

1. **A. CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Bublak called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
PRESENT: Councilmembers Andrew Nosrati, Nicole Larson, Gil Esquer, and Mayor Amy Bublak.
ABSENT: None

B. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Bublak spoke regarding the purpose of calling the special meeting was to discuss the topic of homelessness and outer lying areas.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Bublak opened public participation and noted she would be leaving it open for the meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND DISQUALIFICATIONS: None

4. WORKSHOP SESSION

Review and discussion of strategies to address vagrancy and homelessness issues in Turlock.

- a) Opening Remarks by Mayor and City Manager
- b) Preliminary review of December 12, 2018 Workgroup suggestions:
 - a. Homelessness Prevention / Jobs, followed by discussion
 - b. Bathrooms and Businesses, followed by discussion
 - c. Community Engagement, followed by discussion
 - d. Housing, followed by discussion
- c) Recommendation by Council of items for City staff review and placement on subsequent Council agendas

City Manager Robert C. Lawton expressed thanks to those in attendance at today's meeting as well as to those who previously participated in the December 12, 2018 workgroup session, provided an overview of the topics that were presented to Council at the workgroup session, spoke regarding Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt's efforts to further review and provide background information regarding the four subject areas: Homelessness Prevention and Jobs, Bathrooms and Businesses, Community Engagement, and Housing, and noted Ms. Pitt would be providing a presentation regarding each of these subject areas. City Manager Lawton also spoke regarding his suggestion that upon conclusion of the presentation Council would provide direction about the areas they would like staff to further explore to assist with a future goal of developing a coherent and comprehensive City policy on these issues.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt spoke regarding the funding (approximately \$7.3 million) Stanislaus County will receive from the State of California Housing and Community Development (Homeless Emergency Aid Program), potential uses of the funding, and noted further discussions can be had to determine how Turlock would like their portion of funds allocated.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt provided information regarding the ideas presented by the Homelessness Prevention and Jobs Workgroup including mental health/health issues, low barrier jobs incentivized by the City, apprenticeship access program, and resource center.

Council and staff discussed this information including hours and operation of behavioral health services, Stanislaus County Office of Education vocational teachings, previous low barrier jobs in the PBID, the Downtown Streets Team effort, marketing job opportunities in the community, and funding for youth services and prevention programs.

The following members of the public spoke:

DJ Fransen
Ed Maze
Pam Franco
Member of the public
Terry Shaver
Christian Curby
Barbara Jensen
Liz Padilla
Ann Strohm
Michael Camara
Shehu Hassan
Member of the public

Police Chief Ninus C. Amirfar spoke briefly regarding the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Boise decision and other laws involving these matters.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt provided information regarding the ideas presented by the Bathrooms and Businesses Workgroup including Port-a-Loo, washer and dryer stations and shower shuttle, and information for business owners (Community Resource Handbook).

The following members of the public spoke:

Pam Franco
Pauline Black
Becky Arellano
Ann Strohm
DJ Fransen
Carl Mercer
Liz Padilla
Michael Camara

City Manager Robert C. Lawton thanked Ms. Liz Padilla for her efforts, spoke regarding the efforts of the Police, Fire, and Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities Departments, and noted these discussions need to be focused on solutions.

Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt provided information regarding the ideas presented by the Community Engagement Workgroup including common database, public education, and coordination amongst providers.

Council and staff discussed this information including uses of the HMIS database, coordination amongst providers, reporting received from the national database, point in time count, online accessibility of resources guides and handbooks, and refining categories to determine the type of help/services different individuals need.

The following members of the public spoke:

Christian Curby
Ed Maze
Member of the public
Member of the public

Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt provided information regarding the ideas presented by the Housing Workgroup including immediate housing, transitional housing, long-term housing, rental assistance, and veteran's assistance.

The following members of the public spoke:

Pauline Black
Member of the public

Council discussed this information including the importance of focusing on short-term housing options and consideration of neighborhood concerns.

City Manager Robert C. Lawton spoke regarding previous abatement actions and enforcement undertaken by the City, staff responding with professionalism, and efforts to connect individuals with services.

The following members of the public spoke:

DJ Fransen
Robert Allen
Ann Strohm
Liz Padilla
Dan Tallman
Michael Camara
Jason Freitas

Mayor Bublak closed public participation.

Council further discussed these matters including continued discussions with Turlock Gospel Mission and City staff regarding potential use of the property/site behind the Turlock Gospel Mission building, exploring options and regulations for no barrier shelters, tiny houses, and tents, and enforcement of laws in a compassionate way.

Council, staff, and Christian Curby spoke regarding the Turlock Gospel Mission's interest to engage the City in these discussions, possible funding options to help fund this potential use, and the navigator program (outreach and engagement in the community).

Additional Council discussion including the importance of addressing immediate and long-term needs, breaking into smaller groups to quickly address some of these issues, and determining how many individuals need to be served/would utilize services.

City Manager Robert C. Lawton clarified the direction provided by Council to evaluate the Turlock Gospel Mission site and determine the number of individuals it can accommodate, schedule meetings of the four workgroups (with one Member of the Council assigned to each group), utilization of the memorandum (presentation) prepared by Executive Assistant to the City Manager for Economic Development and Housing Maryn Pitt as the scope of work, and exploration of an alternate work program.

Final Council discussion included logistics of the workgroup sessions (report back) and exploration of Port-a-Loo by the Bathrooms and Businesses Workgroup.

Mayor Bublak expressed thanks to those in attendance for their participation.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilmember Esquer, seconded by Councilmember Larson, to adjourn the special meeting at 4:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Jennifer Land
City Clerk