

# **Meeting Minutes of the City of Milpitas Campaign Finance Reform Committee**

**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015**

6:00 PM

Milpitas City Hall, Committee Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
455 E. Calaveras Boulevard, Milpitas, CA

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Althea Polanski called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Committee Members present were Althea Polanski, Marty Riker, Syed Mohsin, Bob Nunez, Rohit Sharma, Lokesh Krishnarajpet.

Committee Members absent were: Rajeev Madnawat, Martha Lamdin, Bill Ferguson. Martha arrived at 6:11 PM and Bill arrived at 6:24 PM.

Staff present were City Attorney Mike Ogaz and City Clerk Mary Lavelle.

The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: upon motion by Syed Mohsin and seconded by Lokesh Krishnarajpet, the meeting minutes of March 19, 2015 were approved, with three edits noted for the City Clerk.

Public forum - no speakers.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chair Polanski asked Syed Mohsin for highlights from his subcommittee which met recently (as he had not yet submitted the written workplan to her).

First, Chair Polanski reviewed highlights of the workplan for the Time and Financial Limits Subcommittee, which included five specific ideas. Top three highlighted were: a voluntary contribution cap with incentives or possible penalties; beginning and end time for fundraising when running for office; and, consider San Diego-style limit or ban on political party committee activity.

Next, Marty Riker reviewed his subcommittee on Campaign Reform, while some items overlapped with the items Chair Polanski mentioned. His subcommittee listed six ideas, with three prioritized: work on more clarity to voters on relationships, especially if any contracts were pending before the City; consider possible requirement to file campaign forms electronically if feasible while considering costs to do so; and implement District Elections, as done in some of the larger cities.

Mr. Mohsin discussed the Subcommittee on Disclosure and Enforcement. Ideas that group discussed included: a six month limit on raising funds from six months prior to election day up to election day; close a campaign committee three months after election; any person (corporation or officers of corporation) or business with any business before the City may not contribute to candidates (not routine activity though, like a business license); anyone with a contract with the City over \$1000 shall be prohibited from contributing to candidate; city shall list all registered lobbyists and all businesses on its website; \$13,000 voluntary expenditure limit per Council candidate; \$26,000 limit for Mayor seat; any registered voter has standing to file a complaint with the City and provide ways to file a complaint; power to the voter for enforcing local regulation; Mayor & Council shall list on public calendars all

meetings with developers and add a fine if they do not list those meetings, and consider the same required of all candidates.

Top three prioritized for Syed, Bill and Rajeev's group were: anyone with a pending contract or project before the city cannot contribute to a campaign committee (for larger dollar contracts); have a penalty related to seriousness of violation such as loss of office; and look at City of Santa Clara-style enforcement of campaign regulations.

Overlapping ideas from the subcommittees were noted: donating leftover funds, time limits, and voluntary contributions. At the next meeting, specific recommendations to the City Council shall be determined. City Attorney Ogaz said he may respond on the legality of some of the ideas at this meeting. He could conduct legal analysis, as needed, on the final ideas recommended next time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Polanski adjourned the meeting at 7:38 PM, and agreed to convene next on Monday, May 18 at 6:00 PM. Chair Polanski noted the anticipated, scheduled meetings for this Committee would be on Mondays, June 15 and July 20 at 6:00 PM each date, in the City Hall Committee Room.

*Meeting minutes drafted  
by Mary Lavelle, City Clerk*