



10/17/2023
City Council Regular Meeting

**Handouts received after
agenda posted**

Mayor, City Council, City Manager,

Thank you for all you do for the City of Lemoore. I wanted to come here today to state the following. We have a City Council/City Manager form of government as many municipalities do. The City Council and City Manager need to work together to make our city work. This means that the City Manager and City Attorney work for the City Council. The City Manager is in control of the day-to-day operations of the City as listed in our city ordinances. As was stated in prior meetings the City of Lemoore budget is in bad shape. I believe we are about 2 Million in the hole and it's not getting any better. I know this was inherited; it is what it is. We can blame it on Covid, Inflation, the State of California, the Federal Government, on whomever but at the end of the day we the citizens of the City of Lemoore are left holding the reigns of this horse and we have to help guide it. All we can now do is learn from the past, work on today and the future. I heard the latest fix is to do a hiring freeze which I agree with, but I heard thru the grapevine that the city is hiring two new clerks which I think should not happen. It doesn't matter if it was in this year's budget or not. The Refuge department is being outsourced to a private entity which is paid thru enterprise funds via our monthly water, trash, and sewer bill. Instead of hiring new people maybe someone that is having their job taken away be transferred into the position. Just a thought. Or we just don't hire the new people and do without.

Also heard that one of the things on the table is to cut the Police Department by 50 percent. This is unsatisfactory. The number one duty of the City Council and City Manager is Public Safety, which I include providing services like water, trash, and sewer. We all know what will happen when this is done. Due to the State of California mandated propositions and early release and no arrest regulations it already is overtaking our State, County, and local police departments. The homeless population is on the rise. If you do this our property values will drop, the proposed housing construction could be affected.

As we know the city needs more business that sell products that are taxed, which increase our tax base to the General Fund. The city can only try and make some small incentives to attract business that will be an asset to Lemoore and not hurt our city. As we know the city cannot force business to build or come to Lemoore. The only thing we can do is provide incentives by way of discount impact fees, tax rebates and a safe place to conduct business.

The State tax rate is 7.25 percent on every dollar spent for nonfood items like toilet paper and gasoline. The City only gets 1 percent of the 7.25 percent as .25 percent goes to Kings County and the State gets remaining 6 percent. We need to remind people to buy in Lemoore, so the tax dollars, the one penny stays in Lemoore. I don't mind paying my fare share to get the public safety and city services we depend on but to cut public safety is wrong.

Something that can help create plausible solutions could be the development of an Ad Hoc Committee of about 5 to 7 citizens of the city of Lemoore. Also, on the committee will be two council members and the City Manager and the finance manager for the city. This committee will be active for one year. They will be responsible to discuss, researching and developing plausible solutions to help fix our financial situation. This way there are more ideas and solutions to present to the council and the city. If we don't come up with good ideas that work the citizens of Lemoore will loose as it will affect our Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation and the many other city services we depend upon. This should be done sooner than later. Many hands make lighter work.

DAVE BROWN