

MINUTES

**City of Guadalupe
Regular Meeting of the Guadalupe City Council
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 pm
City Hall, 918 Obispo Street, Council Chambers**

ROLL CALL:

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

All present

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda requested by the City Council.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Oceano Dunes Public Works Plan – Kevin Kahn

Kevin Kahn was not present at the meeting on behalf of the State Parks.

The Oceano Dunes, a 3,500-acre Park, extends along eight miles of beach, shoreline and dunes, fronting the underserved community of Oceano. The Park currently provides a mix of uses but the primary draw at the Park is driving cars, trucks and off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on the beach and in the dunes. It's the only State Park in California that allows recreational driving on the beach and the dunes.

The California Coastal Commission has found that driving at the Park has degraded dune habitats and created other issues, making it difficult for the public to enjoy other activities at the beach. The Commission is recommending phasing out OHVs on the beach and dunes over the next five years and closing Pier Avenue to vehicle access. State Parks prepared a draft plan which proposes to maintain and even expand vehicular and OHV use, including new campgrounds, OHV related facilities and new OHV access to the Park near Oso Flaco Lake. The Coastal Commission is scheduled to hold a virtual public hearing on March 18, 2021 to review these matters. For questions, contact Kevin Kahn, Central Coast District Supervisor, @831.427.4863, or kevin.kahn@coastal.ca.gov

Ms. Lucia Casalinouvo, a resident of Oceano for 32 years, spoke about "a New Vision for the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area" (ODSVRA). Her primary recommendation was to reject the State Parks Plan which has a mega development at Oso Flaco and to leave Oso Flaco as we know it today. The vision transitions the dunes away from intensive OHV use. She said, "We do not need to destroy beach and the dunes to attract people to come to the beaches. By not driving on the beach, we'll have well-minded tourists able to walk on the beach. We don't need miles and miles of cars. We urge you to reject the State Parks' plan."

Another resident from Oceano, Bonnie Ernst, also spoke. She stated that a couple years ago she was here at a council meeting warning that "the State was coming after Oso Flaco". Ms. Ernst said, "People want to walk on safe beaches. Locally and nationally, there is a trend for environmentally sustainable travel. State Parks want access to the dunes for OHVs. Oceano has been labeled "Doormat to the Dunes". They want Guadalupe to be the "South Doormat to the Dunes". We don't want that label for Guadalupe."

Council Member Ramirez said that he's been following these issues for 1.5 years and that it caught his attention with the impact in Oceano. He said, "There can be an environmental impact on the grander scheme of what we want to do in the City, like parks and trails that we want to connect to beach and the riverbed; infrastructure, public safety. This is not just about creating new campsites. The negatives outweigh the positives. Public comment is now being taken at the California Coastal Commission."

Council Member Robles said that he's kept track of this issue. He said he knew that the initial meetings on this topic was held in held in the Central Valley and asked were there any local meetings. Todd Bodem, City Administrator, said that he was aware of meeting(s) in Grover Beach and or Arroyo Grande. Council Member Ramirez mentioned that State Parks had a meeting here in Guadalupe, but residents were given short notice. Robles said, "Oso Flaco is a natural preserve. Is the impact positive? Farming land will be affected. We just have to wait and see what's going to happen."

Council Member Cardenas expressed concern for the environmental impact on workers and agricultural, the farmlands. She asked, "What about the traffic flow? Big Rigs and agricultural vehicles? What will all that traffic look like on a narrow road with a lot of traffic coming into the area?"

Melanie Backer, who moved from Los Angeles to Guadalupe, said she is very interested in what is to happen. She mentioned recently viewing an important zoom meeting on this topic with the League of Women Voters. Ms. Backer said, "I'm concerned with what Guadalupe wants to do with trails. Santa Monica has been ruined. Guadalupe and its residents should pay attention to this issue because of hiking and biking trails. As a new resident I appreciate nature and if things aren't worked out in the plan, a lot of great things are going to be destroyed".

Mayor Julian said that a "this has never been brought to the City Council". He mentioned that once, on a 3-day weekend here, there were 1300 vehicles on Main Street going to Guadalupe Beach. He said, "I hear comments such as "Let's open up the beach. Support Oso Flaco activity. People and campers will come to Guadalupe." All of this might look good for bringing in sales taxes, but we also must consider the farming community. There's valuable farmland that may be cut into and what will farmers say? They probably won't agree. There are narrow roads. Where are campers coming through town? Maybe on 11th Street which is already crowded. There are accidents at Division and Oso Flaco Roads already. The road would probably have to be widened."

The Mayor then brought the topic back to the Council for further discussion. He said, "Personally, I agree that we don't want to have a Pier Avenue like in Oceano. Do we want to bring it to vote? It's never been brought to council before". Council Member Ramirez said, "I would support bringing topic back to next council meeting. We'll make it before the March 18th Coast Commission meeting. By putting topic on the agenda, we'll get public opinion." The Mayor said he recognized that there probably are some businesspeople and those campers in Guadalupe who would want to support this. But will it be a positive or negative for Guadalupe, from the standpoint of the residents and the Council?" It was the consensus of the Council to have the topic on next meeting's agenda.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FORUM

Mayor Julian read a letter from Mr. Benjamin Beach which stated he is a recent transplant and proud to live in Guadalupe. He is a social worker for the Santa Barbara County. His question was "Does the City Council feel that it would be possible to bring a high school to Guadalupe by year 2025? What efforts would need to be made by constituents and community members to bring a high school to our school district?" *The Mayor said, "It does require money to bring a high school to town. There are pros and cons. I was asked to read this letter which should go to the Guadalupe School District for response."*

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.

2. 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.
3. Payment of warrants for the period ending February 17, 2021 to be approved for payment by the City Council.
4. Approve the Minutes of the City Council regular meeting of February 9, 2021 to be ordered filed.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-09 approving amendments to the LeRoy Park and Community Center Capital Campaign.
6. Adopt Resolution No. 2021-10 approving a contract with Michael K. Nunley & Associates (MKN) in the amount of \$32,051.00 for preparation of an update to the City of Guadalupe Water Master Plan.

Items pulled: # 3 and #7a.

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and 2nd by Council Member Cardenas to approve the balance of the Consent Calendar. 5/0 passed.

Item #3: Ms. Shirley Boydston asked the following questions:

Page 6: Towing the Ford 250 for \$500. Director of Public Safety Cash said that the \$500 was a refund. Lorena Zarate, Finance Director, said that this was an old invoice dated back in June 2020 and maybe the expense then wasn't accounted for at the time.

Page 7: What is "project implementation" Nov. 20 services to Santa Maria for \$21,906? Chief Cash said that computers were put in all police vehicles. We have a licensing agreement with the City of Santa Maria. These computers increase efficiencies for officers out in the field.

Page 8: Police purchase for Carlos Limon for \$3,244. Chief Cash said that that was for the yearly ammunition allotment.

Page 13 and Page14: Fire...a crew boss brush shirt at \$3,533 and another shirt for \$649 for a total of \$4,203. Chief Cash said that there were 14 wildland fires that our strike crew went to. There is a 50/50 grant that will pay for shirts, pants and boots for these wildland fires. This was Police's portion of the costs.

Page 15: What is an aeration basic and how used is it used for \$27,194? Shannon Sweeney, Public Works Director, said, "The aeration basin is a part of the old treatment process that we are reactivating to increase plant capacity and provide treatment while we perform maintenance work on our Biolac system. In order to reactivate it, we needed to remove sediment that had been left in the basin from when it was last operated."

Council Member Ramirez asked about an expenditure on page 7 for "PW – State Facility Oversight, Business Plan" for \$1,361. Ms. Sweeney said, "It was for a hazardous material plan for the treatment plant and corporate yard. There are hazardous materials at each site that we're required to report to the State."

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and 2nd by Council Member Robles to approve Item #3. 5/0 passed.

7. MONTHLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

- a. Police and Fire Department Report January 2021
- b. City Treasurer's Report January 2021
- c. Recreation & Parks Department Report January 2021
- d. Human Resources Department Report January 2021

Ms. Boydston asked, "Are there any thoughts on why vehicle thefts keep rising? Is there forced entry, vehicles left open or keys left in the ignition?" Chief Cash said, "COVID has changed things. We have more people that are walking around and not at work during normal hours. Also, we have everyone 'lawfully' wearing masks and hoodies. There is less facial recognition by officers and not useful/actionable reasons to stop and inquire about their presence in an area. People

aren't locking car doors and are being careless. Expensive items are left inside the vehicles and items are visible to the public." Ms. Boydston asked if any catalytic converters were stolen as these bring high prices on the black market. Chief Cash said that he didn't know of any such reports.

Motion was made by Council Member Cardenas and 2nd by Council Member Ramirez to approve Item #7a. 5/0 passed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: (Information Only)

The City will receive \$65,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the 2019 Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Award. The City will use this award for the Environment Impact Review (EIR) portion of the General Plan Update that the EMC Planning Group will be providing us with an amended contract to do the work.

There is a high degree of certainty that the City will receive about \$1,200,000 from the federal CARES Act and stimulus package. Guadalupe is considered a "Non-Entitlement City" as our population is less than 50,000. This package has gone through the House and is now in the Senate for further consideration. Congressman Salud Carbajal said that there's a 95% degree of certainty that this will happen sometime in March. This is a nice bit of monies for cities struggling due to the pandemic.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT: (Information Only)

Zach Jones, who handles emergency preparedness, and Fire Captain Patrick Schmitz have been working on increasing communications within our community. They have just put out public safety alerts on the City's website. Public Safety is trying to find more ways to get information quickly out to the public.

On COVID costs - the government had shut off reimbursements in September 2020 for the period March thru September. The City, however, continued to keep an accounting of all costs after September. FEMA and the State are looking at reimbursing COVID costs at 100%. Chief is on stand-by to see if reimbursement will increase and how to expedite the monies reaching to City.

Council Member Robles asked if there was an uptake in homelessness here in the City. Chief Cash said that there was an update. There are three homeless individuals here in the City. He said that in meetings he attends with Fire Chiefs, DA and other Police Chiefs, discussion on the homeless throughout the County has increased. Chief said, "For Guadalupe, most of the homeless have family here in town. We, unfortunately, have no services for them. We'd have to contact Santa Maria or other cities for services. We try to minimize any problems that may occur trying to find non-law enforcement ways to address these issues." Mayor Julian talked about the homeless at the Food Bank and said, "Our community is able to help where we can, but the reality is that some of them don't want to be in a home."

REGULAR BUSINESS

8. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements.

Written Report: Lorena Zarate, Finance Director

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and accept the City of Guadalupe Financial Statements for the Year ended June 30, 2020 along with the Independent Auditor's Report.

An audit of the City's accounting records for FY 2019-20 was performed by Badawi and Associates, Certified Public Accountants. The City received an unqualified audit opinion which indicates that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City for the period under audit. The total net position of the City increased approximately \$2 million as compared to FY 2018-19. Total assets increased about \$2.3 million, and total liabilities increased about \$248,000. Total government-wide revenues increased about \$841,000, which is about 7% from the prior year. Total government-wide expenses increased about \$288,000, an increase of about 2.8% from the prior year.

As for governmental funds, the total fund balance, including the General Fund, increased by \$767,000 during FY 2019-20. Total revenues for these funds increased \$133,000 with total expenditures also increasing about \$1.1 million. The increase in these expenditures were mainly due to payroll related costs, community development, and capital outlay.

Specific to the General Fund, total revenues increased by about \$775,000 as compared to FY 2018-19. For this fund, revenues increased about \$260,000 from taxes, specifically related to tax increments; \$250,000 increases from licenses and permits, and \$228,000 from other agencies. For expenditures from this fund, there was an increase of about \$724,000 from the prior year. In summary, the General Fund's revenues exceeded expenditures in the amount of \$470,296 from FY 2019-20, resulting in a positive fund balance of \$485,621 compared to \$15,325 from FY 2018-19.

For Enterprise Funds, overall operating revenues increased by \$320,000 with expenses increasing by \$200,000 over FY 2018/19.

The City's auditors, Badawi & Associates, had two findings for FY 2019-20 versus seven (7) findings in FY 2018/2019. The auditor's first finding is the insufficient or adequate fund balance in the General Fund and the ability of the City to continue as a going concern. The General Fund did not maintain a sufficient fund balance level to ensure the continuity of the operations even though the General Fund finished the year with a positive fund balance of \$485,622. This fund balance is still far from the target of 15% reserves. The General Fund balance through November 2020 continues to be positive. The City does not expect revenues from sales and property taxes to be negatively impacted. City staff will monitor the financial situation and impact of the pandemic on a monthly basis for the remain of this fiscal year and into FY 2021/22. The other finding related to internal controls and processes and segregation of duties among Finance Department staff. Improvement has been shown. The Finance Department will propose that the next level above the Finance

Director, which is the City Administrator, review journal entries prior to posting. The new accounting software should accommodate workflows and authorization parameters to improve in this area.

Mayor Julian asked Ms. Zarate, "Who helps you in the audit." She said, "We're a lean team and very paper driven. For the audit there's a lot of scanning with work papers and we're trying to go paperless." Council Member Ramirez asked her what the staffing is in the Finance Department. She said, "There's Accounts Payables, Utility Billing and Payroll. Because of the pandemic, some work remotely."

Mayor Julian said, "In FY 2018-19, we were in the black at \$485,622. In FY 2017-18, we were in the hole, about \$375,000 in the red. The Grand Jury has always said the City is a going concern. We need to continue to monitor expenses and look at other revenue sources. Ms. Zarate said, "We need to look at recurring operational costs and recurring revenue sources. We can't fund ongoing costs with one-time revenues. It's not sustainable."

Mayor said that before the downturn in Pasadera, we had monies coming in from building permits and all that we did. Todd Bodem said, "Because the railroad suddenly required Pasadera to build bridge, Lot 9 cannot have building permits pulled. With the requirement of the bridge, a rework of the site, redrawn maps and more, approval for Lot 9 to go forward needs to go through County review and a stamp of approval. Once that happens, things will get going as the market and demand are strong now." The Mayor said that the overpass/bridge has a financial impact on the developer's plans.

Mayor further said that the downtown restaurants are essential but how can you maintain your business when customers can't go in or you have some outdoor capacity. There are only three that have outdoor seating due to the impact with the pandemic. But he said, "I think we're going in the right direction. If 15% of the General Fund isn't in reserves, the City will always be considered a going concern. Hopefully, in 1.5 years, we'll get there." Mr. Bodem said that HDL advised him that with Measure N, the additional sales tax, it is estimated that \$150,000 will be realized for the period April through June and for a full year, the amount is estimated to be \$625,000. He said, "Moving forward and looking at other revenue sources, which we are working on now, we'll see that we're heading into a strong future."

Ms. Shirley Boydston thanked Ms. Zarate, Finance Director, for the comprehensive report of the City's finances and for her forthright statement of overspending as echoed in the auditor's report. She further commented that "the City cannot continue to spend as it does in light of the decreased revenues particularly our sales taxes and permit fees as the COVID-19 virus shutdowns continue. Many thousands of dollars, and not always grant funds, will be needed to keep the treatment plant workable and maybe eventually redesigned. The impact of the 431 new homes by 2031 plus the impact of the school and commercial area will add more stress to the system".

Motion was made by Council Member Robles and 2nd by Council Member Ramirez to accept the City of Guadalupe Financial Statements for the Year ended June 30, 2020 along with the Independent Auditor's Report. 5/0 passed.

9. Second Quarter FY 2020-2021 Financial Report and Budget Review.

Written Report: Lorena Zarate, Finance Director

Recommendation: That the City Council accept the Second Quarter Financial Report and Budget Review and adopt Resolution No. 2021-11 approving budget amendments to the FY 2020-2021 budget.

Ms. Zarate made some initial comments by saying she wanted to be realistic now and graphic about the budget. She said, "After the agenda was produced, Todd had multiple discussions and found new information that I didn't know regarding the other revenue, like Measure N dollars. I didn't expect because of timing that we wouldn't see monies under next fiscal year. But we will be getting some funds before July 1st. That will help. Also, Measure N passed for specific reasons. We'll have inflow that we didn't know before. This overview is for FY 2020-21 on the General Fund and Water/Wastewater Enterprise Funds through December 31, 2020. The 'Big Picture' may be a shortage and depletion of General Fund balance. Staff is recommending input on cost study measures, e.g., personnel costs for Public Safety and other areas."

The annual cash balance has a positive trend through June 2020 compared to prior year. As of December 31, 2020, total cash was \$465,812.55 in comparison to December 2019 which was \$671,500.28. It is expected the cash balance for General Fund to be approximately \$793,000 by January 31st as \$594,897 in property tax revenue was received in January.

General Fund revenue was below target at 36.5% of expected revenues versus 50% for half the fiscal year. The timing delay in property tax revenue payments cause the shortage. With property tax revenues expected in January, that amount will represent a catchup in this category. Franchise fees also fell a bit behind as compared to what was expected. The City received a significant amount from PG&E and it is expected that a timing delay in receipt of these fees won't be until approximately April. Overall, General Fund revenue is projected to come under budget and lower than expected at the end of the fiscal year by about \$174,000.

General Fund expenditures are under budget at 46% expended versus 50% for this six-month period. Through year-end it is projected that expenditures will be over budget by about 8% or \$404,000. Overall, expenditures for the General Fund are projected to end up higher than revenues by about \$440,000. Although it is projected that year-end expenditures may be slightly over their budget for a few departments, the two Public Safety Departments are of a concern: Fire and Police. Fire is projected to be over budget by about \$263,00 with Police over budget by about \$91,000. The increases in expenditures are due primarily to a renewal of the Director of Public Safety's contract with a 24% increase in salary and a renewal of the Police MOU and an initial Fire MOU with resulting salary increases. Projected overtime usage for both departments is expected to be significantly over each year-end budgets. *Ms. Zarate explained that we will be getting \$168,00 in reimbursements for*

mutual aid for three fires where the City sent out fire strike teams. This money isn't exactly a "1-for-1" reimbursement as it is paid at old pay rates.

Ms. Zarate says that she does not want to do amendments to the General Fund budget at this time as this would result in an unbalanced budget, in which revenues are lower than projected expenditures. It's optimistic that the City will be getting revenues from Measure N and stimulus dollars. The resolution spells out the specific areas that are being amended, which include amendments to the budgets for Enterprise Funds and Street Funds.

Todd Bodem said, "There were a lot of expenses shown for Public Safety. An MOU for Fire had initially been discussed about 10 years ago and it was completed last year. SEIU and POA received COLAs/salary adjustments since 2017 but Fire did not. We had to "bite the bullet" and get the MOU done now. We can now be in a maintenance mode and with new revenues, be in a better position going forward. As for Fire's overtime issue, Chief Cash has an overtime schedule and will speak to that. We have to keep employees somewhat near the market. I might suggest a committee meet once a month or so to monitor the expenditures."

Chief Cash said that it's a team project to address these issues. He went over the budgets for both Fire and Police and did address the significant overtime situation for both departments. He explained the current Police staffing and how overtime comes into play. Police is currently down staff for those officers who could be out patrolling in the field. With the Airport contract, there is one full-time officer assigned there. Because the Airport contract pays 100% of an officer's salary, benefits and associated costs, Chief's plan is to hire two contract police officers specifically for the airport. That would relieve the full-time officer to return to patrolling, resulting in full staff for proper 24/7 coverage with a lessening of overtime.

Chief said that the current Fire schedule has built in 76 hours per pay period in overtime. He has developed a new schedule that he says will cut overtime by 46%. One point that Chief emphasized is that the community uses our Fire staff as their "medical services" as Guadalupe doesn't have a hospital and the cost of an ambulance is too costly for some of our residents. Chief said, "COVID and related pandemic problems and the two labor contracts coming together at the same time, that was an anomaly. We have good plans, and our team will get together to address them." He briefly talked about home loan programs to incentivize First Responders and Police Officers to purchase homes where they work.

The Mayor said, "About 15 years ago the Fire staff dropped all their turnouts at a Council meeting saying, 'we're gone'. Council started working with them. As was said, it took 10 years to get an MOU. Even now, Fire's not at market. Fire staff is quality, and we don't want to lose them. Fire and PD may be under budget but we're also under revenues. COVID and Pasadera have had an impact on the City. We need to look at other revenues. The Grand Jury will again say that we need to disincorporate but that will never happen. Maybe a council member can attend a committee meeting to see what's going on in Public Safety and other departments. Something to think about."

Council Member Ramirez said he has been looking at the budget more closely. He said, "Lorena appreciates it when actual monies come in and I do, too. I want to look at the whole budget for the General Fund, not just Public Safety. We need to look at infrastructure, such as our building, etc. and things needed to function. We should look at personnel levels for all departments and staffing contingency plans. I would support analyzing hiring needs. Possibly consider a hiring freeze. If a department hits 50% prior to mid-year, what's in place to mitigate any damage? I do agree that we did have to "bite the bullet" for Police and Fire."

Council Member Cardenas said she prefers, like the Finance Director, to look at the budget conservatively. She said, "I am happy we have an MOU with Fire which was needed. We're a small city and very lean. It may not be possible to compete with other cities. We need to look at other incentives for staff. Overtime was most concerning for me. I had talked with Chief Cash and appreciate the corrective measures. What can we do to fix things? What can we do to have a good working environment here? We need to implement something to correct these issues."

Council Member Robles said, "It's always hard to compete with other cities but we have to find a happy medium. For Fire and Police, we have to look at the possibility for potential liabilities with excessive overtime. Safety is utmost. Just need to continue on."

Council Member Costa commented that he agreed that overtime must be looked at. He further said, "We need to look at the Paid Call Firefighter fee schedule. As the City Council we need to look at what Guadalupe needs. Yes, we have mutual aid strike teams but what are we getting for what we're giving as it might relate to overtime? What's the positive? Scheduling needs to be looked at. We need our tax revenue to come back to the City."

Mayor Julian added that the City has a responsibility to budget accordingly and make sure that Public Safety and Public Works staff stay. No more hiring? Can we freeze that? Department heads need to justify whether to hire or not. All expenditures should be reviewed on monthly basis. We might need financial data on a more frequent basis than quarterly. He stressed again the need for more revenues.

Council Member Cardenas asked about the overtime variances for both Fire and Police and whether amendments to the budget were going to be made. Ms. Zarate said she was not going to make those amendments at this time. The resolution shows amendments are to be made to Enterprise Funds and Street Funds.

Motion made by Council Member Ramirez and 2nd by Council Member Costa Jr. to accept the Second Quarter FY 2020-21 Financial Report and Budget Review. 5/0 passed.

Motion made by Council Member Costa Jr. and 2nd by Council Member Robles to accept Resolution 2021-11 approving budget amendments to the FY 2020-21 budget. 5/0 passed.

10. Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City to apply for the Community Development Block Group Coronavirus Response Round 2 & 3 (CDBG-CV2 & CV3) program.

Written Report: Sonia Rios Ventura- RCDCC Community Development Manager

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-12 to apply for the Community Development Block Group Coronavirus Response 2 & 3 (CDBG- CV2 & CV3) grant program funds to expand the COVID-19 (CV1 high risk household's food delivery service, to include hiring a full-time Coronavirus Community Services Coordinator (RCDCC employee), buy needed equipment, convert one room in the Senior Center into a community food pantry, and execute the grant if awarded.

The Department of Housing and Community Development posted their notice of funding availability on December 18, 2020 for the Coronavirus Response Round 2 & 3 grant allocation. The allocation for the City is \$308,127. The City held a public meeting on December 7, 2020 where the Rural Community Development Corporation of California (RCDCC) presented the program grant and asked for community feedback. It was suggested that the City provide resident with subsistence payments for rent and utilities and that the food delivery service be expanded. The City determined that the funds would be used to expand the food delivery program and look at converting a room in the Senior Center into a community pantry which would be open to the public at set hours.

Ms. Sonia Rios-Ventura gave an update on the Coronavirus Community Services Coordinator position. She said that a decision had yet to be made whether it would be one full-time or two part-time positions for a two-year term. This position(s) would handle activities related to the City's weekly food distribution and other food bank distributions in the City. She also mentioned that there would be an electric vehicle, a charging station, as well as a pallet jack.

Council Member Ramirez suggested another revenue avenue for the purchase of an electric vehicle. He said that the 3C Energy and the Air Pollution Control District have monies that potentially could be used for this purpose.

Council Member Robles asked the status of the hiring process. Ms. Rios-Ventura said they had interviewed candidates last month. However, because it has yet to be decided if there will be one full-time position or two part-time positions and what the job responsibilities for a full-time position would be, no action has been taken to hire yet.

Lorena Zarate asked Ms. Rios-Ventura if the person or persons to be hired will be on the City payroll and she said, "No, will be on RCDCC payroll. The electric vehicle, however, will be on the City budget."

Shirley Boydston commented that Ms. Rios-Ventura said what purchases the grant would be used for, but the resolution doesn't specify the electric vehicle, charging station, pallet jack, or any other detail. The Mayor said that the report submitted to the State has the details spelled out. Ms. Rios-Ventura said a budget can be provided to the Finance Director.

Motion was made by Council Member Ramirez and 2nd by Council Member Costa Jr. to adopt Resolution 2021-12 approving an amendment to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CDBC-CV1) Standard Agreement to add additional funds from the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response round 2 and 3 NOFA dated December 18, 2020. 5/0 passed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Todd Bodem asked to have "Cannabis Discussion" on the March 9, 2021 meeting. Also, the "Oso Flaco" issue will be brought back to the March 9th meeting. For a future agenda item, Council Member Cardenas mentioned that the City will be celebrating it's 75th anniversary on August 3rd this year and suggested collaborating with City businesses and organizations for a celebration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - COUNCIL ACTIVITY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chief Cash asked for clarification on previous discussion regarding corrective measure for Public Safety. He asked what information does the Council want on the Airport contract? He questioned the comment from Council regarding a hiring freeze as he has two police officer candidates for the Airport. Philip Sinco, City Attorney, said that the Council was not directing a hiring freeze. The Mayor said, "Look at each position being justifiable before hiring. We're not just stopping hiring." Todd Bodem said, "It takes a minimum of six months to hire police officers. We should be in a better financial situation."

Council Members Ramirez and Cardenas had a zoom meeting with UCSB researcher, Mario Espinosa. There was a survey to gather data to help address health needs. This is a joint effort with Santa Maria. There is a mobile health unit at Cal Poly looked at to partner with County to bring vaccines to give here in the City. The Mayor said that he had filled out the survey. Council Member Robles emphasized everyone to get the vaccine when it becomes available.

Council Member Cardenas attended the February 18th SBCAG in the Mayor's absence. This was her first time attending. She said the meeting was interesting as she saw another layer of government. She also said there was a discussion of RHNA, and the State mentioned that the numbers presented were after they had convinced the State to lower the numbers. Only three cities voted "no". All other cities in the County voted "yes". Mayor commented that it was good that SBCAG staff was able to lower the numbers.

The Mayor handed out information from a CalVans meeting held on February 11th which he was unable to attend. On February 17th the Mayor attended a Central Coast Community Energy meeting. They meet each quarter, and he represents both Guadalupe and Solvang. He said that monies were available for electric vehicles. There is an upcoming Air Pollution Control meeting on March 3rd and a special CCWA meeting on March 10th.

A Capital Campaign 4'x8' poster for LeRoy Park to measure contributions was requested to be put up either at the City parking lot or the corner of Guadalupe and 10th Streets. Decision was made to place the poster at the City parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Cardenas and 2nd by Council Member Ramirez to adjourn Meeting. 5/0 passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Prepared by:


Amelia M. Villegas, City Clerk

Approved by:


Ariston Julian, Mayor