Members/Appointment

City Council shall appoint three (3) to nine (9) persons to be eligible for selection to an Ethics Review Panel who shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council to hear complaints under Chapter 1A-1 of the Coppel Code of Ordinance.

No citizen who is in arrears in the payment of any taxes or other liability due the city or who has been a party to litigation involving and/or with adverse interests to the city is eligible to serve on the Ethics Review Panel. The mayor, or the mayor pro tem in the mayor's absence, shall serve as the chairperson. In the event the complaint concerns the mayor or mayor pro tem, such person or persons shall be replaced by a member of the city council drawn by lot. In the event the mayor and mayor pro tem are replaced, the senior councilmember(s) shall serve as the chairperson and/or vice chairpersons.

A request for participation of who is a resident of the City and is a registered voter to serve on the Special Legal Counsel under this article and qualified to serve as special counsel, shall be placed on the city website, official newspaper or through social media. Applications for such participation shall be filed with the city secretary at the same time the city council seeks applicants for boards and commissions. Applicants shall be interviewed in the manner adopted by the city for the interviewing of such applicants.

Sec. 2-10-3. – Ethics Review Panel

The Ethics Review Panel shall hear any complaint as authorized under Chapter 1A and shall be comprised of the mayor, the mayor pro tem, and three (3) members of Ethics Review Membership selected by random lot of the appointees to serve on the ethics review panel and shall conduct those responsibilities as set forth in said article.”

SECTION 2. That the provisions of this ordinance shall only apply to the terms which begin after the effective date of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That all provisions of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Coppel, Texas, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and all other provisions not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. That should any word, phrase, paragraph, section or phrase of this ordinance or of the Code of Ordinances, as amended hereby, be held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part or provision thereof other than the part so decided to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, and shall not affect the validity of the Code of Ordinances as a whole.

SECTION 5. An offense committed before the effective date of this ordinance is governed by prior law and the provisions of the Code of Ordinances, as amended, in effect when the offense was committed and the former law is continued in effect for this purpose.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect after its passage.

DULY PASSED by the City Council of the City of Coppell, Texas, this the _____ day of _____, 2022.

APPROVED:

WES MAYS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ASHLEY OWENS, CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ROBERT E. HAGER, CITY ATTORNEY