

MINUTES

City of Guadalupe

Regular Meeting of the Guadalupe City Council
Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 6:00 pm
City Hall, 918 Obispo Street, Council Chambers

1. **ROLL CALL:**

Council Member Liliana Cardenas
Council Member Gilbert Robles
Council Member Eugene Costa Jr.
Mayor Pro Tempore Tony Ramirez
Mayor Ariston Julian

All members present.

(Note: The abbreviation "CM" for "Council Member" will be used in these minutes.)

2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **AGENDA REVIEW**

No requests for changes to the agenda were made.

5. **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FORUM**

Each person will be limited to a discussion of three (3) minutes or as directed by the Mayor. This time is reserved to accept comments from the public on Consent Calendar items, Ceremonial Calendar items, Closed Session items, or matters not otherwise scheduled on this agenda. Pursuant to provisions of the Brown Act, no action may be taken on these matters unless they are listed on the agenda, or unless certain emergency or special circumstances exist. City Council may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future City Council meeting.

Ms. Shirley Boydston thanked the Chief Cash and Josue Meraz, Code Compliance Coordinator, for the Code Compliance Monthly Report. She also mentioned a flyer with details for the City's 75th Anniversary will be going out in the July water billing.

Ms. Boydston further commented on the Water Quality Report recently sent out to residents. She said, "I am concerned that the many samples registered at the upper end of allowable ranges. Specifically, the "Total Dissolved Solids" range of 280 of the 280 maximum. About 15 years ago, the City was in a similar situation but worse. In order to keep functioning water-wise, the City had to

contract with State water to blend with our well and groundwater to keep within allowable range. I know this is a rhetorical question, but what can be done to give 2021 a better report?"

6. PROCLAMATION

- Juneteenth

Mayor Julian prefaced the reading of the Proclamation by saying, "I don't know about anyone else, but for me, Juneteenth has always popped up on my calendar. I really started digging into it as we moved forward with things happening in the United States. I just wanted to read a little something from Prevention Institute. One is a motto: 'We are still fighting for absolute equality'. June 19, 2021, will mark the 156th anniversary of 'Juneteenth', commemorating the day Black people of Texas learned of their freedom. This announcement came two and a half years after enslaved people were declared 'free' under the terms of the Emancipation Proclamation. Archives from that time show that declaration brought about a complex mix of emotions for Black people who were elated at the news of their freedom and hopeful to find family members that they had been forcibly separated from. It also infuriated whites, who whipped and chained Black enslaved people who were celebrating the news on what they called 'Jubilee Day'. Freedom from slavery did not mean freedom from white supremacy." The mayor then proceeded to read the Proclamation.

CM Ramirez mentioned that he attended Lompoc's Juneteenth celebration, which he said was really beautiful and lasted a long time, about five hours, with performances and all. He emphasized the following, "You can read about things online. But it's not until you get immersed into the culture that you realize how much you don't know about it. It was nice to be immersed and to put yourself in other people's shoes."

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items are presented for City Council approval without discussion as a single agenda items in order to expedite the meeting. Should a Council Member wish to discuss or disapprove an item, it must be dropped from the blanket motion of approval and considered as a separate item.

- A. Waive the reading in full of all Ordinances and Resolutions. Ordinances on the Consent Calendar will be adopted by the same vote cast as the first meeting, unless City Council indicates otherwise.
- B. Approve payment of warrants for the period ending June 16, 2021.
- C. Approve the Minutes of the City Council regular meeting of June 8, 2021, to be ordered filed.
- D. Receive the May 2021 Financial Report.
- E. Approve the Santa Barbara County Animal Services Agreement one year extension at a cost of \$61,900 FY 2021-2022.
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-45 approving agreement with Guadalupe Union School District for funding of a School Resource Officer under the COPS in School Partner Program.

- G. Request by Sam Duarte, Director of The Little House by the Park to use Downtown Parking Lot (AKA, Veterans Memorial Plaza) for a "Safe and Sane" Fireworks Sale Fundraiser.
- H. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-46 authorizing Mayor Julian to execute a construction contract with V. Lopez Junior and Sons General Engineering Contractors, Inc. for the Trunk Main Improvement Project.
- I. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-47 to approve the purchase of 10 acre-feet supplemental water through the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) 2021 Supplemental Water Purchase Program.
- J. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-48 approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Service Employees International Union, Local 620 for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023.
- K. **MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**
 - 1. Department of Public Safety Report – May 2021
 - Police Department Report
 - Fire Department Report
 - Code Compliance Report (January – May 2021)
 - 2. City Treasurer's Report for May 2021
 - 3. Recreation and Parks Report for May 2021
 - 4. Human Resources Report for May 2021

Items #7.D, #7.F., 7.I, and 7.K.4. were pulled.

Mayor Julian asked if there were any written comments or emails on anything on the agenda. Mr. Philip Sinco, City Attorney, said, "Yes, there is a revised agreement for Item #7.I. which was pulled. That revised agreement is on the table in the back of the chambers."

In speaking on Item #7.I., Ms. Boydston said, "The City would have more acre feet of water if a prior City Administrator some years ago had not sold off several acre feet or more to the City of Solvang. In return the City of Solvang offered a pick-up truck in return. I personally purchased the truck for the City, but the water was still sold off to the now disadvantage of having to purchase additional water from the CCWA."

Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Cardenas to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar. 5-0 Passed.

Item #7.D. – Receive the May 2021 Financial Report

Mayor Julian referred to the staff report, specifically, page 4 of 6, first paragraph, which showed the balance in the General Fund at the end of June 2020 at \$485,622. As of end of May 2021, it's down to \$218,339. He then said, "It's projected that at the end of this fiscal year, we will have "zero" reserve balance. Voters wanted to make sure Public Safety departments were staffed and solvent.

That was done. The other item was eliminating our debt. Now we're moving on our debt and dealing with that."

The mayor further said, "By the end of this fiscal year, we have nothing. We should be looking at \$804,117, or 15% reserves. We need to be really careful. It's always mentioned that 'it's a budgeted item'. If revenues aren't there, items should be eliminated or reduced to the amount of the revenues. We know that with Pasadera we're using resources to generate income, but they built 53 homes versus 100 homes. That hurt. Restaurants were considered essential, but they weren't fully open. Some may have done well, but some haven't. Word of caution: Be diligent in our expenses. There's the thought that monies will be coming from the Cares Act but that can't be used to pay salaries, etc. I think we're doing fine with personnel, Police and Fire but at the expense of the Recreation Department. We need to provide more resources to parks and recreation, but that hasn't happened. I know that staff is working now trying to get individuals to care for our parks."

He continued by saying, "Every time we see the Financial end-of-the-month reports, we need to see where our resources are, where they're not, and what do we need? Again, we can't just rely on Pasadera. The Council needs to be diligent about revenues in and expenses out. The need to look at additional resources for income will be a big-ticket item for us."

Item #7.F. – Authorizing the City of Guadalupe to approve the agreement with the Guadalupe Union School District for funding of a School Resources Officer.

CM Ramirez had several questions of Chief Cash on this item. The first was on the agreement with the school, specifically Section 1.1.1. which referenced "The mission of the School Resource Officer (SRO) will be to...provide crisis interventions and counseling services in addition to those provided in the school..." CM Ramirez asked, "What training is there for the SRO and what services are provided?" Chief Cash responded, "I spoke with Dr. Handall. The SRO Program is reviewed every year. The program began in 1999."

Chief continued by saying, "I've paid attention to what's happening nationally with officers being moved out of schools. We're unique here. In my previous positions, the SRO was involved in the schools but as a security force, rather than a learning type situation. That's how 'DARE' came along to bring officers in to teach. In reading the agreement, you think, 'Is the SRO supposed to be at a medical level to do it crisis intervention and counseling?' No. That officer for us here is so vital to Guadalupe. The SRO, Maria, has time to work with the kids. There's a gulf between home and school and the SRO is the tie there. Teachers don't always have the time or understanding to deal with students' behavioral issues. The SRO can reach out to families and go to their homes. Maria can help families find resources on parenting and counseling. She can talk to Latina females to build their self-esteem and make them feel comfortable talking with her. They see her as a possibility of what can be. We take a holistic approach by finding out what's happening with the child, both at school and at home. Sometimes that officer is the only one who can bridge that information."

Chief then read a letter from Lara Clinton, Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office about the SRO, Maria Negranti. Maria was commended for her professionalism, collaboration, and interest in cases dealing with crimes against children.

Chief mentioned, "Maria will also attend school events. But she will adjust her schedule to do so alleviating overtime. She relays information to the other officers because they all work as a team. The School Resource Officer is a real community-type resource that is vital and of value to all of us in the community."

CM Ramirez focused on the phrase "counseling services". He said, "There's a certain level of experience and education that goes into that phrase. Maybe it should be something like 'mentorship' instead. The SRO should know when the level of expertise required is beyond her capabilities. This is a mental health issue or a social services issue." Mr. Sinco said, "I reviewed the agreement. I don't have a problem using 'mentorship' for 'counseling services'. We can approve tonight and I'm sure there won't be a problem with the school district on this change."

At this time, Mayor Julian asked if there was a counselor on site with the Family Services Center. He said, "I see in the contract that the way it's laid out primarily deals with keeping kids in school or truancy issues. There isn't in-depth counseling."

The mayor then asked about Section 1.1.13 of the Agreement which referenced that the "...SRO will serve on District's Safety Committee and provide annual input for School Safety Plans". He said, "Who's involved on this committee and what do they do?" Chief Cash said, "The Safety committee involves the SRO and school staff. On the mental health side, I believe they have resources there where the SRO leaves off who can provide in-depth counseling."

CM Costa, Jr. said, "There is an outreach counselor here for the schools, both at Mary Buren and at McKenzie. The person is from 'Fighting Back Santa Maria'. That person goes between both schools. I don't think Officer Negranti does counseling as said in the contract because we have those people. Our outreach counselors handle counseling. We have 'mandatory reporting' and can't do investigations. Issues have to be referred to Child Protective Services." Chief Cash added, "We are reactive. The SRO will only intercede when the school requests. We won't overstep."

Mayor Julian then said, "Back to the subject of safety, they need to know what we're going to do if there's an active shooter incident." Chief said, "I've talked to Dr. Handall. We meet with the principals to see what concerns there are. We meet with teachers and will talk about emergency preparedness, what's happening City-wide, how to protect students, etc. We have our plans as do the schools. We try not to supersede what the schools feel they need to do. We'll work with them, and we share our plans. Again, we're not going to overstep."

CM Ramirez asked about any overtime issues. He said, "Like the airport where we pull officers from patrol duty to fill in at the airport. Are officers being pulled to back up SRO? The PD Monthly Report shows one officer short." Chief Cash said, "I just handed in the airport report that was asked before."

It has the stats requested. I also did the mental health statistical report. Those will be on the 7/13 agenda. The SRO contract was previously not to the City's advantage. Now we get 50% costs back."

CM Ramirez restated his comment and question on overtime. He said, "Your monthly report shows one officer short. Is that because of the SRO duty, like the airport? If the SRO was put back in the 'fold or staffing' of patrol officers, would you no longer be one officer short? Chief said, "We're one position short because an officer is out on worker's comp. SRO is part of the regular rotation. We share her with the school which pays one-half her salary."

Chief continued saying, "As for overtime, that happens only if the SRO, Maria, is on vacation, out, etc. If there isn't anything school-related, the SRO goes on patrol duty. This is part of the regular rotation. When Maria is out, the officer doesn't handle specific SRO duties but rather is available should the school call for needed assistance. 'Pulling her out' for SRO duty doesn't deplete the PD officer staffing."

CM Costa, Jr. added, "Maria's primary responsibility is to the City. She's leased to the school. She's there for breaks and lunch, sometimes at the end of the school day. But if she gets a call, she leaves the school. When she's gone, another officer isn't 'pulled' to fill her slot. An officer would just deal with any calls from the school, as needed." Chief added, "The school is very lenient. It's like the airport situation. If there aren't any flights, the officer goes back on patrol duty here in town."

The discussion continued with changing the phrase "counseling services". CM Cardenas suggested "advising". CM Ramirez then said, "I'm ok with the contract if the wording is changed to 'mentorship and/or advisory services'." Mr. Sinco said, "The resolution to approve the agreement could happen tonight with the wording changed. I'm sure the school district won't have a problem with it."

Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Ramirez to approve Resolution No. 2021-45 as amended using the phrase, mentorship and/or advisory services, instead of the phrase, counseling services, in the Agreement with Guadalupe Union School District for funding of a School Resources Officer under the COPS in School Partner Program. 5-0 Passed.

Item #7.K.4. – Human Resources Monthly Report

CM Ramirez said, "It's commendable that there is movement on what we talked about...an internship program for Public Works and Public Safety. This is a good opportunity to highlight these internships. This is awesome to be able to take and utilize our local talents. And when I say 'local', I mean within the 30-mile radius that you're using. This is something commendable and I want to thank the staff. Ms. Emiko Gerber, HR Manager, said, "It was really the Chief (Cash) and Shannon (Sweeney, Public Works Director/City Engineer), who developed these internship programs. On the Public Works Internship Program, there are areas of specialty needed, and it's an hourly-paid internship, so it's structured slightly different from what we're doing for Public Safety. The Public Safety Internship Program, that's more like the Paid-Call Firefighter structure, with a stipend."

Ms. Gerber continued saying, "The Public Works Internship Program is tailored for those with interests in wastewater and water. Blake Thomas was an intern here through an internship via a scholarship sponsored by an outside organization. He will be returning on September 20th as a City sponsored intern. He will be assigned various projects working in the office. However, once the water meter implementation program occurs, he will also be working out in the field. The Public Works Internship Program, however, hasn't been fully implemented yet. As for the Public Safety Internship Program, there are some interested local candidates, and there's a lot of buzz created there. These programs will provide avenues for our community's youth to go into with a career path to follow."

CM Ramirez suggested that an internship program be replicated for "Recreation" as he knows there is a lot of local interest. He also mentioned that Hancock has a Recreation Management Program. Ms. Gerber said, "Maybe that's an area we need to talk more about. There could be a career path for the recreation field, too." CM Ramirez then added, "The beauty about the Hancock program is that in their degree, it's built in that the student has to have internship hours so this would be perfect."

Chief Cash added, "I had a meeting at the Academy with the President and deans of the Public Safety academies, both Police and Fire. When we were pitching this program, trying to give these kids an avenue to go to the academies, they said, 'Why don't you talk to your council member (CM Ramirez). He does the counseling on that session?' I didn't know that. So, we're hoping you'll be a part of this to help us guide them, not only to learn these skills and behind the scenes of government, but to put them on a path to college." CM Ramirez said that he would be a part of that process.

CM Cardenas asked, "How long can people be in an internship program?" Ms. Sweeney responded for the Public Works program. She said, "It's somewhat variable. It depends on the situation. Blake Thomas graduates in June 2022. He's in an engineering program at school. The budget is cost neutral as we are under filling a position with him. I'd like to have an 'OIT', Operator-in-Training. One for water and one for wastewater. Finding certified operators is challenging to do. Maybe a college student from Guadalupe who can work 10 hours a week, building up enough hours and experience enough to pass the test and get their certification. And if someone wanted to stick here until they got that certification, that would be ideal as a goal to create a path to a full-time job either here, if there are positions open, or elsewhere. I don't care so long as they get that certificate and join the industry. So, it's variable depending on the student or intern."

CM Cardenas asked, "Where can I get info to blast these programs to our schools?" Ms. Gerber said, "Right now, we're still reviewing the flyer and application with our City Attorney for the Public Safety Internship Program. More paperwork needs to occur on the Public Works Internship Program. Once all has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney, we can put in the packets and start announcing and really campaign for it."

Ms. Gerber continued saying, "With the Public Safety Internship Program, ideally, we'd like to have them in the position for two years so they can get the full cycle and full scope of training. We want

to make sure that we're not just scratching the surface but that the type of experience they're getting is meaningful."

Item #7.K.3. – Recreation and Parks Report was not pulled, but Mayor Julian asked Charlie Guzman, Recreation Coordinator, to have the Recreation Commission meeting minutes included in his monthly report. The mayor also asked about facilities rentals now that City Hall has re-opened. Mr. Guzman said, "There was an event this past weekend. The client was happy, and there were some maintenance issues." He also reported that the City auditorium is being rented this coming Friday for a funeral reception, and on Sunday, for a Kiwanis benefit. The mayor asked if there was an attendant for past Friday's event. Mr. Guzman said, "Yes, we hired someone to serve as an attendant."

Item #7.I. – Adopt Resolution No. 2021-47 to approve the purchase of 10 acre-feet supplemental water through the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) 2021 Supplemental Water Purchase Program.

Ms. Sweeney said, "This was pulled because today, right after lunch, I received an email from the CCWA with a change in language to the Binding Agreement. There are copies in front of you. I immediately sent the email to Philip who said that the changes weren't substantial. Even if this passes tonight, it won't be truly passed until Mojave Water Agency meets this Thursday, June 24th. The CCWA asked that if we passed this, it be signed and in Mojave's hands for their meeting on the 24th. We don't see them having an issue."

Motion made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Cardenas to adopt Resolution No. 2021-47 with changes to binding agreement. 5-0 Passed.

Motion made by Council Member Cardenas and seconded by Council Member Ramirez to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar (Items 7D & 7K4). 5-0 Passed.

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: (Information Only)

Mr. Bodem reported the following: 1) No closed session tonight. It will be rescheduled for the next meeting on July 13th; 2) on Thursday, June 24th, there will be a tour through the City relating to the General Plan Update; 3) an email was sent to all regarding a special council meeting on August 26th to go over the General Plan, and 4) American Rescue Act – all financial procedures and processes have been set up and ready for when monies come in.

9. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT: (Information Only)

Chief Cash said that there was an informational attachment in the agenda packet.

REGUAR BUSINESS

10. Pasadera Landscaping and Lighting District for fiscal year 2021/2022.

Written report: Shannon Sweeney, Public Works Director / City Engineer

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-49 initiating proceeding for the annual levy of assessments for the Pasadera Lighting District for FY 2021-22 and Resolution No. 2021-50 approving the Engineer's Report for the Pasadera Landscape and Lighting District and declaring the City Council intent to levy assessments.

The California Streets and Highway Code allows for the creation of Landscape and Lighting Districts for the purpose of funding the continued operations and maintenance of local parks, landscaping and light improvements with the Districts. The Districts allows for the levy and collection of annual assessments on the County tax rolls from property within the District that receive benefit of the improvements.

CM Ramirez recused himself as he resides in Pasadera. (CM Cardenas took over the meeting as Mayor Julian briefly stepped out.) Ms. Sweeney said that this action is an annual event. It's an attempt to levy fees for taking care of lighting, irrigation, landscaping and parks in Pasadera.

Public Hearing opened at 7:10 p.m. No comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:11 p.m.

Motion was made by Mayor Julian and seconded by Council Member Robles to approve Resolution No. 2021-49 and Resolution No. 2021-50. 4-0 Passed (Council Member Ramirez recused).

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

CM Cardenas said, "Regarding the Special Events Application, we're currently going over costs and may have a request to the Council to possibly waive fees."

Mr. Bodem previously mentioned a special council meeting on August 26th to discuss the General Plan.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCIL ACTIVITY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CM Cardenas mentioned that the vendor form for the City's 75th anniversary was now online. She said that some vendors have already returned them. The sponsorship letter was still being finalized. She added, "They're still working on the stage. Infinity Healing Ceremony will have an altar to commemorate all that the community has gone through and the losses as a result of COVID. There will be OBON dancers, CHC and others from agency representatives on the committee. Varying agencies on education, informational, historical, etc. on Guadalupe will also attend. We're looking at an open street festival. The gazebo will be for event presenters. At the July 13th council meeting, the Special Events Application will be presented for the gazebo."

CM Ramirez asked, "What is the difference between a 501(c)3 entity and a 501(c)6? Mr. Sinco said, "501(c)3 entities encompass a wide range of charitable groups. A 501(c)6, like GBA, would be

business groups or groups promoting business interests and business conditions. 501(c)6 can't give tax deductions, but a 501(c)3 can. 501(c)6 groups are not political in nature."

Mr. Bodem said, "The Cal Trans application for the City's 75th anniversary has been submitted." CM Cardenas asked, "If it isn't approved, is there an alternate route?" Chief Cash said, "We have Plan B and others, if it isn't approved."

CM Ramirez also mentioned that there would be a 5k race at the festival.

Mayor Julian said, "The County wants to push electrical bikes. They're willing to give the City a bike which can run from about \$400 up to \$1,000. Just charge it up and let it go."

CM Robles talked a little bit about the email from Infinity Healing. An event will be held on Saturday, June 26th, and he will be attending. He said, "This will bring closure to losses due to COVID. Chumash elders, rabbis and other denominations will be there. Similar to what will be done here on August 8th. It's at 12 noon at Solvang Park." CM Ramirez added that he was also interested in attending the event and that this group is also interested in doing a mural.

Mayor Julian reported that: 1) at the June 17th SBCAG meeting, there was a discussion of "a lot of transportation monies". He thanked Ms. Sweeney for being a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee and for representing Guadalupe; 2) Air Pollution Control District will be donating clean air room units, valued at about \$75-\$80 each. These air purifiers are free for City and Casmalia because of fires, smoke and sand coming from the west. There's \$100K available to buy these purifiers and they'll start moving them in August or so, and 3) he received a call regarding "Small Town Grants Program". He said, "There is a \$25M grant available for the whole nation. Guadalupe was selected as one of 10 towns that can receive one of these grants. (Teresa Young nominated Guadalupe as a potential recipient.) In speaking with Michelle Shaw, T-Mobile Marketing Director, she said that they are providing the monies. Cities with populations under 50,000 may be eligible for upwards to \$2M. Ms. Shaw asked me if we have engineers or City staff to give support to this. I told her we did. We won't be hearing from them for a while, so I'll set it aside for now."

13. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION MEETING

Mr. Bodem had previously announced that there would be no closed session tonight.

CLOSED SESSION

14. Conference with Labor Negotiators

(Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency designated representatives: City Administrator and Human Resources Manager;

Employee Organizations: International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

15. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Robles to adjourn. 4-0 Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Prepared by:


Amelia M. Villegas, City Clerk

Approved by:


Ariston Julian, Mayor