

MEMORANDUM

Office of the City Manager



DATE: September 10, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Steve McHarris, City Manager *Steve McHarris*

FROM: Ashwini Kantak, Assistant City Manager *Ashwini Kantak*

SUBJECT: City Council Sponsored Events

This Information Memorandum is in response to a request initiated by Councilmember Dominguez and supported by the full Council at the September 1, 2020 Council meeting, to agendize a discussion about City Council sponsored events at the September 15 Council meeting.

Background:

During the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget development process, the City Council expressed an interest in individual Councilmembers having the ability and funding to host events that benefit the City and the Milpitas community, and to use City facilities for this purpose.

The use of City facilities is governed by the Milpitas Facility Use Manual and updates to this Manual needed to be brought forward for Council consideration to enable use of City facilities by individual Councilmembers.

A draft policy for Council sponsored events (a policy for City Council training was also part of the same agenda item) and related draft Facility Use Manual update were both brought forward for Council consideration on August 20, 2019. Both items were deferred multiple times and were finally discussed at the November 19, 2019 City Council meeting. Although no formal action was taken by Council, staff was directed to bring back both items at a later date. The discussion related to use of facilities by the City Council, the subsequent Facility Use Manual update to capture those uses, as well as the policy on City Council sponsored events has not occurred to date.

Analysis:

The draft Council policy for events, presented to Council in late 2019, was intended to establish City policy, guidelines and conditions for the use of funds appropriated to individual members of the City Council for hosting events, donating to intergovernmental agencies and non-profit organizations and for requesting fee waivers for events. These events were to support the City Council's priorities and not be related to campaigning or any other political advocacy efforts and shall generally serve a public purpose.

The Approved Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget includes funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the City Council (\$5,000 for each member of the Council) to make donations to intergovernmental agencies and non-profit organizations and to approve fee waivers for events and for individual Councilmembers to either host his/her own events or to donate to additional events and provide fee waivers, distinct from those submitted per the adopted policy – City Council Donations and Fee Waiver/Reduction Policy are regulated by Council policy 01-07.

Per this policy, all requests for events and fee waivers or donations for non-profit organizations shall continue to be brought forward for Council consideration. Based on historical information about Council donations and fee waivers, when this item was brought forward for Council discussion in 2019, staff had recommended setting aside a budget of \$10,000 for the full City Council and \$3,000 each for every individual member of the City Council.

The draft policy outlined general conditions as described below:

Any events hosted or sponsored by an individual Councilmember were intended to be for a wide-reaching public purpose serving the Milpitas community at-large, and supporting the priorities of the full Council. Events were to be open to the public and to any other Councilmembers who may wish to attend. Councilmember hosted events were not to be related to a campaign event. To ensure the integrity of the events, the draft policy stated that no hosted events would take place six months preceding a municipal election.

The draft policy provided guidance about type of staff support and number of staff hours. The draft policy also described the responsibilities of the City Councilmembers and the City Manager and outlines the procedures for reimbursement of expenses.

Key items that were noted for Council consideration and input included:

1. Allocation amounts from the total \$25,000 budget for the full City Council and individual Councilmembers.
2. Eligible expenditures for individual Councilmember funds.
3. Number of events hosted by individual Councilmembers.
4. Use of City facilities
5. Timeframe of events hosted by individual Councilmembers with respect to municipal elections.
6. Amount of staff support hours per event and cumulative number of hours for events hosted by each Councilmember.
7. Approval Process

As noted earlier, Council did not take action on the draft policy or the Facility Use Manual update but provided input on the item and asked staff to return at a future date.

Links to the prior Agenda Report, draft policy, and meeting minutes are included below for reference.

Links to documents:

- [November 19, 2019 Agenda Report and Draft Policies](#)
- [November 19, 2019 Agenda Report and Draft Facility Manual](#)
- [November 19, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes, Pages 6-8](#)