

## ORDINANCE NO. 24-522

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION ARTICLE IX CODE OF ETHICS OF THE RICHWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE ADDITIONAL STANDARDS, THEREFORE PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AND BE IN FORCE IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS PASSAGE.**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Richwood finds it necessary to amend the code of ethics provisions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHWOOD THAT:**

**Section 1.** Section 2-254. – Additional standards is hereby amended to read:

- (a) No member of the city council who is on the board of a nonprofit organization may vote on any funding request by that nonprofit organization, unless the nonprofit organization has a board of directors or trustees appointed in whole or in part by the city council.
- (b) With the exception of those proceedings allowed under this article, no member of the city council shall personally appear in such person's own behalf before the city council, or any city board, commission, corporation or committee but may designate and be represented by a person of such person's choice in any such personal matter.
- (c) No member of the city council, the planning and zoning commission or board of adjustment shall participate in, or vote on, any land use matter in which such officer has a substantial interest in any real property within 200 feet of the real property, the subject of the land use matter. For purposes of this subsection, the term "land use matter" means zoning, plat approval, site plan or other development approvals or permits, variances or exceptions. The term "land use matter" does not include studies or similar matters that are for the benefit of the city and which are not unique to real property within 200 feet of the real property, the subject of the land use matter, in which the officer has a substantial interest.
- (d) Practice civility and decorum in discussions and debates. Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of free democracy. However, this does not allow public officials to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, profane, or disparaging comments.
- (e) Treat all staff as professionals. Clear, honest communication that respects each individual's abilities, experience, and dignity is expected. Poor behavior towards staff is not acceptable.
- (f) Intentional manipulation, intimidation, distraction, coercion, or deception is not allowed to achieve a favorable outcome.

**Section 2.** That if any provision of this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, and the City Council of the City of Richwood, Texas, hereby declares that it would have enacted such remaining portions despite any such invalidity.

**Section 3.** That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict only.

**Section 4.** That this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Passed and adopted on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.

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Michael Durham, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kirsten Garcia, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney