

1. **A. CALL TO ORDER** –Mayor Soiseth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
PRESENT: Councilmembers Amy Bublak, Bill DeHart, Matthew Jacob, Steven Nascimento, and Mayor Soiseth.
ABSENT: None

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Vernon Price spoke regarding homelessness including that shelters will be closing on April 15, 2015, the homeless will have no other place to go, and that the homeless have a right to police services.

John Miles requested information about why the shelters are closing. City Manager Roy Wasden provided information that current shelters are not year-round shelters and only operate as emergency shelters.

3. **PUBLIC SAFETY DISCUSSION** – City Council will receive an update on the past, present and future of Police and Fire Services in Turlock. The update is informational and will include a discussion about future service directions and any other matters that may fall within the jurisdiction of Police and Fire Services.

Fire Chief Tim Lohman presented information about the Turlock Fire Department including their Mission/Vision Statements, a historical review of the department, services they provide to the community, development of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), growth of the department, station locations, response times and related issues, staffing and associated statistics, and ISO National Rating/Ranking information.

Vernon Price spoke regarding calls he has witnessed and thanked the fire department for providing excellent response times.

Chief Lohman provided information about current challenges including call volume increases, securing additional training/funding for special operations, future considerations related to increased staffing, Affordable Care Act opportunities, providing Advanced Life Support services and related reimbursement opportunities, Station 5 location, dispatch services, and developing partnerships with agencies such as the Red Cross and the Office of Emergency Services.

Council and staff discussion included fire extrication equipment, fire department radios/batteries, radio systems, new home construction requirements, fire department staffing, necessary equipment, and challenges related to Engine 32.

Milt Trieweiler spoke regarding sprinkler systems and inquired about associated requirements and benefits.

John Miles spoke regarding funding and inquired as to the percentage of General Fund monies allocated for public safety.

Vernon Price spoke regarding staging and response times.

Miscellaneous discussion included the benefits of having a fully staffed truck company, and the need and importance of quality training grounds for Turlock firefighters.

Fire Chief Lohman spoke regarding Neighborhood Services including services they provide, department statistics, upcoming events, and the newly created RESTORE (Reestablishing Everyone's Safety through Oversight and Responsible Efforts) Committee.

Robert Allen spoke regarding the billing process for the required clean-up of nuisance properties and evictions after the clean-up has occurred.

Council and staff discussion included processes involved in restoring nuisance properties and successes of the RESTORE program.

Vernon Price spoke regarding homeless issues, including becoming part of the solution to the problem and volunteerism.

Mayor Soiseth recessed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor Soiseth reconvened the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Police Chief Robert Jackson presented information about Turlock Police Department their Mission Statement, 2006-2014 historical information, department growth between 2006-2009, impacts of staffing reductions/vacancies/budget limitations, and present staffing levels of sworn and non-sworn personnel.

Council and staff discussion included savings related to previous staffing cuts, staffing issues related to officers being off due to short-term and long-term injuries, and recruitment hardships.

Chief Jackson spoke regarding external influences of the passage of AB 109 (State Prison Realignment) and Proposition 47 (Safe Schools Act).

Chief Jackson also spoke about the future of police services regarding staffing and a related 3-phase approach that includes staffing and non-staffing costs for each phase. He listed non-staffing requests as Canine Unit, Street Crime Unit, victim rescue vehicle, personal video recording systems (body cameras), license plate readers, and associated equipment for the additional staffing requested. He also provided information about critical infrastructure needs including replacement of the current radio system and a computer aided dispatch/records management system upgrade or replacement.

Additional Council and staff discussion included a potential regional approach for Animal Control facilities, potential use of MRAP and armored rescue vehicles, automated license plate readers, current police department investments related to weapons and vehicles, and proactive community policing.

Mayor Soiseth asked for public participation.

John Miles spoke regarding potential use of military armored rescue vehicles.

Russell Holeman spoke regarding the opportunity to provide input into the 3-phased approach presented by Chief Jackson, the importance of filling positions, and the ability to attract quality applicants.

Miscellaneous discussion included attempts to recruit women, the need for additional staffing to lower response times, and safety concerns related to burglaries.

Mayor Soiseth closed public participation.

Additional Council discussion included concerns over gangs/criminals and the need for additional firepower, budget constraints in relation to staffing, and employing marketing tactics to increase attraction of quality employees.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Soiseth adjourned the meeting 9:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Kellie E. Weaver
City Clerk