

June 15, 2016

6:00 p.m.

*Dennis Earl Elementary School - Cafeteria  
4091 N. Olive Avenue, Turlock, CA 95382*

**MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Vice Mayor Amy Bublak called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.  
PRESENT: Councilmembers Bill DeHart, Matthew Jacob, Steven Nascimento, Vice Mayor Bublak, and Mayor Gary Soiseth (arrived at 6:55 p.m.)  
ABSENT: None
2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND DISQUALIFICATIONS:** None
4. **CAMPAIGN FINANCE WORKSHOP:** Council will receive information related to current and proposed campaign finance regulations, receive community input, and discuss various aspects of campaign finance and any other matters that may fall within the subject purview.

City Attorney Phaedra Norton presented information regarding the City of Turlock's campaign regulation history, the Political Reform Act disclosure requirements, campaign contributions and disqualification under the Political Reform Act, Constitutional protections that apply to contribution and expenditure limits, regulating contribution limits, regulating expenditure limits, and regulating independent expenditures. City Attorney Norton also provided an overview of permissible regulations, regulations that may be unconstitutional, and regulations that are unconstitutional.

Vice Mayor Bublak asked for public comment.

Mary Jackson requested clarification on when a Councilmember must recuse themselves from participation. Ms. Jackson spoke in favor of campaign finance reform for reasons including that the high cost of running a campaign limits the playing field.

Soraya Fregosi spoke in favor of campaign finance reform, in opposition to the recent Citizens United decision, an apparent contradiction between FPPC requirements and the AB 1234 Ethics Training required of all Councilmembers and Planning Commissioners every two years, and the differences between regulations at the state and federal levels verses the local level. Ms. Fregosi spoke about the importance of respectfully listening to input received from the public.

Council and staff discussion included difficulties addressing campaign finance at a local level, differences between disclosure and disqualification and related differences when acting in the capacity of an elected official as opposed to an elected official acting in an appointed capacity.

Elmano Costa requested clarification about the proposed 2014 campaign finance ordinance being a disqualification ordinance and whether the ordinance had been properly vetted. Mr. Costa spoke regarding concerns over the political system, public frustration when the public is invited to participate but no action is taken, the importance of transparency, and the willingness at the Council level to participate in that higher level transparency. Mr. Costa spoke in favor of campaign finance reform for reasons including the current laws being inadequate.

Council and staff discussion included the Modesto's campaign finance ordinance, the proposed campaign finance ordinance brought forward by Councilmember Nascimento in 2014 being modeled after the City of Modesto's ordinance, concerns about overregulation of campaign financing driving the process underground, future processes for bringing this matter forward at the June 28, 2016 City Council meeting, ranges for acceptable campaign contribution limits, and contributions made by political action committees and related recusal guidelines,

Brad Bates requested clarification on if the majority of City Council is serious about meaningful campaign reform and their desire to take action at the June 28, 2016 Council meeting. Mr. Bates noted a distinction between limiting contributions and establishing a threshold at which a Councilmember could not vote on an issue.

Vice Mayor Bublak closed public participation, thanked everyone for attending, and announced the next special meeting to discuss campaign finance reform would be on June 16, 2016 at Turlock Junior High School.

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Councilmember Nascimento, seconded by Councilmember Jacob to adjourn the special meeting at 7:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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Kellie E. Weaver  
City Clerk