

Minutes Town Council Regular Meeting September 10, 2020

Valerie Molina
Mayor

Ricardo Vital
Vice Mayor

Mary Bravo
Councilmember

Anita Cota Soto
Councilmember

Gloria Cota
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez
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

Minutes of the Guadalupe Town Council Regular Meeting held on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 6:00 P.M., at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 South Avenida del Yaqui, Museum Room, Guadalupe, Arizona.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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 Anita Cota, and Councilmember Elvira Osuna

Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Gloria Cota and Councilmember Joe Sánchez

Staff Present: Jeff Kulaga – Town Manager / Clerk and Jennifer Drury – Assistant to the Town Manager. David Ledyard – Town Attorney via video conference.

C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Molina called for a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedies. Mayor Molina then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to approve agenda items D1 and D2; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote 5-0.

1. Approved the August 20, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
2. Approved the August 20, 2020, Town Council Special Meeting Minutes.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No one spoke.

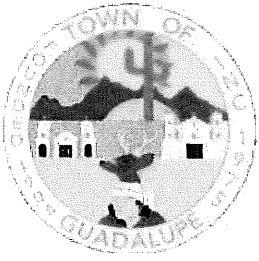
F. MAYOR and COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Molina read a Proclamation declaring September 16, 2020, Veronica Matuz Day in the Town of Guadalupe. Ms. Matuz thanked Councilmembers and the Town Manager for the proclamation. Councilmembers and Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk thanked Ms. Matuz for her service to community members.

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

1. CENSUS 2020 UPDATE

Jeff Kulaga introduced Stephanie Zamora, Public Information Officer, to provide an update from Town staff regarding the current Town of Guadalupe census response rates and the importance of the census to the community.



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Ms. Zamora provided a PowerPoint presentation and emphasized the importance of participating in the Census. Participation in the census has an impact on congressional representation, how billions of dollars are dispersed to communities, and how the Census data will impact communities for the next 10 years. Ms. Zamora discussed community infrastructure and amenities that are funded with federal funding. The Guadalupe resident response rate is currently 50%, compared to 60.4% in 2010; the Arizona response rate is 61.4%; and, the Maricopa County response rate is at 65.4%. Ms. Zamora outlined the various methods that residents can use to respond to the Census; how to verify that a resident is speaking to a Census worker; and, Census hours of operation. Census workers are trained in adhering to COVID-19 protocols. There is not a question on the Census related to citizenship nor is Census information provided to law enforcement authorities. Information provided to the Census is confidential. The deadline to respond to the Census is September 30, 2020.

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, announced that the City of Tempe is conducting a Census 2020 event at Food City in Tempe on Saturday, September 12, 2020. There will be Census workers to assist people in responding to the Census. Mr. Kulaga stated that the assistance of Councilmembers and bilingual volunteers would be much appreciated at this event.

Mayor Molina volunteered to participate in a public service announcement to demonstrate how to respond to the Census.

Mayor Molina requested that Councilmembers notify the Town Manager / Clerk if they intend to attend the Food City Census event; and, that if a quorum will be attending, then it will be posted on the Council calendar. Event participants will be entered into a raffle for a Food City gift certificate.

2. COVID-19 ACTION UPDATE

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided an update regarding current steps taken to safe guard public health and safety in response to the Coronavirus and its impact to Town services. Beginning next week, and in partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Maricopa County Health Department, and Native Health, a series of COVID-19 testing and flu shot events will be available, free of charge, to Guadalupe residents.

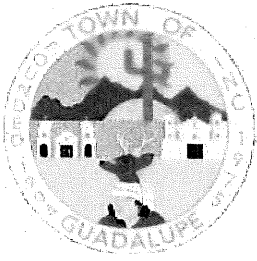
Salt River Project is offering Town resident's financial assistance to pay their utility bills; and, is providing customer assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Town received \$48,784 in Community Development Block Grant funding for rental and utility assistance, which will remain available through June 30, 2021. This funding is available to Town of Guadalupe residents that qualify for funding assistance. The Program is administered by Maricopa County and will be promoted to residents by the Town's Promotoras. To date, no residents have applied for funding assistance.

In August, 2020, the Fire Department responded to 287 calls for service. Of the 287 calls for service, 219 calls were for emergency medical services, creating an on-going concern of COVID-19 exposure to Fire Department personnel.

Mr. Kulaga discussed and displayed a graph of Guadalupe COVID-19 levels dating back to May, 2020. The data was gathered by the City of Tempe, a community partner, as captured through the City's wastewater assessment study of COVID-19 levels in the Town of Guadalupe. Overall, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Guadalupe is improving. There have been no reported positive cases in Town for the past two weeks; and, no reported cases of hospitalizations for the past three weeks. The preventative protocols are making a difference.

The Arizona Republic ran an article on Guadalupe's success in reducing the positive number of COVID-19 cases. Mr. Kulaga acknowledged the leadership of the Town Council, the Town's community partners, the Promotoras, the Town's Response and Action Team, and the teamwork of the community.



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In addition, a news outlet located in France interviewed Mayor Molina related to COVID-19 and the Town's Promotoras. All of the measures in place are focused on reducing the COVID-19 infection rates in Guadalupe.

A Councilmember thanked her colleagues, the Town Manager / Clerk, the community partners, and Promotoras for their work on combating COVID-19. Viewers were urged to not participate in gatherings, practicing social distancing, and wearing a mask when in public and in restaurants. Appreciation was voiced to the Vice Mayor for installing signage throughout the Town relating to COVID-19. No party permits are being issued by the Town. Residents should not be hosting large parties in their homes. Large gatherings can be reported to the Sheriff's Office using their non-emergency phone number.

3. AWARD OF CONTRACT – COVID-19 CONSULTANT SERVICES

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that this agenda correlates with the Town's COVID-19 Response Team and the relief funds received from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The program manager will be responsible for overseeing all of the services, equipment purchases, and community assistance programs related to combating COVID-19.

Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to approve agenda item G3; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote 5-0.

Councilmembers authorized the Town Manager / Clerk to enter into a contract (C2020-26) with Interim Public Management, LLC, to provide Project Manager administration and oversight services for Covid-19 relief. The contract term is September 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020; and, the contract amount is not to exceed \$80,000. Approval of this contract authorizes the Town Manager / Clerk to execute all documents in furtherance of this agreement.

H. TOWN MANAGERS' COMMENTS

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk

- o Thanked Public Works staff for their work. Public Works has a monthly, rotating schedule of maintenance and cleaning activities that occurs throughout the Town.
- o The barricades in the Town Hall parking lot are due to a sink hole.

I. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Vital

- o Urged everyone to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Urged everyone to practice social distancing and to wear face masks.

Councilmember Soto

- o Thanked community partners that are assisting the Town in COVID-19 relief efforts.
- o Community members have voiced concern about the number of homeless individuals at stores. Requested increased patrol activity from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.
- o Thanked viewers for their participation.
- o Urged everyone to wear a face mask, practice social distancing, and to wash their hands.

Councilmember Bravo

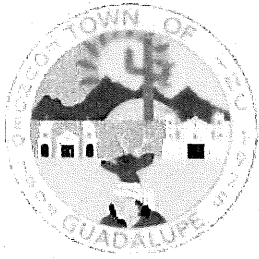
- o Thanked everyone for wearing a face mask.
- o Congratulated Veronica Matuz, Senior Center Director, on her upcoming retirement.
- o Congratulated everyone who is working to improve things during this time of COVID-19.

Councilmember Osuna

- o Thanked community members for continuing to practice social distancing and for wearing face masks.

Mayor Molina

- o Thanked Town staff for their continued efforts to combat COVID-19.



- o A community member has initiated a grass roots effort to combat crime and the drug problems in Town. She will be meeting with that community member as well as representatives from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office to see how best this effort can be moved forward.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Mayor Vital to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Osuna. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Valerie Molina
Mayor


Valerie Molina, Mayor

Ricardo Vital
Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk

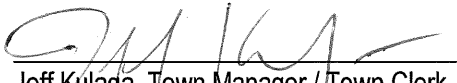
Mary Bravo
Councilmember

CERTIFICATION

Anita Cota Soto
Councilmember

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the September 10, 2020, Town of Guadalupe, Town Council Regular Meeting. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.

Gloria Cota
Councilmember


Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk

Elvira Osuna
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