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Staff Report

ITEM 4-1

To: Lemoore City Council
From: Jeff Laws, City Manager
Date: June 25, 2014
Subject: City Council Vacancy

Discussion:

As you are aware, Councilmember John Gordon resigned effective June 19, 2014 from the Lemoore City Council. Government Code 36512 suggests that the City Council has two options available to fill the vacancy. The first would be to appoint a citizen to serve the remainder of Councilmember Gordon's term; the second would be to leave the seat vacant since the term expires at the end of the year. The seat would be filled following the November general election.

Within 60 days from the date of the vacancy, Council shall either fill the vacancy by appointment or call for a special election to fill the vacancy. If the Council calls for a special election to fill the vacancy, the election must be held on the next regularly established election date not less than 114 days from the call of the special election, which would be the November election when the term expires. Due to the timing of the vacancy, a special election is not an option.

Should the Council decide to appoint a new Councilmember, I would recommend that we advertise the vacancy and accept resumes and letters of interest. Any potential appointee must be a resident of Lemoore and registered to vote. The appointment would need to be made by the August 5th Council meeting.

A disadvantage leaving the seat vacant is that there would only be four members of the City Council until a fifth member is elected and sworn into office, which could potentially be more than five months away.

Budget Impact:

Should the City Council decide to appoint, less than \$1,000 would be spent in noticing and advertising the vacancy. If the Council leaves the seat vacant, there would be no cost.

Recommendation:

None. For City Council discussion and direction.

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