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1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Lazar called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
PRESENT: Councilmembers Bill DeHart, Steven Nascimento, Amy Bublak, Forrest White, and Mayor John S. Lazar.
ABSENT: None
 2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None
 3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND DISQUALIFICATIONS:** None
 4. **COMMUNITY FORUM**

Mayor Lazar opened the community forum and each of the following Department Heads/Managers presented information on the following topics:

- Funding of City Services

City Manager Roy Wasden provided information regarding the funding of City Services, including essential City services, General Fund vs. Non-General Fund dollars, and funding received through sales tax, property tax, and state income tax.

- Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities

Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities Manager Allison Van Guilder provided information about the organizational structure of the department, including services/programs offered in the areas of parks & storm basins, streets, buildings, assessment district maintenance, pools and spray parks, aquatics, youth and afterschool programs, community events, sports programs, and funding. Ms. Van Guilder stated the critical issues facing the Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities Division are limited staffing, vandalism and theft, low cost recreation programs, residential sidewalk maintenance, street tree maintenance, and aging facilities.

- Police

Police Captain/Acting Police Chief Steve Williams presented information about the organizational structure of the Police Department, including services provided by the Field Operations, Special Operations, and Support Operations Divisions, departmental personnel statistics, crime statistics and crime trends in Turlock, accomplishments and successes, and future concerns. Interim Police Chief Williams stated the critical issues facing the Police Department are response time, staffing levels, gangs and drugs, AB109 realignment, customer satisfaction, and continued and enhanced partnerships.

- Water

Municipal Services Director Dan Madden presented information about the City's drinking water system, challenges associated with quantity/quality of drinking water, source of water, water production statistics, declining water levels, the future of groundwater, and the Regional Surface Water Project.

- Fire

Fire Chief Tim Lohman presented an overview of fire operations, including department facts, services provided to the community, department statistics, station locations, their vision as public servants, examples of various calls for service, and future challenges. Fire Chief Lohman stated the critical issues facing the Fire Department are staffing needs as the community grows, Healthcare Reform Act and how that will impact hospitals, doctors and first responders, and government mandates and regulations.

- Wastewater/Storm System

Municipal Services Director Dan Madden presented information about the wastewater/storm system, including the North Valley Recycled Water Project, discharge information, long-term water quality considerations, existing operations, and future plans.

- Transportation/Roadways

Development Services Director Mike Pitcock presented information about transportation and roadways, including the Pavement Management System, PCI ratings, condition and funding required to improve/maintain the existing street network, gas tax funding information, alternative funding options such as the General Fund, a parcel tax, a citywide assessment district, and a half-cent sales tax.

Mayor Lazar asked for public comment.

Pat Noda spoke regarding water prices for irrigating large parcels.

Delores Thomas spoke regarding criteria for selection of streets to be maintained and why funding is spent on beautification of streets rather than fixing broken streets. Development Services Director Mike Pitcock provided information about funding and assessment districts.

Lee Smith, owner of Smith Chevrolet, spoke regarding rumors of an increased sales tax in Turlock and the affects it might have on his business, being against a general fund tax, and being in favor of a tax specific to fixing our roadways.

Gary and Barbara Thomas spoke regarding the absence of sidewalks at Colorado and Monte Vista Avenues and associated safety concerns. Mr. Pitcock advised that grant funding has been secured that will address their concerns. Mr. Thomas also spoke regarding taxes that leave local cities to be given to the state.

Mike Crowell spoke in favor of a local road tax, reservations about a county wide tax providing any benefit to the City of Turlock, being against a property tax but in favor of a sales tax to bring in revenue from people who use our roadways but live out of town, and being against using City fire trucks to handle emergency calls such as asthma.

John Miles spoke in favor of a parcel tax for reasons including that adjacent properties would appreciate in value. He spoke against a sales tax for reasons including it would disproportionately affect the poor in a significant way.

Edmund Shabaz spoke regarding concerns about standing water at his Hedstrom Road property, agreement that City roads are in need of a major fix, desire for speed bumps in his neighborhood, and safety concerns over certain signal intersections on Christoffersen Parkway.

Rob Hillberg spoke regarding being very proud of City government and Turlock Councils that have provided budget management that has left Turlock in a better position than many surrounding cities, his concerns that a sales tax for road issues may be considered double taxing due to the fact a number of people are already paying for maintaining their roads, and his feeling that roadways should be repaved rather than patched when work is undertaken that requires cut outs of pavement.

Bob Endsley spoke in favor of the community meetings, saving Class A farm land, the future water supply, and the need to look ahead to make good decisions to protect our future.

Tracy Lynch spoke in support of limiting water use, support for a road tax with consideration given to incorporating wording that would return or lower funding once roadways reach a certain standard.

Mike Crowell spoke regarding State Water Board concerns over the possible state diversion of 35% of our region's water to southern California.

Delores Baptista spoke in agreement with Ron Hillberg regarding repaving streets rather than patching them, inquired about grant qualification and use, and voiced concerns regarding traffic safety at West Main Street and Tegner Road.

Mike Jaureguy thanked Council for the community meeting and voiced his appreciation for their leadership and dedication.

Edmund Shabaz thanked the Council for their efforts and spoke regarding California's water being for all Californians.

Mayor Lazar closed public comment.

Council discussion included thanking attendees for their participation, the idea of creating a fund that residential areas could access in order to form their own assessment districts, the importance of hearing from the public regarding passage of a sales or parcel tax, and encouraging participation in the last community forum to be held on June 13, 2013 at the Pitman High School cafeteria.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Lazar adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Kellie E. Weaver
City Clerk