

Minutes Town Council/Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council Joint Meeting Friday, May 17, 2019

Valerie Molina
Mayor

Minutes of the Guadalupe Town Council Regular Meeting held on Friday, May 17, 2019, at 1:00 P.M., at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 South Avenida del Yaqui, Museum Room, Guadalupe, Arizona.

Ricardo Vital
Vice Mayor

A. CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Molina called the meeting to order at 1:13 P.M.

Mary Bravo
Councilmember

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Councilmember Francisco Munoz Jr. provided the invocation. Mayor Molina then lead the pledge of allegiance.

Anita Cota
Councilmember

C. ROLL CALL
Guadalupe Councilmembers Present: Mayor Valerie Molina, Vice Mayor Ricardo Vital, Councilmember Mary Bravo, Councilmember Gloria Cota, Councilmember Elvira Osuna, and Councilmember Joe Sánchez

Gloria Cota
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna
Councilmember

Guadalupe Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Anita Cota

Joe Sánchez
Councilmember

Pascua Yaqui Tribal Councilmembers Present: Chairman Robert Valencia (*arrived at 1:23 p.m.*), Councilmember Cruzita Armenta, Councilmember Francisco Munoz Jr., Councilmember Francisco Valencia (*arrived at 2:02 p.m.*), and Councilmember Antonia Campoy

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Staff Present: Jeff Kulaga – Town Manager / Clerk, Jennifer Drury – Assistant to the Town Manager, Catalina Alvarez – CAP Director, Veronica Matuz, Senior Center Director, Kay Savard, Deputy Town Clerk

D. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – No one spoke.

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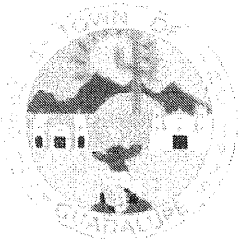
E. DISCUSSION / STUDY SESSION ITEMS
1. Public Works Utility Trucks

On behalf of the Town of Guadalupe, Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, thanked the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for their grant funding of \$15,000 that was utilized to purchase four used utility trucks for the Public Works Department. The trucks that were replaced are in the process of being auctioned.

2. Community Partner Designation
Mayor Molina stated that discussion of this agenda item will be postponed until later in the meeting.

3. Event Partnerships: Spooktacular, Navidad en Guadalupe, and Dia del Nino
Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, praised the efforts of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, in partnership with the Town of Guadalupe in hosting the Spooktacular, Navidad en Guadalupe, and Dia del Nino events. The events were successful. One change in event programming this year is that, unlike previous years, the parade and tree lighting will occur on the same date, Saturday, December 7, 2019; and, the Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2019. Mr. Kulaga noted that the Town recently obtained \$1,000 as a sponsorship donation for the upcoming Navidad en Guadalupe.

Chairman Robert Valencia arrived at 1:23 p.m.



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Chairman, Robert Valencia, recapped a recent event that he attended; provided an update on the impact of government tariffs; setting up a meeting with Mayor Molina and a representative from the Consulate of Mexico; and, discussed a proposal to set up an addiction clinic in the Town of Guadalupe.

2. Community Partner Designation (*item taken out of order*)

Mayor Molina stated that the Town of Guadalupe has formally designated the Pascua Yaqui Tribe as a Community Partner. With that designation comes the free use of the Mercado multi-purpose room/patio, four times annually.

4. Pascua Yaqui Tribe Update

Councilmember Antonio Campoy voiced concern about foreclosed properties being purchased; and, asked if there is anything the Town of Guadalupe is doing to address this problem.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that items of consideration include the Fair Housing Act and private property rights. At a recent community budget forum, a community member inquired if the Town could assess a fee or real estate tax on properties that are in foreclosure. Staff is in the process of researching the legalities of this proposal. Once the research has concluded, he will share this information with the Town Council and Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council.

In response to a question regarding outreach and education to homeowners that are unable to pay their property taxes, Mr. Kulaga stated that he has contacted Chicanos Por La Causa to see if there are community education classes or seminars available. Chairman Robert Valencia stated that schools may be able to provide the educational resources.

Chairman Robert Valencia stated that as part of its economic development, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe is in the process of assessing its areas and businesses. The goal is to attract new businesses that fit well within the community and its culture.

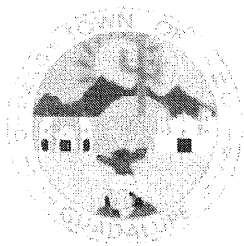
Mr. Kulaga discussed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for development of various Town-owned vacant parcels of land. The RFP's are due Friday, May 30, 2019. Staff will provide an update on the RFP process to the Council at the Thursday, June 13, 2019, Regular Council Meeting. Chairman Robert Valencia requested that Mr. Kulaga forward the RFP to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe economic development representative.

Councilmember Cruzita Armenta discussed the importance of assisting all community members, not just Tribal community members. Community-wide social services are needed to address problems concerning behavioral health issues; and, that transportation services to obtain social services is also needed.

Chairman Robert Valencia stated that it would be helpful to have a Town representative to assist in focusing on opioid, heroin, and cocaine addiction issues; and, the possibility of locating an addiction clinic in the Town of Guadalupe. Vice Mayor Vital stated that Fire Department representatives should be included in this process.

8. Town of Guadalupe financial update (*item taken out of order*)

Mayor Molina discussed a series of community budget forums that the Town is hosting to educate community members on the status of the Town of Guadalupe budget. Councilmembers received a five-year financial forecast from Town staff last February. The goal is to keep the Town incorporated, and to try to keep services within the community.



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Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, presented charts and graphs outlining where the money comes from and how expenditures are currently exceeding revenues by approximately \$700,000, annually.

The Town's largest expense is its contract with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to provide police service, followed by the Guadalupe Fire Department. Combined, Police and Fire services total \$3.1 million annually, which is 58% of the Town's budget. Mr. Kulaga reviewed expenses by Town department, and reviewed various funding scenarios to close the funding gap over the next two years. The costs of services, minimum wage, pension funding, waste management, and supplies such as Narcan that is used by the Fire Department are increasing.

In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga stated that he will provide meeting attendees with information and statistics on the Fire Department's use of Narcan.

An audience members discussed the need for federal assistance; the Town previously had a housing program; and, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors should be involved in this process.

Vice Mayor Vital discussed the 2020 Census, which is based on population. All community members should fill out the census without fear, regardless of their immigration status. Mayor Molina stated that community members can fill out their Census 2020 form on-line. The Maricopa Association of Governments is assisting communities that have populations that fear participating in the Census. Mr. Kulaga stated that the Town's largest revenue source is state shared revenues, which is based on population. As other jurisdictions grow, the Town of Guadalupe's state shared revenues will decline because the Town is landlocked.

Mr. Kulaga discussed federal funding assistance that the Town has received for the Avenida del Yaqui street renovation project; the Area Agency on Aging has provided funding for Senior Center improvements; the County has provided federal funding for the Community Action Program; and, Community Development Block Grant funding has been received for pothole repairs and crack sealing.

Councilmember Francisco Valencia arrived at 2:02 p.m.

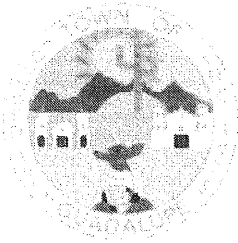
Councilmembers discussed the status of the Town's recycling program. Mayor Molina stated that the contamination rate of recyclables is high, which is problematic. Mr. Kulaga stated that the Town's contract with Waste Management originated in 2002, and expires in February, 2020. Staff will be issuing a Request for Proposals for solid waste services. Costs for services continues to increase.

Mr. Kulaga stated that budgetary problems have been conveyed to previous Town Councils in 1998, 2004, and in 2007. In 1998, there were 28 full-time employees; and, currently, there are 17 full-time employees.

In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga confirmed that the City of Tempe gives the Town of Guadalupe \$100,000 annually as long as the Arizona Mills Mall remains open.

5. Service Partnership opportunities: Police and Fire Services, Senior Center, Town Owned Housing Property Exchange *(item taken out of order)*

Mayor Molina discussed the Fire Department Automatic Aid Agreement, which includes specific staffing requirements. The Fire Department received a SAFER grant that helps fund additional firefighters for the next three years; and, thereafter, the Town will need to secure alternative funding sources for these personnel positions.



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Mayor Molina stated that the Town would like to partner with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to fund the firefighter positions to ensure the Fire Department remains in compliance with the Automatic Aid Agreement. The Fire Department makes an effort to limit overtime; however, given the staffing levels, that is challenging. Reserve firefighters are hired at minimum wage. Mr. Kulaga reviewed how the sharing of resources works in the Automatic Aid Agreement and noted that funding public safety pensions continues to be a nationwide area of concern.

Mr. Kulaga stated that the upcoming budget for the Senior Center totals approximately \$278,000. The Town received \$80,000 in grant funding for elderly programming purposes. The Town would like to explore partnership opportunities for senior programming.

Mayor Molina stated that the Senior Center roof will cost \$120,000 to repair. \$80,000 in grant funding has been secured to address the roof repair. Councilmembers do not want to cut services to seniors; and, would like to continue serving meals to seniors on Fridays.

Councilmember Cruzita Armenta emphasized the importance of providing social services to all seniors within the community, ensuring that there are places for seniors to gather, and coordinating senior volunteer opportunities with youth. Audience members discussed the lack of space for the Pascua Yaqui Tribal seniors to gather; and, the possibility of partnering with, and sharing space, with the Town for Tribal and non-Tribal seniors to gather. Mr. Kulaga stated that the cost to renovate by enclosing the Senior Center patio is estimated to be \$178,000; this is in addition to the roof repair costs of \$120,000. Space is limited at this time.

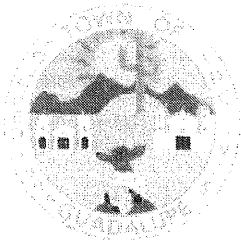
In response to a question, Veronica Matuz, Senior Center Director, stated that 35-40 community members utilize the Senior Center daily; and, depending upon the activities available, 100-150 community members participate on a monthly basis. Mayor Molina stated that expansion of the Senior Center would include enclosing the Arizona Room.

In response to questions, Mayor Molina stated that the Senior Center provides congregate meals and home delivered meals to community members. Vice Mayor Vital stated that the Boys and Girls Club is organizing senior volleyball in May. Mayor Molina stated that the Boys and Girls Club is also working on establishing a summer camp program. Mayor Molina has asked Marcos de Niza High School to improve their recruitment of participants in the Town of Guadalupe summer camp program. Mr. Kulaga stated that the Boys and Girls Club has a 25-year lease agreement with the Town to lease the soccer field for \$1, annually.

Councilmember Bravo emphasized the importance of accountability, and how that relates to budgetary issues. Vice Mayor Vital discussed the Town and Pascua Yaqui Tribe giving recognition to the Boys and Girls Club for their artwork, during art week.

Audience members discussed the possibility of building a facility large enough to host all seniors within the community.

Mayor Molina stated that the contract with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) has raised their rates 8%, with future rate increases anticipated. Guadalupe has asked various jurisdictions for assistance with its public safety needs, with those jurisdictions declining. MCSO services eight other Arizona jurisdictions who are also experiencing rate increases. MCSO rate increases are in response to a study that was conducted by a consultant to assess the cost of providing services. The Town Manager is meeting with Tolleson city officials to see if they would be interested in providing public safety resources and services to Guadalupe.



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In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga stated that there are costs involved in starting up a Town Police Department. At this time, Guadalupe does not have the revenue needed to pursue this option.

In response to a question regarding crime statistics, Mayor Molina discussed the lack of service and response the Town receives from MCSO. MCSO has assigned a new command staff to the Town. Mayor Molina invited the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council to attend an upcoming meeting with MCSO in June. Community members lack trust in MCSO. There is a community TIP line with MCSO.

Audience members discussed concerns about the lack of contact information and availability of MCSO deputies. There is a need for increased police patrols in parks to address drug activity, bullying, and shot gun activity. Mr. Kulaga stated that he is working with a retired police chief to analyze the MCSO contract and services provided by MCSO.

In response to a question, Mayor Molina stated that setting off fireworks is illegal in the Town. Mr. Kulaga added that he has met with MCSO to relay concerns about firework activity. MCSO representatives indicated that they have to see someone lighting fireworks in order to be authorized to issue a ticket to the individual.

Councilmember Antonia Campoy emphasized a need for additional police presence during the Cuaresma. Mayor Molina discussed an event recap meeting that Town officials held with MCSO. Next year, MCSO will increase their presence during week two of the Cuaresma.

An audience member suggested that a committee of community members be formed to review complaints and concerns related to MCSO.

In response to a question concerning the terms of the MCSO contract, Mr. Kulaga stated that there is a termination clause. Councilmember Bravo emphasized that community members need to be accountable and report problems directly to MCSO.

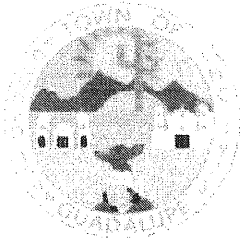
Mr. Kulaga discussed various town-owned residential properties that could be exchanged for other property, or sold to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Councilmember Cruzita Armenta discussed the critical need to provide more housing options for community members.

In response to a question, Mayor Molina stated that the Mercado property was included in the Request for Proposals.

6. Community Action Program (CAP) revenue sharing grant status

Mayor Molina stated that the Pascua Yaqui Tribe donated \$80,000 in grant funding to help support the CAP program. Catalina Alvarez – CAP Director, stated that there are new requirements from the United Food Bank that require community members to sign electronically for food boxes, which requires iPad technology that has not been budgeted. Ms. Alvarez requested that the grant funding request be flexible to address unbudgeted CAP needs. Pascua Yaqui tribal members approved this with the understanding that Town staff provide a recap of how grant funding has been used.

Ms. Alvarez stated that the number of community members needing food boxes has increased. She then outlined the various methods used to promote the food box program. In response to a question, Mr. Kulaga stated that social services and Fire Department calls for service do not capture whether or not a community member is a tribal member.



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7. Public Safety revenue sharing grant status

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, reviewed how the \$37,000 in grant funding from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe was spent during fiscal year 2018/2019. The Town will be submitting a grant application for \$55,000 for the upcoming fiscal year.

9. Avenida del Yaqui Project Street Renovation Project

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that the Arizona Department of Transportation will manage the Avenida del Yaqui Street Renovation Project; improvements will include new sidewalks, gutters, new pavement, widening of sidewalks, and installing a speed table; the design phase begins in fiscal year 2019/2020; and, a majority project funding comes from the federal government. The project costs \$3.5 million. Of that amount, the Town of Guadalupe is responsible for \$35,000 for the design, plus two annual installments of \$180,000. Mayor Molina stated that the Town is requesting grant funding from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to fund the two \$180,000 installments.

10. Town Proposed 2019 Revenue Sharing Grants

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, reviewed the 2019 grant funding requests from the Town to the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council. The Town will be submitting grant funding requests to five Arizona Tribal entities.

Chairman Robert Valencia requested that the Town cemetery be included in the next joint meeting agenda. Councilmember Francisco Munoz Jr. stated that he would like to explore the implementation of a community advisory board which would be responsible for researching legal issues, purchasing additional land, and conducting data collection. Mr. Kulaga stated that there is a special project underway to identify the burial locations of community members.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to adjourn; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 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 Friday, May 17, 2019, Guadalupe Town Council/Pascua Yaqui Tribal Council Joint Meeting. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk