



500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084
troymi.gov

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

February 8, 2021

To: Mayor and City Council Members

From: Mark F. Miller, City Manager
Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager
Sarah Ames, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: City Council Agenda Questions & Answers – 2.8.21

The following are communications that City Administration would like Council to be made aware of. In order to ensure that all questions are received and answered, all City Council Questions should be sent to the CITY MANAGER DISTRIBUTION GROUP e-mail address.

From: Theresa Brooks

Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 11:29 AM

To: City Manager Distribution Group <CityManager@troymi.gov>

Subject: Questions

1. I am not sure about the verbiage in the proposed ethics policy regarding acceptance of gifts. It is not clear whether even food and drinks provided at an event counts as a gift.

Answer: Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney

No, anything consumed on the premises at a celebratory or ceremonial event would not be considered a gift.

Would we have to identify food and drinks consumed at events as part of the disclosure?

Answer: Lori Grigg Bluhm, City Attorney

No, only those unsolicited items, with a value of less than \$25, would need to be disclosed.

I was looking at some sample code of ethics in ICMA pertaining to this issue and some of the verbiage that I liked includes:

"No City employee shall accept any gift, service or favor which would lead toward favoritism or the appearance of favoritism in any way."

" You should refuse any gifts or favors which reasonably may be interpreted to be offered in order to influence a municipal decision."

"While you are the first to decide whether to accept any gift, you must recognize that others will decide if there is "the appearance of favoritism" for your having accepted a gift. Finally, you should be wary of accepting any gifts or benefits from individuals doing business with the City or whose financial interests are affected by City action. "

"Government employees may not accept a gift from any person, business, or other entity that has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance of the employee's official duties under circumstances where the timing and nature of the gift would cause a reasonable person to question the employee's impartiality. Also, employees may not accept gifts from sources on a basis so frequent as to raise the appearance that they are using their public office for private gain. In summary, the safest course of action is to decline gifts of more than a nominal value."

2. What is the time frame expected to complete the consulting work with Jaymes Vettrano?

Answer: Bob Bruner, Assistant City Manager

The consulting work should be completed in about four weeks.

Thanks!
