

CONCERNS REGARDING AMERICAN LEGION POST #371, GUADALUPE CA

FINANCES:

- First and foremost is my concern regarding the finances of Post 371 under the leadership of John Velasquez. It is my understanding that when asked for the Post's Federal Tax Identification Number for purposes of a charitable donation Mr. Velasquez cited an invalid number and when pressed further, he did not have the information. Is the Post collecting funds utilizing an invalid tax exemption for non-profit organizations? Does the Post even have a valid Tax Identification Number? Have they been illegally collecting funds as a tax-exempt non-profit organization?
- I have personally witnessed Mr. Velasquez disbursing funds from the Auxiliary account without consent or authorization from the Auxiliary for an event that was neither explained to or authorized by the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary was never reimbursed for these funds which amounted to over \$800. No explanation was ever offered to the Auxiliary for this event.
- Liquor license. Did the Post have a liquor license to operate the bar? If so, was the license sold and if so, was this sale authorized by the membership of the American Legion members? Was there a motion, what was the number, who proposed the motion, etc. What happened to these funds?
- Mr. Velasquez controlled all activities that occurred at the Memorial Building, including all funds generated by rental of the building. Was any of this money ever accounted for or given to the City of Guadalupe since the building does belong to the city?

Post By Laws

- It is also my understanding that all American Legion Posts maintain valid By Laws voted upon by the members of the Post. When asked for said By Laws Mr. Velasquez stated that Post 371 does not have any By Laws. Election of officers, meetings, membership/dues, collection and/or disbursements of funds, and/or any other operations that are governed by by laws.

Building Access

- Mr. Velasquez has installed locks on every door in the building and maintains the only set of keys. Other Veteran Organizations are not allowed to access any storage space or other meeting rooms in spite of the fact that they are not being used by American Legion.

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2022

CITY OF GUADALUPE
City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

at 7:35 pm

- Given the fact that the Veterans Memorial Building is owned by the city of Guadalupe allegedly for the use and benefit of all veterans, why are all veterans not allowed access to the building including all meeting rooms and equitable storage? Why aren't all veteran organizations allowed use of the facilities for fund raising as well? Where do all the funds from the events held by Mr. Velasquez go? Who are they benefitting and how are these funds accounted for? I believe this is a particularly important topic given the fact that the American Legion is a non-profit organization governed by both federal and state laws. Where is the accountability?

Penny Chamousis

pchamousis@yahoo.com

Juana Escobar

From: Todd Bodem
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 2:08 PM
To: Juana Escobar
Subject: FW: Guadalupe Fire Dept

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2022

CITY OF GUADALUPE
City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

From: Rob Doty <roadwarrior51@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Todd Bodem <tbodem@ci.guadalupe.ca.us>
Subject: Guadalupe Fire Dept

Dear Todd

We are writing to you today to request fair treatment of our local Guadalupe Firefighters. It has come to my attention that an MOU offer from the City has demanded pay cuts, loss of incentives, and schedule changes unprecedented in the fire service. They are already the lowest paid department in the county, and inflation is hurting the average worker already.

Remove this offer, and please consider treating these workers fairly. Other departments/numerous employees are being hired and receiving pay raises this year. We thank you for consideration on this matter.

Thank you.

Robert and Teresa Doty

Guadalupe CA 93434

Sent from my iPhone

Juana Escobar

From: Todd Bodem
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 2:08 PM
To: Juana Escobar
Subject: FW: Guadalupe Fire Dept.

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2022

CITY OF GUADALUPE
City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

From: cherrirobinson@aol.com <cherrirobinson@aol.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 11:12 AM

To: Todd Bodem <tbodem@ci.guadalupe.ca.us>

Subject: Guadalupe Fire Dept.

Dear City Council/ Representative,

I am writing to you today to request fair treatment of our local Guadalupe Firefighters. It has come to my attention that an MOU offer from the City has demanded pay cuts, loss of incentives, and schedule changes unprecedented in the fire service. They are already the lowest paid department in the county, and inflation is hurting the average worker already. Remove this offer, and please consider treating these workers fairly. Other departments/numerous employees are being hired and receiving pay raises this year. I thank you for consideration on this matter.

Thank you.

-A Concerned Citizen

Todd Bodem

From: Todd Bodem
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 7:53 AM
To: 'Shirley Boydston'
Subject: RE: Agenda no. 15

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2022

CITY OF GUADALUPE
City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Hi Shirley,

I sent a message over to you folks it must have go lost in the 'shuffle.' This is an official notice telling you to hold off on paying rent until then this gets settled between both parties.

Would you like your memo discussed tomorrow night?

Thanks,

Todd

From: Shirley Boydston <guadnana28@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Todd Bodem <tbodem@ci.guadalupe.ca.us>
Subject: Agenda no. 15

Todd Bodem

RECEIVED

From: Shirley Boydston <guadhana28@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 26, 2022 5:39 PM
To: Todd Bodem
Subject: Spaces per Agenda 15.

JUN 26 2022
CITY OF GUADALUPE
City Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Mrs. Pelton asked me to reiterate that space 10 and space 11 are part of the Rancho de Guadalupe Historical Society Museum space (12) and are NOT storage spaces. We wish to avoid any confusion in future deliberations. thank you. sb

Todd Bodem

City of Guadalupe Administrator

re: agenda item no. 15 06-25-22

A lot of old history is involved in the MOU, most of it spot-on.

Please see page 9 of 9. The RANCHO DE GUADALUPE Historical Society has not received notice to not pay rent to American Legion Post #371.

See also the OLD schematic of the building. The Museum of the Historical Society is in space designated as 12. Spaces 10 and 11 are contiguous with that main building and are not storage spaces. MANY years ago the "city" had an office in space 11 with access from the outside corridor. That door is no longer operable.

smb