



Meeting Minutes

City Council

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Monday, October 9, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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**Workshop: Community Survey Results and Review of the Conflict Ordinance**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**B. PUBLIC FORUM:**

**C. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS:**

1. [Receive the Community Survey Results Presentation by Polco](#)

Marilyn L Schweitzer discussed the survey, compared results against national benchmarks, and urged the City to use results to set policy.

Schatz gave a survey overview conducted by Polco, stated that it was statistically significant, explained that all services will be reviewed regardless of score, and said that the City should celebrate the results.

Joe Dell'Olio (Polco) discussed the survey timeframe, mailing approach, benchmark database, and presented the key findings.

Council discussed the high rankings as well as those areas where the City scored between 70-80%, how survey information can be used in the future, census demographics, and language offerings.

LaCloche stated that staff checked with IPSD 204 and other community partners regarding language translation and found that Spanish is the community norm.

Schatz summarized that 2016 was the last time a statistically significant survey was conducted, that staff will continue to analyze the data from the current survey, and that polling software can now be used for random surveys on targeted topics.

**D. REVIEW OF THE CONFLICT ORDINANCE:**

1. [Receive the Review of Conflict Ordinance Presentation](#)

Marilyn L Schweitzer discussed personal gain, social media and free speech regarding threats, elected officials' ability to remain impartial in their decisions,

and stated that the topic of ethics needs more attention.

DiSanto discussed ethical obligations and provided a baseline of what elected officials are not allowed to do.

Council discussed election interference, contributions, recusals, and FOIAs.

DiSanto explained officials must comply with all regulations including the City's workplace policies, that conflicts could be financial or personal, the appearance of impropriety, and the integrity of the disclosure process.

DiSanto went on to discuss the disclosure ordinance, gave a brief timeline of Council actions, and explained that Council can choose to amend, repeal, or to leave the ordinance as is. He stated that since the ordinance was passed there has been three disclosures with two occurring in the last four months.

Council discussed appropriateness of amending the ordinance to include PACs, impact of the ordinance on public participation, items/acts that candidates believe are valuable, and asked if there is or have been any accusations of violating any state laws.

DiSanto outlined examples and hypotheticals of what does and does not warrant a disclosure and stated that there have been no accusations during his 16-year tenure.

Council discussed confusion that the ordinance has caused, the importance of transparency, possible amendments such as changing the dollar threshold and including language regarding PACs, and the optics of repealing an ethics ordinance.

Spano discussed Public Access Counselor (PAC) opinions and a District Court case that addressed First Amendment concerns in public meetings with Council members and public officials' social media accounts.

DiSanto conducted a straw poll to determine Council direction which resulted in five members supporting ordinance repeal, three supporting no change, seven supporting a dollar threshold increase if not repealed, and eight supporting amending language to include a PAC officer.

DiSanto clarified that an ordinance to repeal and an ordinance to amend will be placed on the October 17, 2023 meeting agenda.

## **E. ADJOURNMENT:**

**The workshop adjourned at 7:57 p.m.**