

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Lazar called the meeting to order at 7:03 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

Municipal Services Director Dan Madden provided information on Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities in the absence of Manager Allison Van Guilder. He highlighted 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. Mr. Madden 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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, effects of the 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 welcomed Daron McDaniel of Congressman Jeff Denham's office and then asked for public comment.

Community members Ed Feidberg, Tom Nicholson, Debbe Bailey, Nick Penny and Holly Walker spoke in favor of a half-cent sales tax to generate revenue to repair roads and for the money generated to be earmarked for specific road repair/projects.

Additional discussion included different types of taxes that could be implemented such as a parcel tax vs. road tax and pros and cons of each, the high cost of road repaving/repair, questions about why general fund money is not set aside for road maintenance, state and federal level takes of money from the local level, benefits of a sales tax including the tax being paid by all consumers that shop in Turlock, the length of time before a special sales tax could be put into place and election costs.

Stanley McElroy spoke regarding limited lighting on his street. Development Services Director Mike Pitcock noted he would look into his lighting concern.

Josh Weimer spoke regarding possible grants that would match or assist with fixing roads. Councilmember Steven Nascimento responded that a local sales tax could allow the City to apply for grants for specific projects and could possibly enhance revenue generation for roads.

Roger Fall spoke in favor of a half-cent sales tax that would be used exclusively for road repair, his concerns about difficulties in passing a special tax, and provided alternate suggestions about implementation of a general tax, including bonding the tax for road repair revenue to tie up the general tax for debt service that future councils could not divert.

Council thanked community members for their participation and encouraged citizens to contact Councilmembers or City Hall if they have questions on any topic related to the community and to engage in votes and discussions so that Council is informed of their concerns.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Lazar adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Stacey Tonarelli
Deputy City Clerk