

MINUTES

City of Guadalupe

Special Joint Meeting of the Guadalupe City Council and the Recreation and Parks Commission Tuesday, October 5, 2021 @ 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

Council Member Cardenas was absent. All others were present. (Note: The abbreviation "CM" for "Council Member" is being used in these minutes.)

ROLL CALL: Recreation and Parks Commission

Commission Chair Joe Harris
Commissioner Robert Salinas
Commissioner Jesse Ramirez
Commissioner Enrique Ortiz
Commissioner Emily Dreiling

Commissioners Ortiz and Dreiling were absent. All others present. (Note: The abbreviation "RC" for "Recreation Commissioner" is being used in these minutes.)

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FORUM

Each person will be limited to a discussion of three (3) minutes or as directed by the Mayor. 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.

There were no written requests to speak.

BUSINESS

5. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS - WORKSHOP

Mayor Julian opened the meeting saying, "This is a combined meeting with the Council and the Recreation and Parks Commission. Both Council and the Commission are members of this community. There are two council members who were prior commissioners. There's a lot of technical and financial information but I encourage questions being asked during the workshop." The mayor also mentioned that our Finance Director, Lorena Zarate, returned from leave on Monday.

At this point, Mr. Bodem gave a background on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He said, "The City will receive a total of about \$1.8M ARPA funds. We've already received \$930K in July and will be receiving the second half in July of 2022. As a collective group, staff made recommendations, but the Council makes the final approval. We don't expect you to approve all of these tonight in one sweep. There are some pending things that we'd like you to approve, though. If you look at the four (4) categories which explain how these funds may be used, three (3) of the four (4) pertain to us. Category #3 doesn't pertain to us. These categories show where expenditures will be allowed under the Treasury's guidelines."

Mayor Julian added, "If more information is needed, we'll come back to it. This program runs through 2024." Mr. Bodem then said, "Yes, we can do this piecemeal, but we'd like to get as much done tonight as possible. We have the Recreation & Parks Commission input. In April 2022, there will be audit reporting. We're not quite sure yet what that will involve. But we'd probably need to look at our expenditures and justify each per category."

The mayor said, "If an item is needed now, move on the approval now. We're not taking any action. It will be recommended to the Council based on what both the Commission and Council have to say." Mr. Bodem said, "I'd agree that that could be done. If we get approval and consensus with some of the items, I'll put it in a staff report and it'll go on the next agenda. Then we can go along and look at the other items." Mayor Julian then said, "If the Recreation & Parks Commission says they want something, get their consensus, then get Council approval."

City Attorney Sinco commented, "Staff and I vetted these items. There's a logical basis for the expenditures in the categories. If something's added that's not on the spreadsheet, we'd need to research and come back later regarding eligible use". The mayor said, "This is a complex process. There are more opportunities to have this resource to backfill some of the losses the City had due to the pandemic. We may not get additional monies, but there are financial things in the pipeline to potentially fund in the future."

Emiko Gerber, HR Manager, began explaining the revised documents and spreadsheets. She talked about the four (4) different categories which explain eligibility for use of the ARPA funds. Ms. Gerber said, "Back in March 2021, the City Council conducted a public workshop to prioritize resources and budget development for the upcoming fiscal year. Through that workshop, goals were set for the City and an Ad Hoc Basic Needs Committee was formed. The priorities of the Ad Hoc Committee were

determined as follows: a) Health and Wellness; b) Physical Infrastructure (incl parks and City-owned buildings; c) Reduction of liabilities, and d) Permanent home for the library.”

The first area discussed was “Recovery Programs”. Ms. Gerber explained that the purpose of the recovery funds is to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency. She said, “The total loss of revenue as prepared by Lorena Zarate, Finance Director, is \$246,529.97. The amount of \$46,073.80 has been earmarked to complete the General Plan Environmental Impact Review, leaving a balance to replenish the General Fund of \$200,456.17.”

For Water Utility/Debt Forgiveness, \$50,000 is shown for households/populations having negative economic impacts due to COVID-19, e.g., rent, food assistance, utility assistance, or mortgage. For Unemployment Insurance, \$5,000 is shown. We can only deposit monies what we had pre-pandemic. But Ms. Gerber is working with EDD to see the exact amount but doesn’t believe the amount exceeds \$5,000.” City Attorney Sinco added, “We’ll take monies and expand on what’s going back to the General Fund.”

CM Ramirez questioned, “But that’s ‘Enterprise Funds’, not General Fund.” City Attorney Sinco said, “It’s debt forgiveness. Households that fall behind (Category 1).” Mr. Bodem said, “It’s ‘Enterprise Funds’, not the General Fund.”

Ms. Gerber continued with her explanation of “Recovery Programs-Household Assistance”. She said, “As you know, Los Amigos de Guadalupe is a non-profit group that the City is partnered with. They’ve helped us with CV grants for the Food Bank distribution, etc. during the pandemic. There is a request for \$40,000 is shown continue their services. It was initially \$80,000 requested from LADG, but we’re starting with \$40,000. This is up to discussion. It’s listed on the last page of the spreadsheet under “Additional Considerations for ARP Funds”.”

Ms. Anna Maria Michaud, City Treasurer, questioned the \$5,000 for ‘Unemployment Insurance’ recovery. She said, “We don’t have reserves for that?” Ms. Gerber said that she was waiting to hear back from the Employment Development Department (EDD). Ms. Michaud added, “As a rule, EDD charges \$7,000 per employee. Once you hit \$7,000 for an employee, you don’t have to take out anything more. And they do have a reserve for us.” Ms. Gerber responded, “I don’t know that yet.”

Ms. Gerber then said, “The City can recover personnel costs for COVID-19. There’s the Food Bank distribution, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator (pro-rated amount), IT upgrade, ransomware attack, including cyber-security for almost \$152,000 to go back to the General Fund.”

Mayor Julian asked about the financial feasibility study. Ms. Gerber said, “There’s not enough guidance regarding consultation services for the five-year cost analysis and personnel model. We took that off the table. We’re not confident that that would fly. We just didn’t have enough guidance on that. What we’d like to do is use those funds for those items that we know are recoverable.” The mayor then said, “For the Food Bank distribution, I think \$15,000 is light.” Ms. Gerber added, “We were conservative there.”

The focus then shifted to recommended "Expenditures". Ms. Gerber started first with the "Recreation Department". She said, "The Council had a list of priorities, and the Recreation & Parks Commission also had their recommendations. We need to rebuild the Recreation Department. What's shown is a department head, this new position of 'Recreation Services Manager'. This is an exempt position and responsibilities include heading up recreation programs, volunteer services, facility rentals and includes grant administration. We're looking at monies for the remainder of this fiscal year as well as the next fiscal year. Mr. Bodem added, "This is a new, expanded guidance that allows us to get monies to get the recreation program going and, hopefully, have it be self-sustaining. Recreation was part of our goal setting."

CM Ramirez asked, "Does this manager position absorb the Recreation Coordinator position?" Mr. Bodem said, "No, it's a new position to develop the program."

Ms. Gerber moved on to the 'Facility Rental Coordinator' position. She said, "This non-exempt position replaces the 'Recreation Coordinator' position as we know it now. It will oversee the full rental process working with the Recreation Services Manager and build a self-sustaining community program." Mr. Bodem added, "This manager position would have a vision and would work with the Recreation & Parks Commission to develop a recreation and community program through a goal setting process." Mayor Julian asked, "This is a 20-hour per week position. With a hire date of 7/01/2022." Ms. Gerber said, "This already was funded for this budget year. Fully funded Facility Rentals Coordinator. We're asking for monies for next fiscal year. We'll see if the program is self-sustaining."

Mayor Julian asked, "Facilities Rental Coordinator and Recreation Services Manager. What does the Recreation & Parks Commission have to say about all of this?" RC Salinas said, "The Recreation Services Manager/Grant Writer is much needed to get the program going. We need someone who can multi-task and bring it all together. Get the ball rolling that way. Position we had before didn't allow for that but this will. For the Facilities Rental Coordinator, that position would take some things off the Manager's plate. The Manager would do more developing of recreation programs and activities." RC Chair Harris commented, "We're looking for someone who will be here for a while. Be an extension of what we'd like to see here and be an extension of the Rec Commission."

Ms. Michaud asked, "What is 'exempt' and 'non-exempt'?" Ms. Gerber said, "A non-exempt position is eligible for overtime whereas an exempt position is not. An exempt position is paid a flat amount of salary." Ms. Michaud then asked, "This is one-time money?" Ms. Gerber acknowledged that it was but said, "The goal will be to build the program and have it be self-sustaining. These ARPA monies will help to get this program going, starting with this manager position."

CM Robles said, "For this new hire, we'd be looking for a grant writer. Seed with first time budget year. There are a lot of colleges that have people coming out with recreation degrees." CM Ramirez said, "Adding a position with one-time monies. We need to look at projections of this being self-sustainable or not and how that would impact General Fund monies. That would be useful for any of the positions we talk about tonight."

Mayor Julian said, "What HdL is saying about our future is good. The measures are steadily increasing. Pasadera is looking at about 357 homes. Can't totally rely on it but cannabis is coming in. Businesses

are coming here. We can look at all of it. There's the County Park commission working with us that wants to enhance the park area here that will bring further income. What does our future look like? I think it's positive."

CM Ramirez said, "This position is important. Slowing the bleed...not stopping it." Then the mayor said that the ARPA monies are a good injection". Mr. Bodem said, "The Treasury Department doesn't want us to give monies back. They want us to use it."

CM Robles added, "This new position can help coordinate things at Le Roy Park. Keep track of the various recreational programs and activities. What do we say? 37% of our population is under 18 years of age. We need recreation programs." Mr. Bodem added, "The City is looking at all its agreements and re-evaluating them. Shannon (Sweeney) did a nice cost recovery analysis, like Le Roy Park, and what it would cost on a monthly basis. So, if we negotiate with groups, like the Boys & Girls Club, or other groups, we must consider some kind of contribution to recover some of our expenses. That hasn't been done in the past."

Mayor Julian said, "That's very important. Look at 20 years ago. O'Connell Park was built for \$1.M but no monies, or little money, for maintenance. If we don't project for Le Roy Park, we could find ourselves in the same situation that we have now with O'Connell Park." CM Robles said, "When the Junior High School is built, we can coordinate using the field there."

Looking at 'Recreation and Parks Improvements', ARPA monies were allocated for O'Connell Park/ADA play structure and insulation, concession stand evaluation by the Couty, recreational programs, tables, C-train storage, cleaning and miscellaneous supplies. Ms. Gerber said, "Parks improvement is a priority for the community and residents. An investment of \$243,569.09 is requested to staff the Recreation Department, provide updates for O'Connell Park, seed money for youth programs and community activities, and replenish supplies for the City auditorium."

Mayor Julian commented about the \$25,000 allocated for playground equipment. He mentioned the T-Mobile \$50,000 grant monies. It was recommended using that grant monies for playground equipment, too, with the allocated \$25,000 ARPA monies. The mayor said, "\$25,000 for playground equipment is not a lot. But adding this \$50,000 will be a good start." CM Ramirez said, "General maintenance at O'Connell is needed."

CM Robles said, "For recreation programs, \$12,000 is a little light." RC Chair Harris agreed that \$12,000 was not enough. RC Salinas said, "It was up to \$20,000 on the original version." Ms. Gerber said, "We looked at reimbursables and had to cut to \$12,000. It's a talking point now. We'll also be getting Measure N monies, too." Mayor Julian added, "I would like to see hard figures. Take monies off somewhere else. We should come back to this."

RC Chair Harris said that having someone who is a grant writer will be very helpful. Mayor Julian said that we're working with school district already. Ms. Gerber added that getting the right manager to bridge those relationships.

Ms. Gerber then moved on to discuss Public Safety. She said, "This looks different than what the Council saw before. Not sure if everyone knows but we lost the Emergency Prepared Coordinator two weeks ago. One of the suggestions that came out of the Ad Hoc Basic Needs Committee was a welfare check program to meet mental health issues. Do we need a community liaison to assist us to connect with county resources? Combining under a new position, Battalion Fire Chief, this position would oversee the Fire staff and have emergency services, as well. A program would be created for true welfare checks. To fund this new position, and supplement what has already been budgeted, approximately \$58,000 has been allocated for the next 1.5 years."

Chief Cash spoke on this new position. He said, "The current structure is not sustainable. As Chief, I'm the only manager in public safety. I'm the only person to do certain legal things. For emergency preparedness, there are numerous meetings with the County. There are certain requirements, mediation-type plans with County, State and Federal guidelines. County's Fire is positioned to take over AMR (ambulance service). There'll be a different type of response. I need a manager in the Fire Department who can handle emergency preparedness and wellness programs. Costs for mental health and domestic violence issues. The tobacco ordinance. I'm the only one doing the checks. I'm training the Code Compliance Officer now. Cannabis audits. The Battalion Fire Chief would take over that. I would still handle the cannabis process."

Chief continued saying, "The Fire Department is the community's medical doctor. Category 1 of this ARPA program talks about first responders. Having a Battalion Fire Chief would put the Fire Captains and Fire Engineers out in the field rather than in the office doing paperwork." Mr. Bodem asked, "What's the fiscal benefit for having a Battalion Fire Chief versus not having one?" Chief responded, "The prior Police Chief wrote up impact fees for self-help housing. That's where a lot of the monies came from for new equipment. Looking to write another report for impact fees."

Mr. Bodem asked, "This new position allows for better coordination in the department?" Chief said, "Paperwork needs to be compliant with State and Federal guidelines. I can send a fire professional to various fire meetings. Everyone has had to take on administrative duties. Having a Battalion Fire Chief handling administrative duties, Fire Captains and Fire Engineers can be out in the field." Ms. Gerber said, "Concern with one-time monies. Really look at the structure in the Fire Department regarding expenses. Look at something realistic for next budget time. Now, we're looking for a little bit more money to have a higher-level position."

CM Ramirez said, "I'm having a hard time seeing a vision of what we want to see as the Public Safety Department. There's been a couple 'asks' already. There was the request for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to be bumped up. Overtime is huge. It's hard to see how this new position fits. There's mental health, wellness, grant writer, a catch all. I'm having a hard time seeing how this position can be sustained. Chief had outlined a Public Safety plan before. We've deviated from that. We haven't seen that. It's almost like 'What's gonna stick'? A different repackaging now to see what works. I think we need to address the root issues...seems the structure is top heavy."

RC Ramirez said, "I have the same concerns as CM Ramirez. A crisis intervention individual? I don't see a fire employee doing mental health services. I just don't see a Battalion Fire Chief doing that." Ms. Gerber added, "Let me clarify. We're looking for the Battalion Fire Chief to provide resources and

provide follow-up to make sure the individual was able to connect with those resources.” CM Ramirez said, “I don’t see that as different.”

CM Costa, Jr. asked, “Chief, with monies for the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator left on the books, and with what you’re asking for here, would that be feasible for the Battalion Fire Chief and a liaison person to handle mental health issues?” Chief said, “Financially, no. There aren’t enough monies to do both. The County won’t open social services in Guadalupe. So, what do we do? The PD first responds and if there’s a mental health issue, CARES has to come out here for evaluation. The person may not get any resources. But it’s not a police problem. If it’s a mental crisis, with Fire Department, person can be put on list for follow-up check. We’re trying to do some intervention with monies we already have.”

Mr. Bodem said, “What CM Ramirez is trying to say is how can this new position, Battalion Fire Chief, bring down the cost in the Fire Department?” Mayor Julian added, “It’s like Jell-O now? Warm now. What’s this going to do for the Fire Department budget? You need to go back to the drawing board. The County doesn’t have the resources. We need to look at what’s available locally?” CM Ramirez added, “Transitional Mental Health. Fire and Police should get in touch with them.”

Mayor Julian said, “I want to see an organizational chart to see the connections. Not succinct now. What are the needs regarding mental health? What are the numbers? I know that Fire’s calls are mainly medical responses. What’s it going to do to our budget in coming years?” Ms. Gerber said, “We’d be increasing our current budget by \$37,688 for the Battalion Fire Chief.” The mayor emphasized that numbers are important. Ms. Gerber said, “We’ll have to go back to the drawing board. We’ll look at the Fire Department’s budget, expenses, projections and MOU again.”

The “Skills for Life” section involved the Public Safety Paid-Volunteer Program, a pilot program for on-the-job training. The requested amount for ARPA funds for this program is \$10,000. Ms. Gerber said, “The Operator-in-Training (OIT) Program for Water and Wastewater Treatment Departments are funded under Public Works and will not require ARPA funds.” CM Ramirez reiterated that this OIT Program was already in the budget.

The next area discussed was ‘Software’. Ms. Gerber talked about need to modernize the Planning Department. She said, “We want to modernize the technology in that area, on applications, permitting, and archiving. Doing all of that online. There also are allocated monies to upgrade existing licenses and new licenses for Adobe Acrobat Pro-Advanced E-Sign. This additional software will provide higher security with electronic signatures, minimize signature-related paperwork delays, etc. A total of \$94,598.73 is the recommended ARPA allocation for software infrastructure improvements.” CM Ramirez requested that the laptop used for presentations be upgraded. Ms. Gerber said that she would add that request.

‘Public Communication’ was next discussed. Ms. Gerber went through a list of recommendations for this subject. She said, “There is a real need to enhance the City’s public communication, starting with overhauling the City’s website. Our website homepage must be intuitive and seamless from the first point of contact. Rebuild the website to include a calendar for event management. Have facility rentals done online. Add a feature to send requests for Public Works. Have a webpage for each

department. In addition to monies recommended for website improvements, we're also recommending Wi-Fi service for Le Roy Park, interpretation services, hardware and equipment to better provide live streaming council meetings, public hall meetings and events. We're also looking at a building attendant for live streaming administration. The total for these enhancements is approximately \$105,001.60." Mr. Bodem added, "Included in these recommendations are notepads (Surface Pro 7 with keyboard) for Council and staff for Council meetings. Having these notepads would no longer require the agenda binders and significantly reduce the amount of time spent by our Administrative Assistant collating and preparing these numerous binders."

CM Costa, Jr. asked, "On Spanish interpretation services, is that from the outside?" Ms. Gerber said, "We need to look at this further and determine what the needs are for certain segments of our population." CM Costa, Jr. continued saying, "Reach out to the School District and the Little House at the Park. We might save monies that way. There are interpreters at the School District."

Mayor Julian said, "The Santa Maria City Council had interpreters. I'd like to see someone in our audience rather than on zoom. RC Ramirez added, "I was speaking with a resident who is Spanish speaking. I asked the person to come to a Council or Rec meeting. The person said, 'Why should I go. I don't speak or understand English.' So, I support having interpretation services."

On the 'Capital Improvements' section, Ms. Gerber first talked about the Council chambers. She said, "Monies are recommended for significant improvements to the Council chambers such as replacing the wall system, changes to be ADA compliant, doors will be changed. There will be a ramp up to the dais; electrical and HVAC changes, and upgrades to livestream. Significant makeover of the chambers." Ms. Sweeney said that both civil and architectural drawings need to be done.

Mayor Julian asked about what the description, restroom redesign, involves. Ms. Sweeney responded, "Making them ADA compliant and upgrading the showers. Civil and architectural drawings for the restrooms would also have to be done." Ms. Gerber said, "The showers are necessary if the auditorium is to be used as an emergency shelter."

Ms. Gerber continued saying, "For Capital Improvement Projects, there also are funds requested for auditorium upgrades, a generator, touchless receptacles for the Senior Center, PW conference room upgrades, Finance Department upgrades, electrical vehicle charging stations and vegetation maintenance." The mayor then asked about tree trimming. Ms. Sweeney said that there are 76 trees on all our facilities and that the maintenance is necessary for public safety, for aesthetics and tree health.

There were questions from the mayor relating to recommended monies for the Senior Center. He said, "\$50,000 for the Senior Center restrooms? There are three (3) basins. That seems expensive." Ms. Sweeney said that we can look at those dollars recommended. Mayor Julian continued asking, "Touchless receptacles? Those receptacles are notorious for not working. \$50,000 is too high." Ms. Gerber interjected saying, "But actually an eligibility use of the funds is moving more into a touchless environment." The mayor said "You put 'touchless' in there. I guarantee. You're going to have problems. For three (3) basins, maybe 'touchless' is okay but not for that amount." CM Costa, Jr. added, "There are touchless receptacles at schools. We're taking them out now. Battery issues." RC

Ramirez then said, "I used to replace them. Became a headache. I agree with CM Costa, Jr. and Mayor Julian on this." Ms. Gerber said there will be a need to relook this item.

CM Costa, Jr. made additional comments. He said, "We're not talking about the workers to do the maintenance. It's okay with improving but we need staff, like for the parks. Keeping up the maintenance is important, but we just don't have the staff now." Ms. Gerber said, "Juan Montero is the new Maintenance Worker. We are replacing the landscaping and janitorial contracts. There are additional considerations. There's Le Roy Park that will have high traffic. The one-time money is not appropriate. It may carry us for one to two years but not necessarily as a long-term solution. We may earmark Measure N monies, specifically for maintenance." Mr. Bodem said, "CM Costa, Jr.'s point was well taken. That's something we need to look at, for sure"

Mayor Julian said, "There are 38 units for People Self-Help Housing. On Pioneer, there are 34 units. Then there's Escalante Meadows with 80 units. What will it take to maintain these? Three (3) staff members aren't enough." CM Costa, Jr. said, "One person for five (5) parks and City Hall and any other facilities owned by the City. You're gonna burn him or her out. There are two (2) street workers. Too much work. We need to look at the bigger picture."

CM Robles said, "The Recreation Services Manager/Grant Writer. If the manager is implementing recreation programs, we'll be keeping on top of a maintenance program – a follow-up plan. The Recreation Services Manager would work with parks & recreation and City staff. Recreation & Parks Commission can attest that's something we need to do." CM Ramirez added that it would, hopefully, be paid through the Master Fee Schedule.

Ms. Gerber also said, "It's recommended that the Electric Vehicle charging station at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Plaza be replaced as well as having charging stations at the Amtrak Station. Also, items such as Finance office upgrades and Public Works conference room upgrades were included here. The initial recommendation for the auditorium upgrades was \$100,000 but is now \$75,000. The total costs for these capital improvements to City properties is approximately \$852,000."

The next items Ms. Gerber addressed was "Additional Considerations for ARPA Funds". She said, "The County is asking all cities to dedicate 5% of total ARPA funds for their childcare monies pool. We're looking at possibly 2%. Also, the Recreation & Parks Commission originally recommended \$100,000 for the auditorium upgrades. We were able to put \$75,000 there. The remaining \$25,000 is up for further consideration. LADG initially asked for \$80,000 with staff recommending \$40,000 and the other \$40,000 up for more discussion. The Library Relocation, \$50,000 – the Treasury Department's eligibility rules don't have guidance for libraries or library assistance. However, there are funds for capital improvement of city buildings and to promote educational programs. There's something to consider there. The last item in this section is "Maintenance Worker I for \$57,000, annual salary and benefits."

CM Ramirez commented, "One of the reasons the library has been punted every year is that there isn't a staff person to be the point person. We might consider including 'library liaison' built into the Recreation Services Manager. Have that person be the point person for the library. Build it into the

job description. Not all of Guadalupe's 37% of our population are youth that do recreation activities. This would create a bridge for everybody."

Mayor Julian said, "The items listed under 'Additional Considerations for ARPA funds' are not budgeted?" CM Costa, Jr. asked, "Why is the County asking for monies for a childcare funding pool?" Mr. Bodem said, "All cities are being asked, not just Guadalupe. It's 5% of COVID-19 monies."

CM Ramirez said, "In the priority of things, I'd say the 5% for the County is probably low. The library came from goal setting from the Ad Hoc Basic Needs Committee. We identified certain things. It's seed money. We know this money isn't going to get us a new building. Whenever we go for grants or things that are library-focused, there's matching that needs to happen. We can't miss the opportunities for certain things because we don't have monies allocated. Every year we have to pay rent for the library."

Ms. Sweeney then said, "Since I hear there's very little support for touchless receptacles at the Senior Center, I'd advocate replacing that for support that I need to hire another Maintenance Worker, if you're supportive of removing the \$50,000 from the Senior Center touchless receptacles. Then, cover the difference with the electrical vehicle charging station monies. Lower that to \$43,000. Then replace that with the Maintenance Worker I that I heard a lot of support for. I'd be happy with those changes."

Mayor Julian said, "There's a lot of heat for Public Works to clean up the City. We're an agricultural community. How do we maintain things? There are 21 garbage cans in Guadalupe. If we have additional good staff, maintenance workers, we can take care of the City."

CM Robles said, "Receptacles at the Senior Center? We haven't painted the boards. Under eaves. Replacement of roof, need to repaint."

CM Ramirez went back to the subject of the library. He said, "I'm a big advocate for the library. The Planning software. Maybe not budget for the 3rd year and not have Surface Pro (notebooks). Those two items would be around \$34,000 and can be used for seed money for library relocation." Mr. Bodem said he wasn't sure we could just drop the third year for the Planning software.

The mayor said, "Not all monies allocated will be spent. We can cut here and there. We need to bring up as a topic with Recreation Services Manager." CM Ramirez suggested to slim down elsewhere. Mr. Bodem said, "There is a current matching facility grant for the library. But we have to have substantial monies to do it. Mary Housel, Santa Maria Library Director, told me about it."

Ms. Michaud said, "Regarding computers/notebooks, that would be a definite plus for the Council to have. They do have them for the School District and their trustees. It would save Juana (Escobar) a lot of time, etc. It would be better and so much easier. Would save both money and time." Mr. Bodem said, "Monies would be recovered with the savings in paper and Juana's time which will free her up to handle other responsibilities and projects."

CM Costa, Jr. asked, "With regards to the electrical charging stations, how much comes back to the City?" Ms. Sweeney said, "I put that in there because we had a match for a grant opportunity for cost

recovery. Since that time, I've added chargers at the Amtrak station to a potential Clean California grant. That would be leveraged with some other grant money so we could get all that done. The electrical bills for the parking lot chargers are being charged out of the Pasadera Lighting Fund. That Lighting Fund benefitted from the change of lights to LED, there's adequate funding for us to cover the charging station at the City parking lot. I'm willing to forego that line item. I like the library cause better. And I've got ways to deal with the other ones."

The mayor asked, "Correct me if I'm wrong. We're not charging for the electrical station because we don't have Wi-Fi?" Ms. Sweeney said, "They're not cost recovery." CM said, "Not in that sense. But people charge their cars and then go to businesses in the area. That's why it makes sense to have the charging station downtown rather than at the Amtrak station." Mr. Bodem added that he sees chargers as an economic development tool.

There was more discussion on chargers in the downtown area, Veterans Memorial Plaza. Ms. Sweeney said, "Fast chargers and cost recovery chargers are expensive. I could probably plot another two relatively cheap, non-cost recoverable ones like the one I just got for the Senior Center. If the Council wants more chargers for the Veterans Memorial Plaza, I can do that. I could perhaps fold that into street funding." The mayor then said, "Ok, if we pare down there, we can move monies to the library."

To recap the discussion on all items recommended for ARPA funds, Ms. Gerber went through the following:

Loss Recovery – Balance to the General Fund. The EIR for the General Plan is on the agenda for the Oct. 12th Council meeting. Council gave consensus on the \$46,073.80 for the EIR. Approximately \$200,000 would go back to the General Fund.

Water Utility Payment/Debt Forgiveness - \$35,000 back to Enterprise fund. Ms. Sweeney said that the City will be getting \$41,000 from the State. Original report said that we were \$76,000 in the hole. Put \$35,000 into recreation programs.

Unemployment Insurance/Replenish Fund - \$5,000; may be eliminated.

Los Amigos de Guadalupe – leave at \$40,000.

Additional Covid-19 Response - \$151,000 potentially going back to the General Fund; Mayor Julian suggested to look for increasing amount on Food Distribution, shown as \$15,000.

Recreation Services Manager – move forward.

Facilities Rental Coordinator – move forward.

Recreation Programs – was \$12,000; increased to \$20,000.

Battalion Fire Chief & Wellness Programs – relook; additional information requested.

Software Infrastructure Improvements – Planning Software, keep 3-year contract terms. CM Ramirez noted that this software should “talk” to the Tyler System. All other items recommended listed – move forward.

Public Communication – SurfacePro 7 with Keyboard – move forward. All other items listed – move forward.

Capital Improvements –

- a. \$300,000 earmarked for Council chambers – move forward.
- b. \$100,000 civil and architectural drawings – move forward.
- c. All restrooms – relook. Need to look at ADA compliance.
- d. \$50,000 – generator – move forward. The mayor suggested looking at both diesel and natural gas.
- e. \$75,000 auditorium upgrades– move forward.
- f. \$18,000 – Public Works conference room upgrade – move forward.
- g. \$5,000 – Finance Dept. upgrades – move forward.
- h. Electrical charging stations (Amtrak/City Parking) – eliminate. Ms. Sweeney will research more on electrical chargers.
- i. \$50,000 – Vegetation maintenance – move forward.

City Attorney Sinco said, “This is a workshop. We’re looking for feedback and where monies should be allocated. There are a couple items that are pressing that staff wants to move forward on. We have consensus on some of those items now. There’s still quite a lot of money that still needs to be allocated. Staff will take a look and get back to you. More research is needed for public safety.”

Ms. Gerber said that there’s about a \$58,000 balance of the ARPA funds. Mayor Julian said, “Let’s just keep that to see how thing shake out.” Ms. Sweeney said, “With the balance of \$58,000 in the ARPA funds, the Maintenance Worker I was for one year. If we can go 1.5 years, I can hire someone quickly. Le Roy Park will be up and running in February, so it’d be good to get somebody on board.” Ms. Gerber then said, “Then there’s a balance of \$30,000. Any overages, we can consider for library at a later time.” Mayor Julian said, “Consider now. A priority.”

6. USE OF LE ROY PARK FACILITY- DISCUSSION

Mayor Julian said he saw the Recreation & Parks Commission recommendations on Le Roy Park and asked for a recap. RC Chair Harris said, “We want a five-year program.” Mr. Bodem added, “One group wanted 50 years at \$1.00 per year. The Commission, though, wants a five-year program, with some kind of cost recovery. Also, have others have the ability to share the building and not just have it be dominated by one group but.”

The mayor said, “It’s called ‘Le Roy Park Community Center’. The Boys & Girls Club have had it for 20 years. There’s still a need for that type of service. But we need to expand what we can do with that facility. Barbecue pits, picnic tables, playground equipment, etc. All that’s coming in. The City needs

to have control with an MOU. Whoever comes in, Recreation & Parks Commission and the City have control of who uses the building.”

Mayor Julian also talked about ‘SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc.’, a group that would help coordinate projects, adult classes, and community events/activities, with local people. He said, “For \$57,000 per year, they can place a person there. Mondo Valdez is working a program. He takes parents and works with the children, typically, Spanish speaking. He goes out to the community working with the population. They’re asking to be part of all of this at Le Roy Park, however it might work. We haven’t said anything to the Boys & Girls Club yet. We want to make sure we have everything in order, both from the Council and Commission’s side.”

Mr. Bodem asked what the next step would be. The mayor said, “Maybe SER-Jobs can come to a Council meeting and explain the program. If we brought that to Guadalupe, that’d be perfect. It’s Spanish speaking, dealing with the farmworkers, and English, too, working the kids. It would be nice to have him connect with the Recreation & Parks Commission to show what he can offer with his program. There’s an office in Santa Maria, but they want to come to and be part of Guadalupe.” CM Ramirez said, “It would be great if this was rolled into wellness and nutrition. That’s something our community really needs.”

RC Ramirez added, “This should be a multi-use center, not just for one group.” CM Robles then said, “Boys & Girls Club use it after school, from 2:00p.m. to about 6:00p.m. The evening time would be open. SER-Jobs would be able to use then for Spanish speaking activities and programs.” RC Ramirez said, “They get volunteers from the community. They’re college kids trained in computers, robotics, music, folklorico dancing, etc. They’re volunteers trained in all these categories. This program would be great to have here to train some of our residents to volunteer. They can use part of the building, the existing part.” The mayor added that all parts of the building at Le Roy Park should be ready in February, except the 2,000 sq. ft. addition.

CM Robles said he’d recommend Mike Jimenez if the Commission wanted to tour the facility. RC Ramirez said that he was going to come to a Recreation & Parks Commission meeting. Mr. Bodem said, “Is it possible that Mike Jimenez will come to a meeting to give a presentation to the Commission at our meeting next Wednesday? I can put it on the agenda.” RC Ramirez offered to get in touch with Mr. Jimenez. CM Robles said, “After he speaks to the Commission, he should come to the Council and give a presentation.”

Mayor Julian said, “We’ll still connect with the Boys & Girls Club but there needs to be an understanding that it’s community based. A multi-use building.”

RC Salinas said, “Five years was a starting point. The building is a community building. But when the Boys & Girls Club is there, they use it all the time and that leaves the community out.” The mayor said, “We need the Recreation Services Manager at that building at Le Roy Park. The Boys & Girls Club want a long-term commitment. The Foundation wants to give its support and funders want to put monies into it, but 50 years is a long time. We’ll meet with their new director, but we’ll wait until after we talk to Mr. Jimenez about SER-Jobs before we do anything.”

CM Robles said, "I took a tour two weeks ago. It was amazing to see the work that's being done there." RC Chair Harris asked, "Who do we need to talk to if we want to take a tour there?" The mayor said to just tell them you're with the City.

7. AUDITORIUM AND O'CONNELL PARK IMPROVEMENT IDEAS – DISCUSSION

CM Ramirez said, "Seed money for the library. We should do the same for O'Connell Park. Our field needs improvements. In the next budget, we should put monies to upgrade the fields." Mayor Julian said, "I talked to Enrique Ortiz. There are a lot of gentlemen and ladies who play soccer. Our community's changing. It's not just football and baseball anymore." CM Ramirez said, "There's the 'community benefit-side' of cannabis. Might be used for O'Connell Park improvements."

CM Robles said, "In 2007, O'Connell Park was beautiful. There's a maintenance issue now. Not the park – water issues, the gophers, etc. Upkeep and maintenance are what's needed. We don't want the same to happen at LeRoy Park."

RC Salinas added, "O'Connell Park, football program. Turned it into football field but that wasn't planned. We have the softball field and we're talking about the conversion of the concession stand. If we can get that done, we'd have a mini-sports center. We could rent it out and generate monies to maintain it." The mayor said, "We can't put lights because we're in a coastal zone. CM Cardenas is chairing ad hoc committee for the play structure. We'll soon be looking at designs for what's available in playground equipment."

City Attorney Sinco said, "Heard nothing about the auditorium." Ms. Sweeney asked, "If you can give me some ideas what you want, I can get some numbers." RC Salinas said, "Painting, windows, stage, floors, arch repair and paint, etc." Mr. Bodem said he has a list of items for the auditorium improvements that he would send to Ms. Sweeney.

The mayor asked if anyone else wanted to speak on these topics. Ms. Socorro Ramirez came to the podium and gave her comments. She said, "I agree to have a place at Le Roy Park. Pre-school for migrant families. There's housing in that area. Having programs and resources there is really valuable. A lot of families have their children there, it's a seasonal pre-school. Parents will walk their children there. Transportation is a problem. Parents would have access to programs at Le Roy Park from the Little House at the Park."

Ms. Sweeney mentioned, "I will be discussing updated bus routing concepts, hopefully, at the second meeting in October. We can have a discussion of bus stops and routing for Council-approved new transit operations that will take place starting in July 2022."

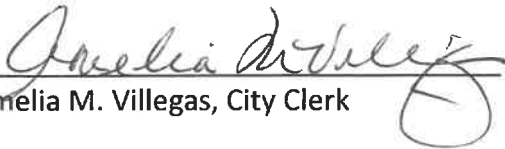
Mayor Julian said, "We're a changing community in the way of needs. We have farmworkers. Multi-lingual, Mixteco. We have to adjust to that. That's a perfect location for a program at LeRoy Park. Would like to get the Comite to use LeRoy Park again for the 16th of September. Having the parade go all the way down to the park."

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commission Chair Harris to adjourn the meeting. 3-0 Absent: Ortiz, Dreiling Passed.

Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Ramirez to adjourn the meeting. 4-0 Absent: Cardenas Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Prepared by:


Amelia M. Villegas, City Clerk

Approved by:


Ariston Julian, Mayor