

MINUTES

City of Guadalupe

Regular Meeting of the Guadalupe City Council

Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm
City Hall, 918 Obispo Street, Council Chambers

1. **ROLL CALL:**

Council Member Christina Hernandez
Council Member Gilbert Robles
Council Member Megan Lizalde (**Absent**)
Mayor Pro Tempore Eugene Costa Jr.
Mayor Ariston Julian

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Four (4) were present. One (1) absent.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Mayor, City Council, Staff, and Public stood up for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **MOMENT OF THANKS, APPRECIATION OR CONDOLENCES.**

Mayor Julian provided a message of condolence to those people in Turkey and Syria harmed by the devastating earthquakes. He also mentioned the passing of Chief Warrant Officer 4, Henry Chino Leon, a proud U.S Army veteran, passed away on January 17th, 2023, at the age of 74.

Henry was born in Santa Maria, Ca and raised in Guadalupe, Ca. He enlisted into the United States Army in 1967 and served his country honorably in the Vietnam War. He ended his military career with the California State Military Reserves where he earned the rank of CW4. The mayor expressed his condolences to the family.

4. **AGENDA REVIEW**

There were no changes to the order of the agenda.

5. **CEREMONIAL CALENDAR**

- *Recognizing Firefighter of the year – Guadalupe Reyes, Fire Engineer. Fire Engineer Reyes was not able to attend the ceremony recognizing him as Firefighter of the year; hence, he will be recognized at the February 28, 2023, City Council meeting.*

- *Public Safety Director, Michael Cash opened the proceedings in recognition of Officer of Year Omar Ruiz. Mayor Julian and Council Member Robles commended Officer Ruiz and mentioned that he was present helping the citizens displaced from their homes during the January 9th storms.*

Officer Omar Ruiz expressed his appreciation for the Mayor who helped during the flood. Mr. Ruiz was very thankful.

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.

Ms. Jeanne Mello was present on behalf of Ms. Shirley Boydston's letter which stated in part: Thank you for praising the Guadalupe community for coming together on the 9th and 10th of January to help the flooded-out people ("The little town that could," Jan. 10).

Since this flooding occurs periodically (as the mayor said, four times in 30 years) it should behoove the county, the state, and the feds to get a levee in place to stop this from happening. The (now) levee stops at the railroad bridge and is only earthen land aided by willows from then on under the Highway 1 crossing over the Santa Maria River and on out to the ocean. The city has been asking for this for years.

The lease that could be done is to channel the river to keep it from free-flowing side to side and breaking through earthen berms the farmers put there to help with the usually heavy rains the end of December, through January and February.

As a longtime resident (native to Guadalupe), I and many others will keep repeating the mantra that the area needs a real levee.

Ms. Mello then proceeded to say that the city needs a 'real' communication system to inform the public of fundraisers, events, etc. and suggested that the city develop Quarterly newsletters, etc.

Ms. Kelly Cable stepped up the podium as one of the replaced flood victims and said the city should work on a letter to various retail establishments in Santa Maria asking them to provide direct donations from their stores to those in need. Mayor Julian expressed his empathy to Ms. Cable's loss.

Ms. Frances Romero recognized Officer Ruiz for him being officer of the year. She stated concerns about the employees leaving the city and thinks more should be done on retention and recruitment. She questioned the certain salaries and will be extracting information from transparent California and return to show city staff pay.

Mr. Albert Nunez Jr. informed the City Council that the project The Rancho de Guadalupe Historical Society presents the 'Heritage on Display' Project. For almost 150 years, this town has been home to people with beautifully diverse backgrounds from Native Americans to immigrants from China, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Italy and even more. Through installed displays, the project will spotlight individuals and groups/organizations that have been part of Guadalupe's legacy as a richly diverse community. For this pilot year, the project will focus on these months and populations: March National Women's History Month May Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month September National Hispanic Heritage Month October Filipino American History Month November National Native American Heritage Month the goals 1. Present and preserve the diverse stories of the town's residents. 2. Foster a continued interest in Guadalupe's history. The plan Phase I will include displays of text and images in City Hall's display case. Content will be loaded in at the first of the month and removed at the end of the month (exact dates are flexible). Phase II consists of developing multimedia pieces that support the main display (for example, an QR code could link to interviews with descendants). We are excited to present this project to the community and look forward to its continued development! Please refer all questions to: Albert Nunez Jr., board member,

Mr. Jerry Kaufman talked about the Vietnam replica wall that heals event to be held at Madonna Meadows in San Luis Obispo, March 16-19, 2023.

Mr. Deek Segovia said that it is difficult having access to certain rooms in the Veterans Memorial building.

Mr. Joshua Madrigal expressed his concerns about the lack of economic vitality in Guadalupe.

Ms. Alma Pereyra was present to share with her concern about accidents near the Escalante Meadows area and requested speed limit, stop signs, speed bumps, and flashing lights be implemented.

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 February 6, 2023.
- C.** Approve the Minutes of the City Council special meeting of January 17, 2023.
- D.** Approve the Minutes of the City Council regular meeting of January 24, 2023
- E.** Adopt, on second reading, Ordinance No. 2023-507 concerning vacant commercial property registration and property maintenance.

The City Attorney recommended that he make some minor amendments to the ordinance and come back to Council at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Robles to pull/move agenda item E. to the February 28, 2023, City Council meeting for a first read consideration. 4-0 Motion passed.

- F. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-08 approving an agreement for professional services with the law firm Jones Mayer (related to work performed by the City's Assistant City Attorney, Wendy Stockton).
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-09 revising the classification and job description for the Building Attendant to include previously approved duties of the Multimedia Assistant (temporary position).
- H. **MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**
 - 1. Planning Department report for January 2023
 - 2. Building Department report for January 2023
 - 3. Public Works and Engineering report for January 2023

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Robles to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar (A, B, C, D, F, G, AND H). 4-0 Motion passed.

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: (Information Only)

City Administrator Todd Bodem said that the Building Inspector, David Rose, heard about a complaint from an area resident who witnessed excessive dust on February 13th for the Escalante Meadows project. According to Rose, there is no dust originating from this project onto any structures within sight. Rose stated that here is a fire hose on the demo of this concrete masonry unit duplex apartment. The company doing the demo is a textbook example of how to do a demo and they have about 5 more to go before demo is complete.

Bodem also mentioned that the RERC workshop is scheduled for April 12-13. Time to be determined.

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

Public Safety Director Michael Cash provide a verbal report about the following.

POLICE

- *Spoke with traffic accident family from 11th and Semis about making their area safer. Working on solutions*

- *Spoke about police officer staffing challenges. Will bring back to City Council in a Staffing Report*

FIRE

- *Advised that the Impact Study Fee research firm has been selected and is working on the project.*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- *Met with CalOES to discuss completing paperwork for city reimbursement of housing funds for flooding displaced residents.*
- *The Pioneer Street Flooding. After-Action Report will be completed soon and presented to City Council.*
- *ONE805 fundraising group, approved a grant to the City of Guadalupe for \$41,100 dollars to purchase a generator.*

Mayor Julian mentioned several volunteer groups during the storm event and that we learned a lot from this devastation. He said told everyone about the Saturday, February 18 fundraiser the Le Roy Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Council Member Robles talked at length about public safety recruitment and retention and realizes something must be done about the mystery puzzle.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- 10. New wall-mounted sign for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 982 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1005-1025 Guadalupe Street.**

Written and verbal report was given by Bill Scott, Contract City Planner, to endorse a ministerial wall-mounted sign for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 982 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1005-1025 Guadalupe Street.

There were several Vietnam Veterans present endorsing the sign and significant discussion about sign location and placement. Council was highly enthusiastic about the sign and Chapter 982 having a presence.

Motion was made by Council Member Hernandez and seconded by Council Member Robles that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-10 endorsing a wall-mounted sign for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 982 on the Veterans Memorial Building at 1005-1025 Guadalupe Street. 4-0 Motion passed.

11. Main Street/Obispo intersection traffic issues.

Written and verbal report was provided by Shannon Sweeney, Public Works Director/City Engineer that recommends the City Council provide direction to staff on next steps for traffic control on Highway 166 (West Main Street) in the vicinity of Obispo Street.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. seconded by Council Member Hernandez to endorse and allow staff to focus on traffic control at the four-way intersection of Obispo and 4th Street. 4-0 Motion passed.

12. Traffic and parking plan options for student drop-offs and pickups at Mary Buren Elementary School.

Written and verbal report was provided by Michael Cash, Director of Public Safety, seeking direction from the City Council to provide direction to staff concerning a traffic and parking plan that addresses congestion in the morning and afternoon hours near Mary Buren Elementary School because of student drop-offs and pickups.

Significant discussion ensued which ultimately let a consensus of the City Council to form a City / School Subcommittee to help study and resolve the perceived conflicts concerning traffic and parking at the school and city.

13. First reading and introduction of Ordinance No. 2023-508 amending the City's Commercial Cannabis Business Ordinance (Guadalupe Municipal Code Chapter 9.22).

Written and verbal report was provided by Philip Sinco, City Attorney for the introduction of the Ordinance No. 2023-508 amending the City's Commercial Cannabis Business Ordinance (Guadalupe Municipal Code Chapter 9.22).

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Robles that the City Council waive full reading, read by title only; and introduce Ordinance No. 2023-508 on the first reading, and continue to the meeting of February 28, 2023, for second reading and adoption. 4-0 Motion passed.

14. Amending the Master Fee Schedule for cannabis community benefit agreement, regulatory and pre-license fees.

Written report was provided by Todd Bodem, City Administrator. City Attorney Philip Sinco provided a verbal update from the report recommending that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-11 amending the Master Fee Schedule for cannabis community benefit agreement, regulatory and pre-license fees for business issued a commercial cannabis business permit.

Moton was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Hernandez to adopt Resolution No. 223-11 Amending the Master Fee Schedule for cannabis community benefit agreement, regulatory and pre-license fees. 4-0 Motion passed.

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Nothing added or deleted.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS – COUNCIL ACTIVITY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Julian met with Caltrans about a significant list of items they address at their meetings. Council members made an announcement about the Father/Daughter Dance scheduled for Saturday, February 18th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Register by February 15th @ 5 p.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION MEETING

Moton was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Hernandez to adjourn into to closed session meeting at 8:23 P.M. 4-0 Motion passed.

CLOSED SESSION

18. Public Employment

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b))

Title: City Administrator

19. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Subdivision (d) (1) of Government Code Section 54956.9

Name of case: *City of Guadalupe v. Guadalupe Post #371 of the American Legion, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 22CV04248*

20. ADJOURNMENT TO OPEN SESSION MEETING

Moton was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Hernandez to adjourn into to open session meeting at 9:27 p.m. 4-0 Motion passed.

21. CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Reportable Action was noted from closed session.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Moton was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Costa Jr. and seconded by Council Member Robles to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. 4-0 Motion passed.

Prepared by:



Todd Bodem, Deputy City Clerk

Approved by:



Ariston Julian, Mayor