

Ethics Committee

Santa Clara City Council Chambers 1500 Warburton Avenue

Meeting Minutes Monday, May 4, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Debi Davis, Council Member and Chair Dominic J. Caserta, Vice Mayor Kathy Watanabe, Council Member

Staff

Rajeev Batra, City Manager Brian Doyle, Interim City Attorney Rod Diridon, Jr., City Clerk/Auditor Jennifer Yamaguma, Community Relations Manager Sedef Ersahin, Office Specialist DPW

1. Call to Order Chair Davis

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Update on Work Plan Items

Community Relations Manager

a. Charter Review Committee

Charter Review Committee has reconvened.

b. Dark Money Issue

Outside counsel has been hired to provide expertise in handling this matter. City Attorney will provide update at the Ethics Committee Meeting on June 5th. Vice Mayor Caserta has suggested looking into a company such as Blupac to attend meetings.

c. Request For Proposal (RFP) for Ethics Consultant

Scope of Services was discussed at last meeting. Ethics Consultant will provide insight into updating City values and Code of Ethics. Community Relations Manager will have the finalized RFP in a few weeks.

d. Update from Fred Keeley, Democracy Consultant

City hired Fred Keeley, Democracy and Ethics Consultant, to take feedback from the previous election and conduct additional interviews. It was noted that the process needed more structure. The Democracy Consultant discussed the results, which includes the black box effect where the "internal" decision-making process may not have been clear and confused the voters. The issues forum and accountability forums were recommended to be separated. The issues forum needs to evolve the same way the campaign evolves, and provide a new way to handle accountability. The public wants to be able to attend and ask questions, but a live debate should be avoided. One solution would be to gather the questions early on and review for repetition.

3. Public Presentations

Robin Burdick provided comments on the accountability forum. Tino Silva made comments on the Dark Money issue. Deborah Bress provided general comments concerning policies and regulations.

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.