

Minutes
SPECIAL JOINT WORKSHOP
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR
AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA
July 10, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Garcia called the Workshop Meeting with the Cemetery Board to order at 5:30 PM.

Councilmembers Present: Garcia, Keough, Ramsey, Lander, Oxborrow

Cemetery Board Present: Pam D'Artenay (Office Manager), Mike F.(Head Grounds Keeper) Juanita Beliz, Christine Lewis, Ken Spencer

Others Present: City Clerk Wanda Earls

1. Changes to the Agenda

None

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Garcia lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS (NONE)

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NONE)

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (NONE)

6. ORDINANCE PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion By and Between the City Council and the Coalinga-Huron Cemetery District
Pertaining to Cemetery District Issues

Mayor Garcia asked that everyone introduce themselves and make a brief statement about themselves.

Mayor Garcia - Sergeant with Sheriff's Department.

Council Member Oxborrow owns Oxborrow Unlimited Car Lot.

Council Member Lander has been on Council for 20 years and has served as mayor for 14 years. He was born here and is a barber.

City Manager Rene Ramirez has lived here since 1990. He served Coalinga for 14 years as a department head and is back serving as City Manager.

Mari Jimenez has been with the City for 13 years. She grew up around Coalinga.

Council Member Ramsey has lived here 64 years and has been very involved in many boards and community involvements.

Chief Henry has been fire chief for two years.

Mayor Garcia opened the Workshop by indicating the Workshop is for discussion of the needs of the District. We are not here to batch the Board or to tell you what to do.

Concerns expressed by Cemetery Board Members:

Paying \$2K per month water bill and need twice the amount of water received for grounds.
Cannot afford a \$4K monthly watering bill.

Well not worth fixing.

Cost from Tom Bass of B&B Well Drilling for drilling a new well - between \$230K - \$245K.

Develop Plan of Action and Goals indicating all needs of Cemetery to share with County.
Get it all down on paper ready to be shared with anyone.

Cannot get County's attention to find out exact balance of Investment Burial Account with them.
They say records are down in the basement and no one seems to want to recover them so the Board can know exactly what has been paid into the account over the years. They have received assistance from County Supervisor Judy Case.

Interest on fund on deposit with County has gone down since 2010-2011 from \$12K to \$6.9K.
Invested in stock market.

Cemetery almost at capacity.

Revenue generated from County \$74,452 (taxes).

Sprinkler problems - need more lines - wind is a problem.

Need 3 full/time employees - only have 2.

No legal counsel for guidance.

Big Gopher problem.

Water/money major problems.

They have cut watering in half due to cost of water.

Average 62 burials per year.

Need new pickup and equipment.

Comments/suggestions/questions made by Council Members/City Manager:

Use of well lent to them by Allen Ranch.

School District received grant for new technology sprinkler system.

Why is County not doing well with investment - Invested in stock and market has been up and doing extremely well.

Need to keep pressure on County - find out who is running for Judy Case's seat and meet with them.

Ask County to explain why investments are doing so poorly.

Need to go before County Board of Supervisors.

Put together Program of objectives - give copy to County.

Endowment fund to maintain cemetery if it were to shut down.

Find out about fund from beginning - ask for records and where invested and how invested - can you borrow against the fund?

Find out what is going on and why the County is not assisting you.

Give consideration to increase burial fees - landscaping fee to care for burial sites.

One City reached 10K in population - many grants disappeared.

See person in charge of special accounting and asked for history of fund from beginning.

City about 4-5 years out on Wastewater Treatment Plant - trying to make use of reclaimed water.

Talk to Mr. Reckas at School District regarding their new watering system which is saving 30% on water costs saving them 30% on water costs.

You have access to County Counsel - meet with them about problems you have had and are having with County.

Possibly hire someone to go and talk to County in your behalf.

Talk to someone who knows about wells.

Mr. Oxborrow has information on how you can get rid of gopher - if his method is followed for six months are so, you would have no more gophers.

City Attorney can explain what you can do in an effort to increase tax dollars.

Ask for volunteers - many great people in Coalinga wanting to assist the community.

The Mayor said he would contact PVSP about a possible work crew.

Ms. Betty Clay said the Cemetery has no water. She is shocked they don't know where their money is. We need to do something about the Cemetery. They need help. There are people in Coalinga with big money that can help.

Mr. Glenn Adams said to go to County Counsel and find out the balance of your funds. Ask them for an actual accounting of the investment. Send letters to local newspaper and to the Fresno Bee.

Mayor Garcia volunteer to go with the Board to the County as a friend of the Cemetery District.
The District serves Avenal, Coalinga and Huron.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. CLOSED SESSION (NONE)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Garcia adjourned the Workshop at 6:45 PM.

Tony Garcia, Mayor

City Clerk/Deputy Clerk

Date