

I hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original now on file in my office together, with all of the endorsements thereon. Witness my official signature and seal of office on this the 17 day of April A.D., 2017
Lisa Howard
Clerk of Court, Jackson Parish, Louisiana

Conveyance
FILED AND RECORDED
JACKSON PARISH
CLERK OF COURT

411485

2017 APR 17 AM 9:14

The following ordinance having been introduced at a regular meeting held on March 14, 2017 and notice of its introduction having been published in the official journal and a public hearing having been held in connection therewith, on this date, was offered for final adoption by Sue Proffer and seconded by Toni Malone.

Lisa Howard, Reg.

ORDINANCE 12 - 154

An Ordinance setting guidelines and providing a code of ethics for the Town of Chatham

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Board of Alderman for the Town of Chatham, Jackson Parish, LA, as follows:

Section 1 – Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Board applies to boards, commissions, authorities, and other public bodies that are subject to the provisions of the Lawarson Act, except the town council.

Section 2 – Application

The code of ethics for the town shall apply to all officials of the government of the town, whether elected or appointed; to all employees, whether classified or unclassified; and to members and/or employees of all boards, agencies, commissions, advisory committees, public trusts and public benefit corporations of the town.

Section 3 – Purpose

The code of ethics is established to remind each public official and employee that individually and collectively, public officials and employees must adhere to high ethical standards not simply to avoid sanctions or criticism, but because it is the right thing to do. Standards and guidelines established by or pursuant to the code of ethics should be construed and implemented with sensitivity, integrity, and a good faith commitment to advance rather than evade or circumvent the evident or stated spirit and purpose of ethical rules. Public officials and employees should not give unduly narrow or legalistic constructions to specific provisions of applicable ethics codes, standards, or rules and regulations.

Section 4 – Responsibility of Public Office

Public officials and employees are agents of public purpose and hold office for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the constitution of the United States and the constitution of this state and to carry out impartially the laws of the nation, state and town and thus to foster respect of all government. They are bound to observe in their official acts the highest standards of morality and to discharge faithfully the duties of their office regardless of personal considerations, recognizing that the public interest must be their primary concern.

Section 5 – Nonpartisanship and nondiscrimination

Public officials and employees should take action and make decisions based on the merits, objectively and without partisanship. In taking action and making decisions, public officials and employees should not discriminate against any person because of racial, ethnic, religious, political, sexual or personal prejudice or because of age, disability or sexual orientation.

Section 6 – Development of internal standards

Each department, board, office, or other agency of town government is encouraged to develop internal minimum standards of ethical conduct or behavior for situations or transactions that may be unique to the particular department, board, office or other agency. The opinions of employees

and customers of the agency should be sought and used in development of such internal standards, rules, regulations and guidelines for ethical conduct. Members of all boards and commissions of the town shall act as prudent administrators.

Section 7 – Freedom from reprisal and disclosure of improper acts

- A. Any public employee who reports information which the employee reasonably believes is a violation of any ordinance, statute, policy, order, rule, regulation or other ethical mandate shall be free from discipline or reprisal for reporting such acts of alleged impropriety. An employee with authority to hire and fire, supervisor, agency head, or elected official may not subject to reprisal any public employee because of such employee's efforts to disclose such acts of alleged impropriety.
- B. The provisions of this section are in addition to the protection afforded by the state code of governmental ethics.

Section 8 – Other laws, rules, and policies related to standards of conduct

Town officials and employees should be generally aware that laws, rules and policies established by federal and state government and agencies thereof and by the mayor and supervisors in the town government prescribe standards of conduct for government and town employees. Some of these rules, laws, and policies are the following:

1. The state Code of Governmental Ethics, R.S. 42:1101 et seq., popularly known as the State Ethics Code.
2. The state Dual Office Holding Law, R.S. 42:61 et seq.
3. Policy issued by the mayor.

Section 9 – Dissemination of code of ethics

The provisions of the code of ethics for the town shall be distributed to each elected or appointed official and employee of the town. Upon election or appointment or employment with the town, all public servants shall be given a copy of the code of ethics. All employees, including elected officials, shall annually attest through signature verification that they have read the town's ethics policy.

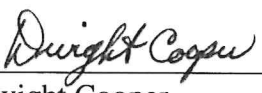
Section 10 – Prohibitions

The town shall follow the prohibitions as defined in LA R.S. 42:1111 – 1121.

The above and foregoing ordinance having been read section by section, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole and adopted by the following vote:

YEAS: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

And said ordinance was declared legally adopted on this 11th day of April 2017.



Dwight Cooper
Mayor



Lynette Roberts
Clerk