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1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Gary Soiseth called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
PRESENT: Councilmembers Amy Bublak, Bill DeHart, Matthew Jacob, Steven Nascimento,
Mayor Gary Soiseth
ABSENT: None
 2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Soiseth opened public participation.
 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.

Mayor Soiseth introduced the workshop and encouraged attendees to participate. He also provided information about upcoming campaign finance regulation workshops and the regular City Council meeting to be held on June 28, 2016, where the culmination of the workshops will be discussed.

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.

Councilmember Nascimento requested the City Attorney update information contained in the presentation to include the 3/2 vote originally taken on the proposed 2014 ordinance. City Attorney Norton noted the information contained in the presentation was taken directly from the minutes of the February 11, 2014 Council meeting which indicated the 3/2 vote was to continue the discussion and convene a subcommittee.

Milt Trieweiler requested clarification on Political Reform Act regulations related to local and state officials. Mr. Trieweiler spoke in favor of campaign finance reform for reasons including that humans can be influenced by others. Mr. Trieweiler also noted his opposition to Citizens United, and spoke regarding declaration of conflicts of interest/disqualifications and developing parameters that would limit an elected official's ability to vote on a matter related to the financial gain of a campaign contributor.

Jason Starn spoke regarding there being no appearance of impropriety.

Lloyd Blackman requested clarification regarding disclosure and disqualification when acting in the capacity of an elected official as opposed to an elected official acting in an appointed capacity.

Council and staff discussion included the option of developing a sweeping rule that any contribution would require disclosure, disadvantages of sweeping rules, and clarification of voluntary expenditure limits.

Council and staff discussion included the goal of the special meetings as receiving community input, providing education, listening to the community and establishing trust. Additionally, Council shared benefits of the meetings as demonstrating transparency, gaining options, appreciation for public participation, clarifying acceptable limits, understanding thresholds the public is comfortable with, and potential challenges related to setting contribution limits.

In response to an informal audience poll requested by Council, as to the amount of money received they believed would unduly influence a Councilmember, audience response ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Larry Rumbeck inquired as to the costs for running a campaign.

Brad Bates spoke regarding the differences between limiting campaign contributions and establishing a threshold for disqualification. Mr. Bates spoke in favor of disqualification rather than limiting contributions.

Additional Council and staff discussion included campaign finance options such as contribution limits, voluntary expenditure limits and disclosure, contribution cycles, and definition of donors and/or individuals.

Roger Matzkind presented various scenarios related to establishing contribution percentage limits, tallying donations received by an elected official, and devising an ongoing system that would calculate when disqualification is necessary.

Council discussion included the previous Council decision of making individual contribution records easily accessible and ensuring a process for easy and user friendly access of contribution records to the public continues.

Mayor Soiseth closed public participation and reminded all in attendance about the June 9, 2016 meeting at Cunningham School.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilmember Bublak, seconded by Councilmember Nascimento to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Jennifer Land
Deputy City Clerk