

June 22, 2018

From: W.A. "Butch" Hansen
To: Pensacola City Council Members
Via: Pensacola City Council Executive
Subject: Resignation as Strategic Budget Planner

Councilmembers,

Because I have become a candidate to represent District 6 on the City Council in the upcoming election, I am resigning my current position as Strategic Budget Planner.

I had hoped to fulfill my obligation to assist and advise the City Council in the review and approval of the FY 2019 budget. I reviewed available City personnel policy documentation (HR Policy Manual) which states:

"Florida Statutes may restrict certain employees qualifying for public office; employees not excluded by statute may seek any municipal, county, state, or federal elected position without resigning or taking a leave of absence, providing campaigning does not interfere with their normal job."

Further, I contacted the General Council for the Florida Elections Commission who confirmed that I am not excluded by statute.

Subsequently, the City Administration has communicated to me that the published HR policy is no longer applicable and is not applicable to my position with the City Council. I have been told that the Ethics Code of the City Ordinance is applicable to me in this case. Specifically, paragraph 2.6.3.f:

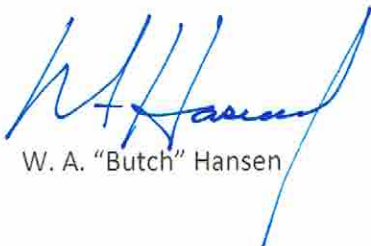
"An official or employee must refrain from acting upon or participating in, formally or informally, a decision making process with respect to any matter before the city, if acting on the matter, or failing to act upon the matter, may personally or financially benefit himself, herself, or a relative or business associate."

Furthermore, I was informed that my participation in budget discussions, formally or informally, could be viewed as being potentially benefitting to me personally (in a political sense), which would therefore be viewed as an ethics code violation. How this "personal political benefit" would be logically applied to elected city officials is unclear.

Although I do not believe that inquiring and gaining knowledge about the details of the proposed City budget, a public document, could benefit me financially, personally, or "politically," I am taking this action to avoid concern over any perceived or potential ethics code violations that would diminish my effectiveness in support of the City Council, the City staff and to my candidacy. To the extent it may diminish the City Council's ability to effectively review and approve the proposed budget, I apologize.

In accordance with my employment agreement, I am required to provide 2 weeks' notice, therefore, this resignation is effective July 6, 2018, unless the City Council elects to make that date earlier.

Respectfully submitted,



W. A. "Butch" Hansen