

TRACY CITY COUNCIL - SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

333 Civic Center Plaza, Council Chambers, Tracy

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Maciel called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL – Roll call found Council Members Mitracos, Young, Mayor Pro Tem Rickman and Mayor Maciel present. Council Member Vargas arrived at 5:34 p.m.
3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE – There were no speakers.
4. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE STAFF DIRECTION ON PROPOSED REVENUE ENHANCEMENT OPTIONS TO ADDRESS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND QUALITY OF LIFE NEEDS

Troy Brown, City Manager, provided an overview of what staff has been doing at the direction of Council to explore revenue enhancement opportunities for the City which has been an ongoing discussion since the budget process began. Mr. Brown mentioned how this budget is a unique one as it will be the first budget in five years that will not include Measure E revenue. This evening at Council's request staff has returned to have a broad revenue enhancement discussion. Mr. Brown presented the staff report.

Kathryn Lew from the Lew Edwards Group continued the presentation with revenue sources.

Council comments and questions followed.

Linda Jimenez referenced a survey from 2015 which reflected different figures from the ones being presented and asked for clarification.

Vanessa Carrerra, Public Information Officer, responded that the data referenced in the presentation was conducted in 2015 from the Godbe research study.

Roger Birdsall asked what does the phrase financial responsibility mean, some would say its cutting jobs or services, the other side would say it means increasing revenue. Mr. Birdsall said that Legacy Fields and the pool have been waiting twenty years to be completed and they are still not done, and that is attributed to the fact that there is still not enough money. Mr. Birdsall suggested running a 1% sales tax for seven or eight years, which would be used for capital improvement projects and not salaries.

Steve Nicolaou agreed wholeheartedly with previous speaker, Roger Birdsall. Mr. Nicolaou quoted Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. "taxes are what we pay for a civilized society." Mr. Nicolaou expressed that fiscal responsibility is not just making cuts its knowing when to raise revenue to maintain a quality of life and urged the council to allow the people to make the decision for themselves.

Robert Tanner agreed that a sales tax is the way to go for six to eight years in length. Mr. Tanner expressed concern about how long it's taking the City to talk with the County about the property tax agreement.

Rhodesia Ransom, expressed that it must be difficult for those running for election to address this issue. Ms. Ransom referenced that Measure E was brought forward for

public safety, at this time the City is faced with a deficit and many promises have been broken related to quality of life. Ms. Ransom stated that if the conversation was difficult for the Council to have then the voters should be allowed to decide.

Tim Silva expressed not being in favor of raising taxes, it is a big deal when you make a big purchase with a higher tax. Mr. Silva urged the Council to live within their means and increase patronage at the mall.

City Council comments and questions ensued.

After Council deliberation staff was directed to return on July 22, 2016 to address questions raised this evening as well as additional information related to the proposed measure at which time the Council would decide whether or not to move forward with the ballot measure.

5. Adjournment – Time 8:24 p.m.

ACTION Motion was made by Council Member Young, and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rickman to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote found all in favor; passed and so ordered.

The agenda was posted at City Hall on June 23, 2016.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk