



Minutes Town Council Regular Meeting January 11, 2024

Minutes of the Guadalupe Town Council Regular Meeting held on January 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 South Avenida del Yaqui, Council Chambers, Guadalupe, Arizona.

Valerie Molina
Mayor

Ricardo Vital
Vice Mayor

Mary Bravo
Councilmember

Esteban F. V. Fuerte
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez
Councilmember

Anita Cota Soto
Councilmember

Agendas/Minutes:
www.guadalupeaz.org

Town Council Chambers
9241 S. Avenida del Yaqui
Guadalupe, AZ 85283
Phone: (480) 730-3080
Fax: (480)-505-5368

A. Vice Mayor Vital called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Vice Mayor Ricardo Vital, Councilmember Mary Bravo, Councilmember Esteban F. V. Fuerte, Councilmember Elvira Osuna, and Councilmember Anita Cota Soto.

Staff Present: Jeff Kulaga – Town Manager/Clerk and Rocío Ruiz – Deputy Town Clerk
Staff Present via Zoom: Barry Aylstock – Town Attorney

C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Soto provided the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the October 26, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Soto to approve agenda item D1; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 5-0.

1. Councilmembers approved the October 26, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Vice Mayor Vital called upon Patricia Jimenez to address Council. Ms. Jimenez outlined the importance of agency representation in negotiations, distinguishing between buyer and seller sides. Ms. Jimenez emphasized the role of real estate agents in representing clients with confidentiality, accountability, and loyalty. Sub-agents, however, lack fiduciary duties. Ms. Jimenez shared a personal anecdote about a former Mayor, Anna Hernandez, who expressed the need for a Town Manager from Guadalupe. Ms. Jimenez urged attendees to assess the representation in real estate transactions, ensuring adherence to fiduciary duties rather than self-interest. Ms. Jimenez concluded with a tribute to Anna Hernandez's dedication to Guadalupe.

F. MAYOR and COUNCIL PRESENTATION:

Vice Mayor Vital read a proclamation declaring the month of January as Anti-Human Trafficking Month.

Scott September from Not in Our City thanked Guadalupe for addressing human trafficking and adopting a proclamation against it. Mr. September introduced Neece Jackson, who also expressed gratitude for the proclamation and highlighted its importance in uniting communities against human trafficking. Jackson invited everyone to the annual event on February 13, 2024, at Grand Canyon University Arena, aiming to raise awareness about child safety and invited all attendees to join.



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Councilmember Soto thanked Not in Our City for the dedication to protecting children and highlighted the Town Council's commitment to the cause. Councilmember Soto shared an incident where a community tip led to the shutdown of a human trafficking location, emphasizing the importance of listening to community concerns. Councilmember Soto encouraged believing children when speaking up about potential harm and thanked the Council for supporting initiatives to protect all residents.

Councilmember Bravo emphasized the importance of listening to children, young adults, and the elderly regarding human trafficking concerns. Councilmember Bravo underscored the need for community awareness and proactive measures to protect vulnerable individuals. Despite the challenges, Councilmember Bravo urged the community to stay vigilant and take action when needed.

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

1. MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE

Vice Mayor Vital stated Council will receive an update from representatives from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) regarding public safety in the Town of Guadalupe.

Vice Mayor Vital called upon Captain Lee to address Council. Captain Lee presented a PowerPoint addressing concerns regarding response times for priority one calls in District One, which includes areas such as East Mesa, Queen Creek, Chandler, Gilbert, and Guadalupe. Captain Lee provided data showing average response times for different beats within the district, ranging from five minutes and twelve seconds to thirteen minutes and forty-three seconds. Captain Lee explained how response times can vary based on factors such as deputy availability and call location. Captain Lee also shared statistics for priority three calls, which are general report calls, with an average response time of thirteen minutes and thirty-seven seconds.

In response to a question from Councilmember Bravo's regarding call prioritization in Guadalupe, Captain Lee stated that dispatchers determine priority levels based on various factors like suspect presence and urgency. Captain Lee noted the challenge of assessing urgency from stressed callers and shared statistics on response times. Captain Lee empathized with residents' frustration, understanding it stems from long-standing concerns. While acknowledging the difficulty in quantifying emotions, Captain Lee emphasized the commitment to enhancing response times and fostering collaboration with the community for improvement.

Captain Lee presented data and insights on various community issues, including response times, abandoned vehicle calls, and fireworks incidents. Captain Lee provided statistics on response times for priority calls in different areas and discussed challenges in interpreting data related to abandoned vehicle reports. Captain Lee highlighted efforts to work with vehicle owners before towing and emphasized the community service aspect of addressing abandoned vehicles. Captain Lee shared information on fireworks incidents and emphasized the importance of adhering to fireworks regulations.

In response to a question from Councilmember Soto's regarding fireworks calls' origin, Captain Lee clarified that the data includes all calls received by dispatch, whether from community members or transferred from Tempe. Captain Lee explained that if a call about Guadalupe came to Tempe Police Department, it would be transferred to MCSO. Thus, the data encompasses all service calls managed by dispatch. While noting dispatch received twelve calls on that occasion, Captain Lee acknowledged more throughout the year, though exact figures weren't available at the moment.



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Captain Lee elaborated on the fireworks call data, noting a total of twenty-one calls in December and twelve during the period from Christmas to January 6th. Captain Lee suggested community expectations might influence call frequency. Emphasizing the need for deputy education on enforcement, Captain Lee asked for community assistance in providing evidence or identifying sources, given the challenge of pinpointing the problem's exact origin due to its widespread nature.

In response to a question from Councilmember Bravo regarding enforcing fireworks ordinances, Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, cited the difficulty of enforcement without direct evidence. Mr. Kulaga explained the challenge posed by ordinances and state statutes requiring visual confirmation of the act. Councilmember Bravo echoed frustration, noting recent changes in firework usage contradicting community traditions. Highlighting safety concerns, Councilmember Bravo urged a review of ordinances to enable enforcement, stressing proactive measures for community safety.

Captain Lee stressed the hurdles in enforcing regulations due to insufficient evidence, citing constraints from town ordinances and state statutes. Captain Lee noted the challenge in prosecuting cases lacking clear evidence or victims, appreciating any aid in tackling issues and welcoming further talks on fireworks. Councilmember Soto suggested a comprehensive review of ordinances, involving legal experts to address any gaps. Captain Lee reiterated the importance of evidence, likening it to traffic violations where clear proof is crucial for prosecution. Transitioning to party permits, Captain Lee advocated for real-time permit information for better enforcement. Mr. Kulaga assured improvements in coordination and enforcement of permit regulations.

Councilmember Bravo shared personal stories of hosting parties and stressed the need to comply with party permit regulations. Councilmember Bravo recounted experiences of law enforcement checking permits and security measures, expressing cooperation and recognizing the importance of the checks for community safety. Highlighting hosts' responsibility to follow ordinances and prevent disruptions, Councilmember Bravo emphasized the importance of town-wide understanding and adherence to regulations for maintaining order and safety. Captain Lee concurred, noting that compliance with regulations helps prevent problems and allows law enforcement to focus on more pressing issues.

Captain Lee addressed key issues like trespassing, thefts, and domestic violence, citing recent interventions by law enforcement. Stressing open communication and transparency, Captain Lee committed to forging a robust partnership with the Town to tackle community concerns. Captain Lee also thanked everyone for the chance to talk and work together to boost safety and relations with the Town of Guadalupe.

2. ONE ARIZONA OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS AGREEMENT UPDATE

Vice Mayor Vital stated Council will receive an update on status of the National Opioid Settlements between the State of Arizona and pharmaceutical companies/distributors, where the Town of Guadalupe is scheduled to receive a total of \$66,400 from 2024 through 2038. On Oct. 28, 2021, the Town Council approved the One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement (C2020-52A). The Agreement amended the One Arizona Opioid Agreement (C2020-52), which was approved by the Town Council on December 10, 2020, authorizing the Town's participation and inclusion in a state-wide settlement with the opioid industry. Town staff recommends the use of Opioid Settlement Agreement funds for Naloxone resources for overdose treatment by Guadalupe Fire Department (GFD), Naloxone leave-behind nasal kits by GFD and Community Action Program (CAP), as well as staff training and community information.



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Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager/Clerk introduced Amanda Nelson, Assistant to the Town Manager, to update Council on the National Opioid Settlements between the State of Arizona and pharmaceutical companies/distributors. Mrs. Nelson provided background information on the One Arizona Settlement Agreement, highlighting the Town's involvement and the allocation of funds over an 18-year period. Mrs. Nelson explained that the Maricopa County Department of Public Health is overseeing the distribution of funds to municipalities, including Guadalupe. The funds are earmarked for opioid abatement strategies, focusing on six categories, with an emphasis on drug use and harm reduction, particularly in preventing overdose deaths. The recommended strategies include providing naloxone resources for first responders, distributing intranasal naloxone kits, and conducting community education and training. The measures aim to supplement existing efforts by the GFD and enhance overdose treatment capabilities within the community.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager/Clerk stated the proposed use of funds from the One Arizona Settlement Agreement, emphasizing the need for augmentation to existing efforts in the community. Mr. Kulaga highlighted the importance of the funds in providing additional treatments for first responders, distributing naloxone kits, and conducting educational initiatives. Town staff recommends approval.

In response to a question from Councilmember Bravo regarding the allocation of funds for 2022 and 2023, Mrs. Nelson stated that the funds were retained and later assigned to regional programs, benefiting community members. Mrs. Nelson explained that there was a delay in communication between county staff and Town staff, which caused some initial confusion about allotments. Mrs. Nelson clarified that the funds were not wasted but used for regional programs. Councilmember Bravo also inquired about the distribution of naloxone kits to the community, to which Mrs. Nelson mentioned that while the Town did not have specific statistics from GFD, the Town is exploring opportunities to obtain the kits for free and would provide instruction on how to use the kits as part of the education efforts.

3. CLAIMS

Vice Mayor Vital stated Council will consider and may take action to approve the checks registered for October 2023, totaling \$518,522.91.

Motion by Councilmember Soto to approve agenda item D3; second by Councilmember Fuerte. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 5-0.

Councilmembers approved the checks registered for October 2023, totaling \$518,522.91.

4. CLAIMS

Vice Mayor Vital stated Council will consider and may take action to approve the checks registered for November 2023, totaling \$419,060.08.

Motion by Councilmember Soto to approve agenda item D4; second by Councilmember Fuerte. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 5-0.

Councilmembers approved the checks registered for November 2023, totaling \$419,060.08.

H. TOWN MANAGER/CLERK'S COMMENTS

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk

- Announced Town Hall will be closed on Jan. 15 for MLK Jr. Day.
- Announced SRP event Jan 23 at the Mercado for residents to conserve energy.



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I. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilmember Bravo

- Expressed gratitude for the past Holidays and hopeful for the New Year.

Councilmember Fuerte

- Announced TGLL registration is taking place Jan. 13th – 21st.

Councilmember Osuna

- Thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember Soto

- Thanked staff for their work.

Vice Mayor Vital

- Announced Vaccine Clinic Jan. 17 at the tribal building.
- Announced Jan. 15 Ninja Warrior Event.
- Announced Tribal building will be closed on Jan. 15 for MLK Jr. Day.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Fuerte to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Soto. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.


Valerie Molina, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the January 11, 2024, Town of Guadalupe, Town Council Regular Meeting. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.


Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk