2.20.030 Contribution limitations.

A. Declaration of Intent to Solicit and Receive Contributions. No candidate for city council, and no committee acting on behalf of such candidate, shall solicit or accept, or cause to be solicited or accepted any contribution for use in an election for such office unless and until such candidate shall have on file with the city clerk a valid declaration of intent to solicit and receive contributions in connection with candidacy for city council at a specific election. Such declaration shall be filed in letter form with the city clerk, and shall designate the specific election for which all funds raised shall be directed. The declaration shall be void at the earlier of: (i) ninety (90) days following the date of the candidate’s withdrawal, defeat, or election to office for which such declaration is filed; or (ii) the date upon which the candidate and his or her controlled committee shall have fully paid all outstanding debts or bills for such election.

B. Contributions by Persons or Committees.

1. No person shall make to any candidate for city council or the candidate’s controlled committee, and no such candidate or controlled committee or person exhibiting a significant amount of control over the actions, expenditures or decisions of such committee shall accept from any person a contribution or contributions that would cause the total amount contributed by such person to the candidate or the candidate’s controlled committee to exceed two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) for each single election for member of the city council.

2. No person shall make to any committee which supports or opposes any candidate or candidates for city council, and no such committee or person exhibiting a significant amount of control over the actions, expenditures or decisions of such committee shall accept from any person a contribution or contributions totaling more than two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) per election.

3. The limitations of this subsection shall not apply to expenditures of a candidate’s personal funds on behalf of his or her own candidacy.

C. Family Contributions. Contributions by a husband and wife shall be treated as separate contributions and shall not be aggregated. Contributions by children under eighteen (18) years of age shall be treated as contributions attributed equally to each parent or guardian.

D. Anonymous Contributions. No candidate for city council, including the candidate’s controlled committee, and no committee which supports or opposes any candidate or candidates for city council or a city measure, shall solicit or accept an anonymous contribution in any amount. Any anonymous contributions received by a candidate or committee shall be promptly paid over to the city treasurer for deposit in the general fund of the city and shall be earmarked and used for the purpose of defraying the costs of elections conducted by the city.

E. Identification of Contributors. No contribution shall be deposited into a campaign checking account unless the name, address, occupation, and employer of the contributor are on file with the candidate or committee receiving the contribution.

F. Cash Contributions and Expenditures. No person shall make to any candidate for city council or to any committee, and no such candidate or committee or person exhibiting a significant amount of control over the actions, expenditures or decisions of such committee shall solicit or accept, a cash contribution which causes the total amount contributed in cash by that person to equal twenty-five dollars ($25.00). Each contribution of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) or more shall be made by written instrument containing the names of the persons making and accepting the contribution. No candidate or committee shall make any expenditure of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) or more in cash.

G. Contributions by City Contractors and Bidders.

1. No person who contracts with the city, or who solicits a city contract, either for the rendering of services or for the furnishing of any material, supplies, or equipment to the city, or for selling any land or building to the city, or for any other purpose, directly or indirectly, shall make any contribution to a candidate for city council, to such candidate’s controlled committee, to the officeholder account of any member of the city council, or to any committee which supports
or opposes a candidate or candidates for city council during any contract period. For the purposes of this subdivision, a “contract” shall mean any agreement legally enforceable in favor of or against the city, whether written or oral, which has been approved pursuant to the city’s then current purchasing procedures or applicable state law. For the purposes of this subdivision, the “contract period” shall commence at either (i) the date negotiations between the city and the contractor are initiated; (ii) the date on which a bid or proposal is submitted to the city by the contractor; or (iii) the date upon which a contract between the city and the contractor is executed by either party, whichever is earlier. The “contract period” shall terminate at either (i) the award of the contract to another bidder; or (ii) the completion of performance of the contract by the contractor, whichever is later. This subdivision shall not apply to contracts or agreements for the disbursement of federal grant funds or to contracts pursuant to which the party contracting with the city does not receive a monetary benefit.

2. No candidate for city council, including his or her controlled committee, committee, nor any agent or intermediary for any such committee, shall knowingly solicit any contribution to such a candidate or committee from any person prohibited by subdivision 1 of this subsection from making such a contribution.

H. Disclosure of Agent and Employer. No person shall make a contribution on behalf of another, or while acting as the intermediary or agent of another, without disclosing to the recipient of the contribution both his or her own full name and street address, occupation, and the name of his or her employer, if any, or his or her principal place of business if he or she is self-employed, and the full name and street address, occupation, and the name of employer, if any or principal place of business if self-employed, of the other person. The recipient of the contribution shall include in his or her campaign statement the full name and street address, occupation, and the name of employer, if any, or principal place of business if self-employed of both the intermediary and the contributor.

I. Intermediary. A is an intermediary for transmittal of a contribution if he or she delivers to a candidate or committee a contribution from another person unless such contribution is from the person’s employer, immediate family or an association to which the person belongs. No person who is the treasurer of the committee to which the contribution is made or is a person exhibiting a significant amount of control over the actions, expenditures or decisions of the committee to which the contribution is made or is the candidate who controls the committee to which the contribution is made shall be deemed an intermediary for the contribution. (Ord. 289 § 1, 2006; Ord. 201 §§ 5—7, 1999; Ord. 171U § 2, 1998; Ord. 165 § 5, 1997; Ord. 126 § 2(A), 1995; Ord. 103 § 1, 1993; prior code § 21002)