

## Minutes Town Council Special Meeting March 19, 2020

Valerie Molina  
Mayor

Ricardo Vital  
Vice Mayor

Mary Bravo  
Councilmember

Anita Cota  
Councilmember

Gloria Cota  
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna  
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez  
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

Minutes of the Guadalupe Town Council Special Meeting held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 6:00 P.M., at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 South Avenida del Yaqui, Council Chambers, Guadalupe, Arizona.

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Molina called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Valerie Molina, Vice Mayor Ricardo Vital, Councilmember Mary Bravo (*via teleconference*), Councilmember Anita Cota, Councilmember Gloria Cota (*via teleconference*), Councilmember Elvira Osuna, and Councilmember Joe Sánchez (*via teleconference at 6:05 p.m.*)

Staff Present: Jeff Kulaga – Town Manager / Clerk, Wayne Clement – Fire Chief, Jennifer Drury – Assistant to the Town Manager, David Ledyard – Town Attorney

### C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Anita Cota provided the invocation. Mayor Molina then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### D. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None.

### E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

#### 1. PUBLIC HEARING – ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION (HOME RULE) ELECTION, AUGUST 4, 2020 (RESOLUTION NO. R2020.07)

**Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to open the public hearing; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.**

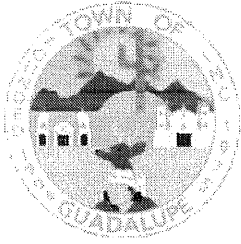
Mayor Molina opened the public hearing. No members of the public spoke.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that agenda items G1 and G2 are related. Since 1981 and every four years thereafter, the Town of Guadalupe has placed a ballot proposition related to Home Rule Option (Home Rule) on an election ballot. Voters passed the most recent Home Rule ballot measure in 2016. If the Town were to utilize the State expenditure limitation formula, the Town would only be able to spend \$4.5 million annually. Expenditures last year totaled \$7.5 million. Home Rule gives local jurisdictions the ability to determine what level of expenditures are appropriate. The ballot language is similar to previous ballot language. Staff is proposing that this proposition be included on the August 4, 2020, Primary Election ballot. If approved, the ballot language will be forward to the Maricopa County Elections Department for inclusion on the Primary Election ballot.

**Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to close the public hearing; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

The public hearing was closed.

Held a public hearing to consider placing a proposition on the August 4, 2020, Primary Election ballot regarding the option of whether or not to continue Home Rule in the Town of Guadalupe.



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## 2. ALTERNATIVE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION (HOME RULE) PRIMARY ELECTION, AUGUST 4, 2020 (RESOLUTION NO. R2020.07)

Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to approve item G2; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Councilmembers adopted **RESOLUTION NO. R2020.07** to place a proposition on the August 4, 2020, Primary Election regarding the option of whether or not to continue Home Rule in the Town of Guadalupe.

**3. COVID-19 ACTION UPDATE:** Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided an update regarding current activities to safeguard public health and safety in response to the coronavirus. Staff has prepared action plans concerning the following: 1) gatherings and events; 2) Town Hall operations; and 3) Town departmental operations. The Centers for Disease Control, in conjunction with Governor Ducey's office, has capped gatherings of people to be no more than 50 people; and small gatherings capped at no more than 10 people. Social distancing of 6-10' is preferred.

The Town will suspend the issuance of party permits for large gatherings until May 8. Private events at the Mercado have been rescheduled, cancelled, or postponed. Customers have been refunded their deposit for use of the multi-purpose room. Little League has been postponed until May 11, at which time this will be reassessed. Dia de Niño has been postponed; the car show has been rescheduled to the Fall; baseball has been postponed until May 8. Staff has been working with the coordinators of Curesema events. Council meetings will continue to be held, unless otherwise directed.

The number of chairs in the Town Hall lobby have been reduced and spread out. Tables are used at the reception counter to provide more distance between customers and Town employees. Bathrooms remain open; and, the phone in the lobby has been removed.

The Community Action Program (CAP) will distribute food on Tuesday's and Thursday's. The goal is to limit the amount of people entering the CAP offices. Grocery store food donations have declined due to lack of supply. CAP has also discontinued the issuance of homeless day bags.

The Senior Center was closed on Monday, March 16 and will remain closed through Monday, March 30. Staff is providing carry out lunches and is delivering lunches to homebound seniors. Staff is also working on cleaning the Senior Center facility.

The Fire Department is monitoring emergency supplies.

Court clients are waiting in the Town Hall lobby for their court appearance. The court is transitioning to telephonic operations.

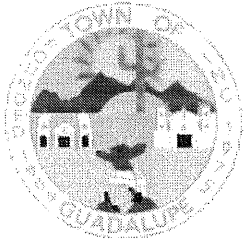
Staff continues to work with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, who is receiving direction from their Human Resources Department.

Public Works employees are primarily working outside and are aware of the protocols in place.

The Governor's office recommends that organizations only allow essential staff personnel on-site.

The Town Library is closed through March 20, 2020. The Head Start Program remains open.

The Department of Economic Security (DES) office in the Town Hall lobby remains open for business, twice a week. There is concern that the office is too small for social distancing. DES may be able to utilize the Museum Room as an alternative.



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On March 20, 2020, Town Hall will be closed for a day to conduct a thorough cleaning of the lobby. Social distancing is occurring among staff. It is recommended that people wash their hands frequently and do not touch their faces.

In response to a question regarding why the Head Start Program remains open, Mr. Kulaga stated that that recommendation came from Maricopa County and it could change tomorrow.

In response to a question regarding senior meals, Mr. Kulaga stated that the program is providing approximately 40-50 meals per day. Councilmembers discussed potential partnership opportunities between Senior Center staff and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe; coordination of food box delivery options for Seniors from the CAP office; and, the possibility of accepting donations of various items in the CAP office.

#### **4. DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION**

Councilmembers voiced their support and the importance of the proposed emergency proclamation.

Karen Westover, community members, voiced concern about the Guadalupe Town Court transition process and its potential closure. Ms. Westover stated that it might be helpful to notify the public that the Court will remain open.

David Ledyard, Town Attorney, stated that there is nothing in the Arizona Revised Statutes or the Town Code that requires the Town Council to make a decision on this agenda item. The Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) authorizes the Mayor to close public buildings. Up until now, no community members have raised concerns regarding the court closing for business. The Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court recently issued an order regarding streamlining Court operations. The Governor also has the authority to impose restrictions beyond what the Council is considering. The Proclamation does not include language about closing the Court.

Mayor Molina announced that the Court will remain open 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Councilmembers discussed whether or not churches will remain open; and, that those decisions reside with individual churches. Many churches are providing services online; and, some churches are holding multiple services per day and practicing social distancing. Mr. Kulaga noted the importance of the separation of church and State; and, that church representatives make their own decisions to operate safely during these times. Mr. Ledyard stated that the Proclamation does not restrict religious services.

Mayor Molina read the Declaration of Local Emergency Proclamation.

Councilmembers voiced their support of a proclamation declaring a local emergency to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to preserve public health. The declaration of emergency is effective immediately.

#### **F. TOWN MANAGERS' COMMENTS**

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk

- Provided update on Town Court and Animal Control activities concerning four viscous dogs.

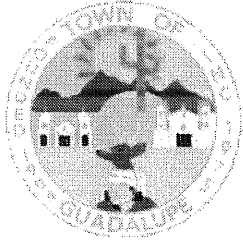
#### **G. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS**

Councilmember Sánchez

- Thanked everyone and encouraged caring for the elderly.

Councilmember Anita Cota

- Thanked everyone for participating online. Guadalupe will remain strong.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe is providing free meals to youth ages 18 and under.
- Frank Elementary School and Marcos de Niza High School, are also providing free meals
- Kyrene Resource Center is providing hygiene items and diapers.
- Donated items are being distributed.
- Stay safe and stay clean.



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Councilmember Bravo

- o Asked the public to contact Town officials if they have questions or concerns.

Vice Mayor Vital

- o Thanked the Town Manager / Clerk for his leadership.
- o Thanked community members for being mindful and staying healthy.

Mayor Molina

- o Thanked the Town Manager / Clerk for his leadership.
- o Apologized to community partners for the cancellation of various events.
- o Thanked staff and the audience members for their attendance; goal is to keep the meeting size to 10 people or under. This practice will continue until it is safe to return to regular business operations.

H. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Councilmember Bravo to adjourn the Special Council Meeting; second by Vice Mayor Vital. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 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 March 19, 2020, Town of Guadalupe, Town Council Special Meeting. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

  
Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk