ORDINANCE NO. __24-016___ AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, GEORGIA FOR THE CONDUCT OF MEMBERS OF APPOINTED BOARDS

WHEREAS, the City conducts its business through a number of boards and authorities in which citizens have been appointed to public service roles; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no Code of Conduct for members of such boards and authorities to guide their conduct in representing the City; and

WHEREAS, appointed board members represent the City and should adhere to ethical principles and standards of conduct, including honesty, integrity, fairness, and impartiality. They should avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any personal or financial interest that could reasonably be expected to influence their decision making; and

WHEREAS, appointed board members should diligently prepare for meetings by reviewing agendas and meeting materials in advance. They should arrive on time and participate in discussions and deliberations; and

WHEREAS, board members should treat fellow members, applicants, staff and members of the public with respect and professionalism. They should listen attentively; consider diverse viewpoints; and engage in constructive dialogue during the meetings; and

WHEREAS, board members should base their recommendations and decisions on the merits of each case, without bias, prejudice, or arbitrary judgments and ensure that recommendations and decisions are fair, consistent, and supported by evidence; and

WHEREAS, board members should conduct their deliberations in an open and transparent manner, consistent with State law, and provide clear explanations for their decisions; and

WHEREAS, board members should respect the confidentiality of sensitive and privileged information, such as legal advice or other material protected by law. They should refrain from disclosing confidential information to unauthorized persons; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City to enact a Code of Conduct to guide the citizens who serve in appointed roles representing the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL ORDAINS AND RESOLVES that the following Code of Conduct shall apply to the conduct of members of City-appointed boards, commissions, agencies and authorities. Commission of any of the offenses listed below may subject the board member to disciplinary action up to and including removal. This Code of Conduct, although intended as a guideline for Board members, is not necessarily exhaustive, and the City retains the right to administer further action for other issues or offenses not specifically listed below:

- 1. Failure to attend meetings; tardiness.
- 2. Conviction of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude.
- 3. Inexcusable absence without leave.
- 4. Abuse or misuse of City property.
- 5. Willfully giving false information to City officials, City staff, or the public.
- 6. Discovery of a false statement in an application which had not been previously detected.
- 7. Acceptance of gratuities in conflict with City policy or State law.
- 8. Discourteous acts toward the public, citizens, staff, or other persons.
- 9. Drinking alcoholic beverages or use of illegal non-prescription drugs in such manner as to adversely affect attendance or performance.
- 10. Falsification or destruction of official records or documents or use of official position for personal benefit, profit, or advantage, or for other improper reasons.
- 11. Harassment of other Board members, City personnel or the public.
- 12. Insubordination or uncooperative attitude in the performance of official functions, which is defined as the refusal to obey any instruction or directive of an authorized official or demonstrating contempt or disrespect for a fellow board member, City official, citizen, or staff member whether in or out of his or her presence.
- 13. Conduct which endangers the member or another person.
- 14. Fighting or attempting bodily injury to others on City property except in clear cases of self-defense.
- 15. Violation of the standards summarized in the recitals above.

In the event any Court of competent jurisdiction determines that any portion of the foregoing amendment is invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise illegal, such rulings shall not impair the validity of the rest and remainder of this amendment.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

The City Administrator and City Clerk are further authorized to correct typographical errors and conflicting provisions in the text of the existing Code of Ordinances and to produce and publish a final codified version of the City Code with the amendments and revisions outlined herein.

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor Richard E. Roquemore

Mayor Richard E. Roquemore

Jamie L. Bradley Council Member

Taylor J. Sisk, Council Member

Attest:

Mayor Richard E. Roquemore

Robert L. Vogel, III/Council Member

Taylor J. Sisk, Council Member