

## Minutes Town Council Regular Meeting May 27, 2021

Valerie Molina  
Mayor

Ricardo Vital  
Vice Mayor

Mary Bravo  
Councilmember

Gloria Cota  
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna  
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez  
Councilmember

Anita Cota Soto  
Councilmember

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

Minutes of the Guadalupe Town Council Regular Meeting held on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 6:00 P.M., at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 South Avenida del Yaqui, Museum Room, Guadalupe, Arizona.

A. Mayor Molina called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

### B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Valerie Molina. The following councilmembers participated via video conference: Vice Mayor Ricardo Vital, Councilmember Mary Bravo, Councilmember Gloria Cota, Councilmember Elvira Osuna, Councilmember Joe Sánchez, and Councilmember Anita Cota Soto (arrived at 7:14 p.m.)

Staff Present: Jeff Kulaga – Town Manager / Clerk, Jennifer Drury – Assistant to the Town Manager, Robert Thaxton, Finance Director, Cachi Castorena, MCSO Deputy, and David Ledyard – Town Attorney

### C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Molina called for a moment of silence to reflect on the violence occurring in the community and the youth that are suffering. Mayor Molina then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the May 13, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to approve agenda items D1; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

1. Councilmembers approved the May 13, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No one spoke.

### F. MAYOR and COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

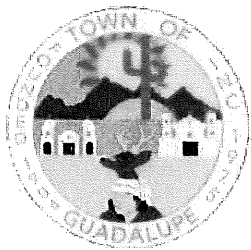
Mayor Molina read a proclamation declaring Sunday, June 6, 2021, as Graduation Day in the Town of Guadalupe.

### G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

#### 1. PUBLIC HEARING – VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 5911 EAST CALLE GUADALUPE ROAD & 9215 SOUTH CALLE VAUO NAWI

**Motion by Councilmember Sánchez to open the public hearing; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

Mayor Molina opened the public hearing to receive public input regarding a variance request of the Town of Guadalupe Code of Ordinances to install an 8' wall for security purposes at 5911 East Calle Guadalupe Road and 9215 South Calle Vaou Nawi. The Applicant is Gary Jordan.



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Current Town Ordinance allows:

§ 154.065 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS: R-1-9 AND R-1-6. (C) *Permitted accessory uses.* (5) Fences, not to exceed four feet in height in front or street side yards or seven feet in height in the side or rear yards.

§ 154.067 COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS; C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL, C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL, AND C-M MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL. (5) In the C-M District, outdoor storage shall be screened from public street view and adjacent properties by opaque fences or walls, six feet in height. *(related to item G2)*

Gary Jordan, Applicant, stated that he is requesting a variance to raise the height of a perimeter wall for security purposes.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that agenda items G1 and G2 are a public hearing and variance request to increase the wall height from 6' to 8' along Calle Vauro Nawi. Agenda items G3 and G4 are a public hearing and a rezoning request. Staff recently received 3 letters and a petition signed by 12 residents, all in opposition to the variance request. Mayor Molina read the letters in opposition to the variance request from Rebecca Jimenez, Geronimo G. Terrazas Sr., and Frank J. Lopez.

Mr. Kulaga discussed a previous rezoning request concerning this property that occurred in March, 1982 to rezone the property from R1-9 to I-2 General Industrial Park. The property is presently zoned R1-9. The property has historically been out of compliance with the uses allowed in the Town Zoning Code. R1-9 allows for one single family residential home per 9,000 square feet.

Mayor Molina invited public input.

Angelina Lopez, Guadalupe resident, stated that she lives across the street from 9215 South Calle Vauro Nawi. She attended the Town Council meeting in 1982 when the Council denied the request to change the zoning of this property. She thanked the property owner for cleaning up the property. The rezoning request should have been requested before the new owner moved onto the property. She voiced concern that there have been many fires on the property; it is unsafe and impacts family members that are asthmatic; lives are more important; and, that the fence will attract graffiti.

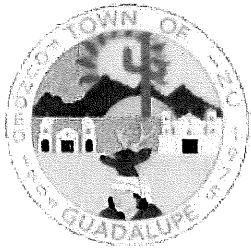
Frank Lopez, Guadalupe resident, referenced the 1982 rezoning request. He noted that this is about safety and asked the Council to support his family.

Bertha Hernandez, Guadalupe resident, stated that her fear is that a fire that will extend to her property which will impact family members that are asthmatic. Her family has experienced the impacts of two fires on the property.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that this property is formerly known as Horner's Corners and has operated for many years as a lumber/salvage yard. Further research would be needed to determine what occurred in 1982 when a rezoning request was submitted to the Town Council. The property content has evolved from scrap wood to firewood. Per the Guadalupe Fire Chief, the height of the firewood piles are in compliance with fire standards.

In response to a question, Gary Jordan, Applicant, stated that the reason he is requesting a variance in wall height is to prevent people from jumping over the fence, stealing, and to provide more security.

In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga stated that the barbed wire on the canal side of the property was installed to prevent trespassing, vandalism, and theft. He stated that the Town Code does not regulate barbed wire. Mr. Jordan stated that although he dislikes the barbed wire, that is his only alternative at this time. People continue to steal wood from his property. There are security cameras on the property.



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Mr. Jordan stated that he could consider installing an electric fence.

Mr. Kulaga confirmed that a 6' high fence is currently the allowable height for commercial mixed use; and, the allowable fence height in R1-9 zoning is 4' high. The variance request is to install an 8' fence around the entire property.

In response to a question, Council recently approved a variance request to install an 8' wall at another location in Town. The request was made due to security reasons.

Mr. Jordan stated that this business has been in operation since 1982. The neighbors are concerned about how the property used to operate versus how it is currently operating. There has never been a fire on this property.

In response to a question regarding what will be placed on the southern most parcel, Mr. Jordan stated that he could move the wood back from the wall and keep the wood piles lower in that area. If the request is denied, Mr. Jordan stated that it is unknown what he will do with the wood piles.

A Councilmember discussed how the property has historically been out of compliance with its zoning status. The Applicant was premature to move the wood onto the property given the property's current zoning.

Mr. Jordan discussed how the property was much more dangerous before he took over this business. He discussed how high the fire danger was from the previous business operation, which was not questioned. Mr. Jordan emphasized that he has been in operation for 39 years and there has been no fire; and, that he has cleaned up the property since he took over.

A Councilmember discussed the importance of safety, how change is inevitable, and consideration of the installation of a fire sprinkler system. It is unclear if an 8' wall would contain a fire.

Mr. Jordan outlined measures he has taken to address safety such as creating fire breaks to keep the wood piles 10' away from the walls, extra gates have been installed for Fire Department access, if needed. There are several fire hydrants on and around the property. If a pile of wood catches on fire, it does not mean that all of the wood on the property would catch on fire. The fire breaks allow the Fire Department access to move around the piles of wood, should a fire arise.

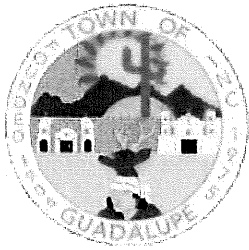
In response to questions, Mr. Jordan stated that if the 8' fence height is not granted, there will be safety and security problems on the property. A majority of the wood piles are 8' high.

A Councilmember voiced concern that if a fire did arise, there would be embers that may impact surrounding properties.

A community member voiced concern about the barbed wire. On the commercial-mixed portion of the property, the wood is located 10' to 15' from the street, which needs to be moved farther back onto the property.

In response to a question regarding a 10' to 12' pile of pecan firewood located on the residential portion of the lot, David Ledyard, Town Attorney, stated that R1-9 zoning does not allow the storage of firewood for commercial purposes; however, it is unclear what the history of this property as it relates to its zoning status. Residents are allowed to store wood in R1-9 zoning for personal use.

A community member discussed how the former property owner managed the property and how the property was in non-compliance at that time. The residential portion of the lot should not have wood on it. Residents are also concerned about the height of the wood piles along Guadalupe Road and how they could potentially catch the overhead power lines on fire.



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**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to close the public hearing; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

Mayor Molina closed the public hearing.

Held a public hearing to receive public input regarding a variance request of the Town of Guadalupe Code of Ordinances to install an 8' wall for security purposes at 5911 East Calle Guadalupe Road and 9215 South Calle Vaou Nawi. The Applicant is Gary Jordan.

On parcels A & B, the allowable wall height per code in C-M Mixed Use Commercial is 6'. On parcel C, the allowable wall height in R1-9 zoning is 4'.

## **2. VARIANCE REQUEST FOR 5911 EAST CALLE GUADALUPE ROAD & 9215 SOUTH CALLE VAOU NAWI**

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that this item is a variance request to install an 8' wall for security purposes at 5911 East Calle Guadalupe Road and 9215 South Calle Vaou Nawi. The Applicant is Gary Jordan.

Mr. Kulaga noted that there are three criteria when considering variances:

1. Special circumstances must exist that deprive the property owner privileges enjoyed by others in the same district; and
2. Special circumstances were not created by the owner or applicant; and
3. Authorizing the variance would not materially be detrimental to persons residing or working within the Town.

Current Town Ordinance allows:

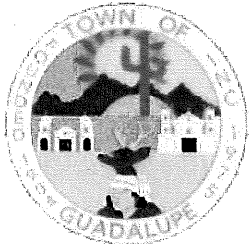
§ 154.065 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS: R-1-9 AND R-1-6. (C) Permitted accessory uses. (5) Fences, not to exceed four feet in height in front or street side yards or seven feet in height in the side or rear yards.

§ 154.067 COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS; C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL, C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL, AND C-M MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL. (5) In the C-M District, outdoor storage shall be screened from public street view and adjacent properties by opaque fences or walls, six feet in height. If approved, the Applicant would be authorized to build a wall 4' higher than the existing Town Code R1-9 height limit of 4 and 2' higher than existing Town Code C-Mix height limit of 6'. *(related to item G1)*

Mr. Kulaga, acting as the Zoning Administrator, assessed the variance request and found that special circumstances do exist, primarily due to the theft, crime, and trespassing that are conditions not created by the property owner. The variance findings revealed that by adding height to the wall would improve property safety, security, and would decrease theft, vandalism and trespassing; it would allow the property owner to better protect his investment in the property. The block wall would improve the South Calle Vaou Nawi street frontage and would be located 10' from the street. The Town intends to build a proper sidewalk, curb, and gutter within the 10' street frontage.

As Zoning Administrator, Mr. Kulaga stated that he recommends granting the variance to increase wall height so the property owner is not deprived of special privileges, where the circumstances were not created by the property owner. An increase in wall height will not detrimentally impact adjacent properties.

*Councilmember Soto joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.*



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In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga stated that 21 property owners within 150' of the property lines were notified via postal mail. The variance request was also published in the newspaper, per Arizona Revised Statutes, and the property was posted with the variance request.

Councilmembers discussed the possibility of continuing this agenda item. The Council has an obligation to the residents, the community, and to the business owner.

In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga stated that he is unaware of fire sprinkler requirements for outdoor storage. Typically fire sprinkler systems are found in enclosed buildings. Mr. Jordan originally owned parcel A – the northern most property, and has recently acquired parcels B and C.

Councilmembers voiced hesitation and concern regarding voting on this item; what can be done to make residents feel safer; where will the firewood piles be moved to if the variance is not granted; and, additional dialogue with residents and Mr. Jordan would be helpful. Mr. Kulaga noted that outdoor storage of wood is allowable in Commercial Mix zoning.

Mr. Kulaga stated that if Council were to continue this agenda item, that he would recommend the June 24, 2021, Council meeting. Perhaps the residents and property owner could reach a compromise prior to the June 24, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to continue agenda item G2 to the June 24, 2021, Regular Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Cota. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

Mayor Molina, Vice Mayor Vital, and Councilmember Bravo volunteered to participate in a meeting with interested residents and Mr. Jordan prior to the upcoming Council meeting.

Councilmembers *continued to the June 24, 2021 Regular Council Meeting* a variance request to install an 8' wall for security purposes at 5911 East Calle Guadalupe Road and 9215 South Calle Vauro Nawi. The Applicant is Gary Jordan.

*Councilmember Osuna left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.*

### **3. PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING REQUEST FOR 9215 SOUTH CALLE VAURO NAWI**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to open the public hearing; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

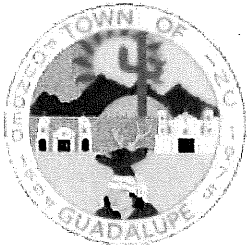
**Motion by Councilmember Soto to continue the public hearing for agenda item G3 to the June 24, 2021, Regular Council Meeting; second by Vice Mayor Vital. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

*Continued the public hearing to the June 24, 2021, Regular Council Meeting* for a rezoning request from R1-9 to C-M Commercial Mixed Use so that the current use of the property will be consistent and in compliance with Town of Guadalupe Code §154.067 – Commercial Districts C-M Mixed Use Commercial. The property is located at 9215 South Calle Vauro Nawi, APN 301-44-004 and is presently zoned R1-9, Single-family Residential. The Applicant is Gary Jordan. *(related to item G4)*

### **4. REZONING REQUEST – 9215 SOUTH CALLE VAURO NAWI**

**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to continue agenda item G4 to the June 24, 2021, Regular Council Meeting; second by Vice Mayor Vital. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

*Council continued to the June 24, 2021, Regular Council Meeting, a rezoning request for 9215 South Calle Vauro Nawi, APN 301-44-004, from R1-9 Single-family Residential, to C-M Commercial Mixed*



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Use. If approved, the current use of the property, outdoor firewood retailer and storage, would be in compliance with the Town of Guadalupe Code of Ordinances. If denied, the current use is in non-conformance with allowable uses under R1-9 Single-family Residential zoning. *(related to item G3)*

## 5. COVID-19 ACTION UPDATE

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided an update from Town staff regarding current Town of Guadalupe COVID-19 positive case rates, vaccination information, current Town efforts to continue to safeguard public health and safety in response to the Coronavirus. Mr. Kulaga stated that even though COVID-19 positive case rates are trending downward, everyone is encouraged to continue washing their hands, wear a mask, socially distance, and get vaccinated.

There are a number of vaccination events coming up. Information about these events are on the Town's social media pages and the Town website.

## 6. ADOPT TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022 BUDGET

Councilmembers considered the adoption the Fiscal Year (FY22) 2021-22 Tentative Budget and set the time and date of 6:00 P.M., June 24, 2021, for the public hearing for final adoption of the Town of Guadalupe FY22 tentative budget. The FY22 tentative budget totals \$11,067,259 which includes funding for a general fund budget of \$5,934,244; \$2,776,193 for enterprise and special funds; \$322,974 for municipal bond debt service; and a \$2,033,848 grant fund.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, discussed Town amenities, programs and services, and a breakdown of Town employees, including the average part-time wage. 54% of the entire budget is comprised of the General Fund. The Grant Fund comprises 18% of the budget. The budget includes 13 separate funds.

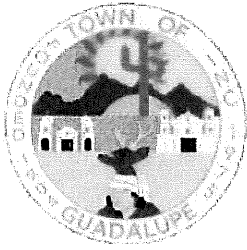
Mr. Kulaga discussed the total annual expenses for FY18 – FY21. Staff is forecasting an approximate \$600,000 increase in local sales tax revenue. Due to the closure of two hotels, staff anticipates the loss of tax revenue of approximately \$250,000 annually. Mr. Kulaga then discussed the various areas and activities that are funded by the General Fund.

The Arizona State Legislature (Legislature) is considering the implementation of a flat tax. If approved, the 91 cities and towns in Arizona would collectively lose \$1.9 billion in state shared revenues, which would result in a \$325,000 (8%) reduction in revenue annually beginning in 2024. There is a two-year lag in state shared revenues. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is working with state officials in an effort to hold cities and towns harmless. The Legislature is on hold until June 10, 2021. City and town officials have contacted their legislative representatives to express their concerns and the detrimental impact a flat tax would have on municipal budgets.

Mr. Kulaga reviewed activities and sources that fund the General Fund. 18% of the General Fund balance is needed to balance the proposed budget, which is not sustainable. Approximately 60% of the Town's budget is for fire and police services. Should further budget reductions become necessary, the cost of fire and police services would be assessed.

Mr. Kulaga discussed General Fund transfers to other funds, estimated revenue and expenses, and assumptions. Staff is proposing the implementation of a 5% employee wage increase, effective January 1, 2022. The last employee wage increase was in August 2017.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office annual contract has decreased by \$48,000. The Fire Department's budget has increased by \$306,000. Transfers to other funds has increased \$175,000. Information Technology system enhancements has increased the budget by \$60,000. A \$48,000 budget increase has been allocated for the demolition of the Quad Building, and \$586,000 has been budgeted for various capital projects.



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Mr. Kulaga then reviewed five-year trends for each of the various funds. Of primary concern in the General Fund and the Mercado Fund is that expenditures exceed revenues. It is anticipated that there will be a \$366,768 deficit in the General Fund in FY25.

Mr. Kulaga discussed observations and concerns regarding the Sewer/Wastewater Fund and the Solid Waste Fund forecasts. He then discussed needed capital projects, estimated costs, and timing. The Mercado Fund balance is nearing its depletion. If or when that occurs, transferring funds from the General Fund would be required to continue operating the Mercado, which would be a policy decision for Council to make in the near future. The Mercado was built in 1982 and is in need of various repairs, including a new roof, and proper drainage for the patio.

Annually, the Town budgets approximately \$70,000 for unexpected sewer line breaks. The \$6 monthly sewer utility fee charged to residents was implemented in 2002. Council may wish to revisit this fee. In the Fall, 2019, Dibble Engineering conducted a town-wide sewer line study. Five years of needed repairs were identified at a cost of approximately \$500,000 annually. The cost of the first year's repairs was funded by a grant provided by Maricopa County. Staff is seeking grant funding for the remainder of the repairs. Should Council wish to increase the monthly sewer fee, it would require a 60-day public notification process. Staff would need to prepare a fee comparison and assessment for Council consideration. The process takes 4-5 months.

In response to a question regarding how grant funding impacts the budget, Mr. Kulaga noted that staff added an additional \$1 million to the budget in the event the Town were to receive unanticipated grant funds. A  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of Council is required for the Town to exceed its expenditure limitation. David Ledyard, Town Attorney, added that there are penalties if the Town does not follow the procedures involved for exceeding municipal expenditure limitations. Mr. Kulaga noted that Council has the authority to increase the budget so that the Town has spending authority, should the town receive unanticipated grant funding.

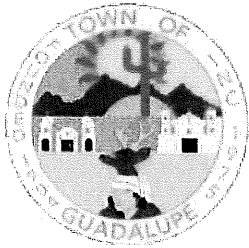
Mr. Kulaga continued his review of needed capital improvement projects to Town assets, infrastructure, and programs that are not included in the budget. He then reviewed non-discretionary items that are included in the budget and are needed to operate.

Mr. Kulaga discussed the need to generate revenues. If that does not occur, the Town will need to seek alternative service delivery to residents. The adoption of the final budget is scheduled for June 24, 2021. Mr. Kulaga noted that the Council may increase the Grant Fund by \$10 million, which would increase the overall budget by \$10 million.

A Councilmember discussed consideration of pursuing a sewer rate increase. Councilmembers voiced support for increasing the Grant Fund by \$10 million.

**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to adopt the tentative budget, FY22, totaling \$21,067,259, with an additional \$10 million being allocated to the Grant Fund; second by Vice Mayor Vital. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

Councilmembers adopted the Fiscal Year (FY22) 2021-22 Tentative Budget, *as amended*, and set the time and date of 6:00 P.M., June 24, 2021, for the public hearing for final adoption of the Town of Guadalupe FY22 tentative budget. The FY22 tentative budget totals **\$21,067,259** which includes funding for a general fund budget of \$5,934,244; \$2,776,193 for enterprise and special funds; \$322,974 for municipal bond debt service; and a **\$12,033,848** grant fund.



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## 7. TOWN WEBSITE UPDATE

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided an update regarding a refresh of the Town's website. In January, 2018, the Town refreshed its website. The contract was for three years and has since expired. Staff submitted a request for proposals and selected a new website support provider. The website provider is Civic Plus and the website 'go live' date is May 27, 2021.

In response to a question, the new website will allow for the public to make payments on-line, submit event and variance applications on-line.

*There is no material for this agenda item.*

## 8. COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE, JUNE – DECEMBER, 2021

Councilmembers reviewed the Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2021. Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that staff recommends cancelling the July 22, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to cancel the July 22, 2021, Regular Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Sánchez. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

Councilmembers cancelled the July 22, 2021, Regular Council Meeting.

## 9. 12% REVENUE SHARING / GAMING GRANT SUPPORT LETTER

Councilmembers considered a request from the Frank Elementary School Parent Teacher's Organization to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter in support of their 12% revenue sharing grant request to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that members of the Frank Elementary School Parent Teacher's Organization (PTO) are requesting that the Town write a letter of support for the PTO who will be submitting a revenue sharing application requesting \$10,000 in funding from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for family events, programs and supplies, and teacher supplies at Frank Elementary School. The application requirements for non-profit organizations is that a letter of support from the local municipality be included as part of the application packet. Staff recommends approval of this request.

In response to a question regarding how request for support letters are processed, Mr. Kulaga stated that staff needs to receive the request a minimum of two weeks prior to a Council meeting so the item can be added to a Council meeting agenda. At a previous Council meeting, Council had considered potential criteria for processing these requests. In August, staff will present criteria for processing these type of requests for Council consideration.

**Motion by Councilmember Soto to approve agenda item G9; second by Councilmember Sánchez. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

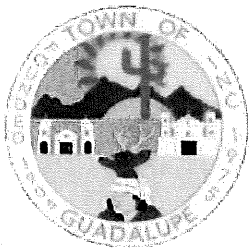
Councilmembers approved a request from the Frank Elementary School Parent Teacher's Organization to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter in support of their 12% revenue sharing grant request to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

*There is no material for this agenda item.*

## 10. PUBLIC SAFETY, POLICE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Jeff Kulaga discussed community concerns regarding recent violent activity in Town, public safety issues, and challenges. Mr. Kulaga introduced Maricopa County Sheriff's Office representatives, Lieutenant Acosta and Deputy Cachi Castorena.





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Councilmember

Elvira Osuna  
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez  
Councilmember

Anita Cota Soto  
Councilmember

Agendas/Minutes:  
[www.guadalupeaz.org](http://www.guadalupeaz.org)

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

A Councilmember discussed the increase in crime in Town. Residents are also concerned about the crime surge. Holding the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) accountable is important. MCSO needs to inform Town officials about what crimes are being committed, how crimes are being addressed by MCSO, and statistics on crime data including drug and gang activity. Community members are not providing crime related information to MCSO.

Lieutenant Acosta stated that Guadalupe has struggled with gang problems for years, and there has been a recent increase in shootings. MCSO is working with Tempe's Gang Task Force who will be assisting MCSO with the gang activity in Guadalupe. Community members may not be providing information to MCSO out of fear of retaliation. MCSO is increasing its drug enforcement and has installed cameras that provide intelligence and evidence; and has increased its patrol presence to curtail violence. The goal is to arrest the people that are causing problems in the community.

A Councilmember voiced concern about multiple MCSO vehicles parking together and suggested that this practice be discontinued; and, that patrols be increased around Town. When community members contact the MCSO dispatch center or make direct contact with deputies, they are not treated politely. It is frustrating when dispatch personnel ask for the spelling of street names.

Lieutenant Acosta stated that the purpose of having increased patrols is not so that the deputies could congregate in one area. Lieutenant Acosta outlined the process to lodge a formal complaint when community members are not treated properly and fairly. His primary concern is that MCSO is visible and deters crime. The concerns raised will be shared with his colleagues.

A Councilmember discussed how community members contact her with information about crime, versus contacting MCSO directly. Community members need to contact MCSO when problems arise. Drug dealers are running the Town.

Lieutenant Acosta stated that the MCSO Special Investigative Unit's manpower has been significantly diminished. Guadalupe's drug and gang problems are a top priority for MCSO. Community members do call in tips to MCSO, however the increase in violence and homicides is concerning.

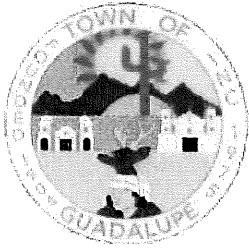
A Councilmember discussed concerns regarding the drive by shootings, drive by incidents whereby guns are being pointed at people, the clustering of MCSO vehicles at certain locations, and slow response times by MCSO. It would be helpful to receive crime data on a regular basis.

A Councilmember noted that it would be helpful if MCSO deputies were familiar with who the Town of Guadalupe elected officials are. MCSO should also be familiar with events that are occurring in the community. There seems to be a lack of interest on the part of MCSO to invest in the community. Multiple Councilmembers voiced frustration in how they were personally mistreated by MCSO personnel.

Lieutenant Acosta urged Councilmembers and community members to utilize the formal complaint process when they are not treated appropriately by MCSO personnel.

A Councilmember emphasized that the Council supports MCSO and would like to see MCSO be successful in Guadalupe.

*There is no material for this agenda item.*



Valerie Molina  
Mayor

Ricardo Vital  
Vice Mayor

Mary Bravo  
Councilmember

Gloria Cota  
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna  
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez  
Councilmember

Anita Cota Soto  
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#### H. TOWN MANAGERS' COMMENTS: None.

#### I. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

##### Councilmember Soto

- o Thanked the community members that organized a recent Peace Walk.
- o Thanked Vanessa Lu'Turio for organizing the unveiling of a mural.
- o Thanked the community for working together.

##### Councilmember Bravo

- o Thanked the community for working together.

##### Vice Mayor Vital

- o Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- o Saturday, May 29, 2021 – Vaccination event.

##### Councilmember Coto

- o Happy that the variance and rezoning discussions were tabled (continued).
- o Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for protecting the community.

##### Councilmember Sánchez

- o Thanked the Town Manager / Clerk for his preparation of the budget.

##### Mayor Molina

- o Thanked Public Works employee Luis Valenzuela for painting over graffiti along the Highline Canal.
- o Congratulated community members Alex Bookman on attending the NAIA College World Series.

#### J. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Sánchez. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 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 May 27, 2021, Town of Guadalupe, Town Council Regular Meeting. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.