LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: County Council March 27, 2023

A member of the public, noting the increasing importance of environmental stewardship, asked that consideration be given to making the Spring Street Office building an Environmental Stewardship Center.

The Council reviewed issues around the proposed 1/10 of 1% tax for housing services and the majority decided against holding a public hearing on April 10th to meet the April 17th deadline to begin collection on July 1. They want broader public input and time for county staff to draw up an implementation plan before making a decision.

County Manager Mike Thomas reviewed the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to date and informed the Council of a new $50k allocation that needed to be obligated by March 31. The Council approved obligating the funds to the Auditor’s office for Records Management and for HR software. The Council will review and possibly reallocate unexpended ARPA funds at a future date.

The Council reauthorized the designation of the Economic Development Council as an Associate Development Organization for the County.

The Council approved the Sheriff’s Office request to create and fund a full-time records coordinator. The Sheriff’s Office and Planning Commission generate the highest volume of public records and the upcoming implementation of body cameras will increase both the records and public records requests for the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s briefed the Council on the implementation of a new text-based TIP411 application for the public to provide anonymous tips to law enforcement. The Sheriff’s Office briefed the Council on the use of drones, which will be primarily for search and rescue and will be used in investigations only with a warrant.

\*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in

government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League