

MINUTES

City of Guadalupe

Regular Meeting of the Guadalupe City Council

Tuesday, November 9, 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

CM Costa, Jr was absent. All other members were present. (Note: The abbreviation "CM" is being used for "Council Member" in these minutes.)

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. AGENDA REVIEW

At this time the City Council will review the order of business to be conducted and receive requests for, or make announcements regarding, any change(s) in the order of business.

CM Ramirez requested to pull Item #7F, "Adopt Resolution-No. 2021-87 adopting a classification and salary range for Fire Battalion Chief" from the agenda. Per CM Ramirez, "It's being pulled for staff to have more time to work on it. Staff concurs with that."

5. PRESENTATION

- Karen Twibell, 1st District Representative – Redistricting

Ms. Twibell began by saying, "I was talking with Tony (Ramirez), and he said that the Council is already in the process of reviewing maps." She then said that she was going to go through some of the slides but felt that the last few slides were informational showing the process of viewing maps and could just be viewed on the website.

She began by saying, "Every 10 years census data are used to redraw election district lines. 2020 was a difficult year for census gathering. It was hard getting people to help with the census, and then there was the pandemic. The Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission (hereinafter referred to as 'Commission') was to get information in April, but it just went up on the website. This has caused a delay in giving people time to review the maps and give input. However, the Commission is still looking for public information to ensure diverse communities are fairly

represented. If you didn't want to draw a map, you still could give your input on your community of interest. You could give information on your current district and how you might want to see it."

She spoke about various rules for drawing district lines but focused on several rules: The California Voting Rights Act, undivided neighborhoods and communities of interest and easily identifiable boundaries. Ms. Twibell said, "Look at how Santa Barbara County is made up. Santa Maria, with its huge population, there's no way not to divide it. It's difficult. You'd try to find a boundary that's easily identifiable. You want to make sure the districts are compact. In the County, there are large areas of land with no population. One of the districts then will look really large in comparison to the other districts."

Ms. Twibell then focused on "Demographic Summary of Existing Districts". The data presented showed the breakout of 2020 census, total population by ethnic division and citizen voting age population by ethnic division for the County's current plan. The percentage of deviation for the 2020 census is 11.17% which is over what we're shooting for which is under 10%. Total population for the County is shown at 446,704. When divided by the five (5) districts, the targeted population is approximately 89,341."

She highlighted November 12th as the upcoming deadline date for all drawn maps for the Commission to consider. Ms. Twibell then walked through how to view submitted drawn maps. Go to 'drawsantabarbaracounty.org' and pull up the 'View Draft Maps' tab. All drawn maps submitted as a specific date will be displayed by map number and link. She did say that drawn maps submitted prior to the updated census data being available, those maps needed to be redrawn. She then said that the remainder of her presentation could be found on the website.

Mayor Julian asked, "Maps can be accepted until Friday, November 12th. Is that still correct?" Ms. Twibell said, "Yes, the 12th until noon." Ms. Twibell then walked through some examples of drawn maps on the website with specific information on each drawn map.

CM Cardenas asked, "The percentage of deviation. The deviation is for the targeted population?" Ms. Twibell explained that that percentage is the difference between the most populated area and the least populated area, divided by 89,300, the targeted population.

Ms. Twibell went back to show how you can see each submitted drawn map on the website. She said, "Each map comes with specific information. On 'Santa Barbara Interactive Map', you can enlarge to see actual streets, and what is shown on the map, what was drawn as divisions or boundaries. She said, "On November 12th, we will be reviewing maps in Santa Barbara on zoom. We're still looking for input from the public. If you go to the home page, you can write a narrative or make comments on a specific map." She then asked if there were any questions.

6. 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.

The first speaker was Frances Romero who said, "I'm here to voice my opinion that the Redistricting Commission should be careful not to confuse the position of an advocacy group with the desires of our community. I've been a resident for almost 25 years. My husband is a former police officer, Post Commander of the American Legion, and I've held positions ranging from interim City Clerk to Recreation & Planning Commissioner to Mayor. Together we've worked on several local events to benefit our community. I've also been involved with the Dunes Center since 2002. Our perspective about our community is far different than that of CAUSE. I've talked to several community members, including Shirley Boydston and John Velasquez. Shirley is not able to be here tonight, but she asked me to convey that my comments are the same as hers.

We've lived in three (3) districts without ever moving, all of us here tonight who have been in Guadalupe. And now it's time to move again. This time we should be put back in District #4. Our kids go to Righetti High School and during that time, they make lifelong relationships. Guadalupe should aspire to be more like Orcutt from the standpoint of a healthy downtown core. That's what this community needs. After all, we're the only coastal community not flourishing. I realize that Covid has been a terrible hit to every community in the country, but we can do more with our downtown area. We need good examples and good partners with representation that can help us lift us up and do better. We have so many positives, and we have more in common with District #4 than District #5. We're more than just our ethnic demographics. Being lumped in with District #5 will only dilute Guadalupe's voice. District #5 will be fine as a majority district without us.

I'd really like the Commission to understand that the people who live here, who work here, who have put down roots here, who have purchased homes, who have lived here for multi-generations are not necessarily the people that CAUSE is representing. So, I think it's very important that you listen to the people who live here and have invested their time and civic engagement. Thank you."

Reina Chavez then spoke. She said, "I'm here as a mother, a resident of Guadalupe and a member of the Guadalupe Community Changers, a parent organization made up of individuals who have been historically disenfranchised and are dedicated to voicing community concerns. We advocate for civic participation, education and social justice to live in a more inclusive and just environment where we can all have the same opportunities. With that said, our group supports the redistricting map that CAUSE has put together. Guadalupe and Santa Maria have similar demographics and comprehension with other communities in the County that impact our political representation. Therefore, we should be merged as one district. It is important to remember that all regions should and must be equally represented to uplift all communities that are encompassed by our county borders." Note: Veronica Tran translated Ms. Chavez's comments into Spanish.

Mayor Julian asked if the staff or Council had any questions. He then asked, "The bottom line is that this information from the Redistricting Commission will then go to the Board of Supervisors to draw the lines or what's the process?" Ms. Twibell said, "The Commission draws the final map. This is the first time the Board of Supervisors are not drawing the maps. So, we really want community input. During Covid and all, it's been a difficult time. We've tried to get the word out. We do want people to come to the meetings or even zoom in and give their comments. For example, I can say that CAUSE was at the last meeting and had at least twenty speakers. That's why we're encouraging people to give their comments. You can do it online now to say why you're supporting a specific map. That's the information we go over and that we need. The Commission itself...we do not draw

the lines, so we're looking for public input. The maps will be narrowed down to between 3-5 maps based on similarities and by population. Let us know what the people want."

CM Ramirez said, "Thank you, Ms. Twibell. From our short time that you've been here, you might have noticed that we're a pretty vocal group of a Council. Prior councils might have been somewhat isolated and focused on Guadalupe issues which is important. But we're also advocates for larger issues. You'll see a strong statement from at least a few of the council members here and representatives for the community. It's important to listen to everyone. It's not just people who have roots here. Everyone has a voice and an opinion. Everyone's a community member whether you've lived here one year or 30 years. It's important to know that this is a community and there shouldn't be a weight. For me, that's something I hold true. As a Council, we may have our strong opinions on where people might fit. Hopefully, we can come to a consensus to be able to provide the Commission with direction the City is looking for as far as a specific district."

Ms. Twibell emphasized, "You can do that as a City Council and as individuals. Also, you can take into consideration population growth. If you're looking at one district having a lower population, you're thinking about the potential growth. We know that Guadalupe, Santa Maria and Orcutt are all growing. We don't see that much growth in the South County. Remember the districts will last 10 years."

Mayor Julian added, "Santa Maria passed a resolution where they wanted to be and broadcasted it all over Santa Barbara County. By this coming Friday, November 12th, you need input, a decision from, Council's decision." At this point, City Attorney Sinco interjected, "This topic can't be discussed. It's not been agendized. It needs to be noticed and agendized."

The mayor then said, "We should have been way ahead of the game here when this process all came forward. It's been almost a year now that it's been moving forward. Sometimes I feel like the tail of the dog. Instead of the dog wagging the tail, we get the tail wagging us. But I'm glad that we had people speak up with their opinions and what they consider. From Council's perspective, one of the things I was looking at was consensus but that doesn't hold a lot of weight when it comes to the full Council taking a stand on it. Does the Council want a special meeting to state formally what our desires are? Maybe there are no desires. Maybe you want to stay with Isla Vista. I'm just polling the Council." City Attorney Sinco said, "There's no problem to put this on at a special meeting. You just can't take the action now." The mayor asked if there was a need to do that, to take a position. City Attorney Sinco said, "There's another option. Is it possible for the council members to submit individual map as an individual and then as a member of the City Council submit individually or would they only count as one map?"

Ms. Twibell said, "You can submit multiple maps as an individual. I want to clarify that the submission of a map is by 12noon, Friday, November 12th. But support for maps can be given during the next seven (7) meetings." CM Cardenas asked, "If we want to make a map ourselves, we can do that individually and then can support later." Mayor Julian said, "There's more weight taking action as the whole City Council for the City rather than individual maps."

City Attorney Sinco then said, "Looks like there are three (3) options: 1) schedule a special meeting and create your own map at the meeting and submit that from the City Council; 2) each individual

council member can draw a map, and 3) support a map as a body which can be put on regular agenda. Vote to support a map at the November 23rd council meeting.”

CM Ramirez said, “I have reviewed some of the maps and there are some maps I’d already support. So, I wouldn’t need to draw any myself.” Mayor Julian asked, “What’s the wish of the Council? Which way do you want to go?” CM Cardenas said, “So, Tuesday, November 23rd ...we already have a special meeting coming up.” Mayor said, “I just want to make sure that our influence as representatives of our community is brought before the Commission. We can do it individually, but it holds more weight to do it as the Council. Or we may all disagree, too.”

City Attorney Sinco said, “Consensus then is that the Council will consider supporting a previously submitted map and the Council will not submit its own. Correct?” Mayor Julian said, “Yes, correct. We don’t have to reinvent the wheel.” City Attorney Sinco then said, “That makes sense. But then to remind you, everyone can support other maps, too.”

Ms. Twibell said, “Remember, we’re going to be reviewing maps so the sooner your comments are submitted, the better. The November 23rd meeting would seem to be late.”

City Attorney Sinco then said, “The Council has a joint meeting with the School District on Wednesday, November 17th, at 6:00 p.m. I recommend a special meeting before or after that one for the Council to vote as one body. If you meet on the 17th, the Commission will have that input for the four (4) remaining Commission meetings. If you waited until the 23rd regular Council meeting, there are two Commission meetings on the 18th and 22nd where the Commission wouldn’t have your vote.”

CM Ramirez said, “November 17th wouldn’t be bad because we’d be able to review the maps that would have submitted up to the deadline on that Friday, November 12th. If we did the 17th, we could do it before the joint meeting with the School District.” City Attorney Sinco said, “You already have the meeting with the School District. You can meet at 5:00 p.m. in the Council chambers and afterwards, meet with the School District at 6:00 p.m. at the District’s Media Center. The special notice would show the meeting would be here in the City Council chambers.” Ms. Twibell said, “As a reminder, there is a meeting in Santa Maria on Monday, November 15th.”

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

The following items are presented for City Council approval without discussion as a single agenda item 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 November 3, 2021.
- C. Approve the Minutes of the City Council regular meeting of October 26, 2021, to be ordered filed.

- D. Accept the June 2021 Financial Report.
- E. Accept the First Quarter FY 2022 Financial Report.
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-87 adopting a classification and salary range for Fire Battalion Chief.

G. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

- 1. Planning Department report for October 2021
- 2. Building Department report for October 2021
- 3. Public Works Department report for October 2021
- 4. Recreation and Parks report for October 2021

Aside from Item #7F previously pulled from the agenda, there were no other items pulled.

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and seconded by Council Member Robles to approve the Consent Calendar, absent Item #7F. 4-0 Passed Absent: Costa, Jr.

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: (Information Only)

Mr. Bodem gave a brief update on Pasadera development. He said, "Every now and then, I check in with Craig Smith, developer, to see how things are going. There is an expected 80-90 units to be built each year. That doesn't include the time it will take next year to build the bridge. Sales are good. 350 homes have already been built. Things sound very positive." Mayor Julian then said, "It'll take another 4-5 years for full completion." Mr. Bodem said, "Yes, considering there's about a 480-home build out at 80-90 per year. The only issue so far has been the PG&E delays. As for moving towards the south end, permits are into the railroad. We should hear of approvals, hopefully, in the next couple of months or so." The mayor then added, "Hopefully, we can get that shopping center in before long."

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

There was no report from Chief Cash.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT- UPDATES:

Mayor Julian briefly spoke about redistricting being very important. He also talked about cannabis with the deadline for applications being Monday, November 15, 2021. He also said, "The Recreation Commission. Interviews for the Recreation Services Managers are scheduled for Monday, November 15th." The mayor thanked Mr. Bodem for including all the items in the report as he said, "There's really a lot going on." He then referred to the full Mayor's Report for more details on the various City projects which can be viewed on the City's website.

REGULAR BUSINESS

11. Appointment of a Council Member to the Loan Advisory Committee (LAC) of the City of Guadalupe Microenterprise Assistance Program.

Written Report: Tom Brandeberry, CEO Los Amigos de Guadalupe

Recommendation: That the Mayor assign one Council Member to the Loan Advisory Committee (LAC) and one alternate.

In Mr. Tom Brandeberry's absence, Mr. Bodem spoke on this item. He said, "Lorena Zarate, as Finance Director, you're already on the committee as a staff member. It's recommended that the mayor assign one council member to this committee and assign one council member as an alternate to this committee that will evaluate the applicants for loans for the Microenterprise Assistance Program." At this point, City Attorney Sinco interjected, "Just to clarify, the mayor should assign a council member and the Council would ratify your assignment."

Mayor Julian then said, "I spoke to Tom Brandeberry several months ago. There are a lot of financial details involved here. I appoint Council Member Liliana Cardenas for this committee with Council Member Gilbert Robles as the alternate."

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and seconded by Mayor Julian to confirm the appointment of Council Member Liliana Cardenas to the Loan Advisory Committee of the City of Guadalupe Microenterprise Assistance Program with Council Member Robles as the alternate.

4-0 Passed Absent: Costa, Jr.

Mayor Julian thanked both council members for stepping up and accepting these assignments.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Bodem: move 'Planning Software' from 'Nov. 23rd meeting' to Dec. 14th. City Attorney Sinco said, "In the Mayor's report, it says that Dude Systems didn't disclose some important information about a continuing contract which the City didn't have a say in. But they did, in fact, disclose that information. However, it wasn't necessarily straightforward. Staff is considering another software. That's why we're pulling it." Mr. Bodem said that the other software would be on the platform with Tyler and of a comparable price. City Attorney Sinco suggested that the item be moved to "Other Unscheduled Items" as the report might not be ready by Dec. 14th.

Special Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 17th, at 5:00pm to discuss redistricting maps.

CM Ramirez requested that City goals that were set in the summertime be reviewed after the new year.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCIL ACTIVITY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

CM Ramirez said he was interested in what the new infrastructure federal bill will bring to the City, like broadband. Mayor Julian said, "Speaking of broadband, SBCAG was asking for us..." Mr. Bodem interjected, "It's on the next agenda on Nov. 23rd."

CM Robles mentioned, "There was nice media coverage for McKenzie Middle School where we had a vaccine clinic for children. I think we might have been the first school in the County to provide vaccinations for children. There was a decent turnout of children. And I believe they were giving booster shots to adults, as well. Also, Stephanie Krouse painted the murals on Flower & Birch Street bus stop. We're probably going to get rid of that stop soon, but Stephanie wanted to put her artistic talent on it and has received some good feedback on how nice it looks from the neighbors." Ms. Sweeney then commented, "Stephanie has been a delight to work with. She asked if she could practice on those bus stops that are scheduled to be torn down. She expressed interest in decorating other bus stops. This was her practice round to see things like did the paint take, did it run in the rain, etc. So, I'll continue to work with her to see how we can paint other bus stops." CM Robles said, "For the future, we're looking at doing something similar with the electrical utility boxes." Ms. Sweeney said that she is doing some research on that.

CM Cardenas said that she hoped to get a meeting going for the playground equipment for O'Connell Park." Mayor Julian suggested checking with Head Start as there is similar equipment there as would be used at O'Connell Park. Ms. Sweeney said that she's waiting to hear back from Recreation Commissioner Robert Salinas to schedule a meeting.

CM Robles said that there's a meeting for the Auditorium Ad Hoc Committee scheduled with Shannon on Monday, 11/15, at 1:30pm.

Mayor Julian reported that at the recent Foodbank distribution, there were 260 people. He said, "There's a bump in foot traffic, but not necessarily in car traffic. It was a bit of a zoo out here with all the sidewalk construction going on. But somebody moved the big equipment out of the way, so it was pretty smooth then."

The mayor also talked about COVID guidelines for use of the City auditorium/gym. He said, "We're probably waiting for the Recreation Services Manager. The reason I brought that up is that I saw kids at McKenzie practicing volleyball. So, we're going to run into that season. I know the County and everybody else is coming up with different guidelines for use. I know that Emily with Vandenberg has a strict policy that they use. Masks are not required when playing. Only two (2) people are allowed per individual. There's temperature checking."

Mr. Bodem said, "Emily did draft the guidelines for us. We have those guidelines and can get it to you." Mayor Julian said, "Getting it to us and adopting it are two (2) different things. Because they're going to be asking, what do we do. And I know there was a quincinera this weekend. How was that handled?" Amelia Villegas, who is temporarily handling city facility rentals, responded, "It was a 25th silver wedding anniversary. We didn't put any special provisions on them in terms of

masks or things like that.” The mayor then said, “Well, the County is saying that we need to do that. I just don’t want to get in trouble with anybody getting sick or things like that.”

CM Cardenas reported that at McKenzie, they hosted financial aid workshops. She said, “A lot of our students at Righetti that are from Guadalupe aren’t able to attend workshops that are held after school or after hours. So, we wanted to have one here in our City so that our families didn’t have trouble attending them. This is the first time we branched out from another one and it went well.” Mayor Julian said, “We need that. It’s just like sports. People aren’t going to go out there. They need to come here.”

Mayor Julian said, “I was in La Pasadita restaurant and saw a poster of the Community Changers about the clean-ups. They have a schedule of clean-ups that’s great. I don’t know if that’s on our website. I might have mentioned before but there’s a group of college students from San Diego who come here and work with them. That’s their effort to clean things up.”

CM Robles said, “Touch of Style will have their annual car show for Toys-4-Tots drive on Saturday, 11/13, at O’Connell Park. There will be raffles, car awards and food vendors.” Mayor Julian added that he heard that there were to be around 100 vehicles.

CM Robles gave an update on the Guadalupe Bulldogs Football teams. He said, “Our Intermediate team will be moving forward. We had four (4) teams that went to the playoffs. We’re in the third round right now. We’ll be playing at Pioneer against an unidentified Santa Maria team this Saturday at 6:00 p.m. If they win, they’ll be in the Super Bowl held in Arroyo Grande High School the following week. In their history since 2005, we’ve had five (5) appearances and two (2) titles.” Mayor Julian asked if this was the only team that’s going forward? CM Robles said, “Yes, out of our four divisions. We have the Bantams, Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors. The Intermediates are the only ones going forward.”

14. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION MEETING

The meeting is being adjourned to closed session. Item to be discussed: Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54957) Title: City Administrator

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and seconded by Council Member Cardenas to adjourn to closed session. 4-0 Passed. Absent: Costa, Jr. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

- 15. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**
(Subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54957)
Title: City Administrator

16. ADJOURNMENT TO OPEN SESSION MEETING

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and seconded by Council Member Cardenas to adjourn to open session. 4-0 Passed. Absent: Costa, Jr.

17. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

No reportable action.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and seconded by Council Member Cardenas to adjourn. 4-0 Passed. Absent: Costa, Jr.

Prepared by:


Amelia M. Villegas, City Clerk

Approved by:


Ariston Julian, Mayor