

Minutes
SPECIAL MEETING: POLICE DEPARTMENT
WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT POLICE DEPARTMENT
BRIEFING ROOM 270 N. 6TH STREET COALINGA, CA
CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR
AGENCY/PUBLIC FINANCE AUTHORITY
MEETING AGENDA
October 20, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Council Members Present: Raine, Vosburg, Keough, Ramsey (Lander absent)

Others Present: Interim City Manager Marissa Trejo, City Attorney Ray Santos (appearing for David Wolfe), Andrew Diaz, Justin Gaskins, Tom Dominguez, James Ramsey, Sean Young, Rebecca Wagner, City Clerk Wanda Earls and Chamber of Commerce Executive Katie Delano and Ruben O. Veliz

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ramsey led the Council and those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Changes to the Agenda

None

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

None

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NONE)

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (NONE)

6. ORDINANCE PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Police Department Workshop: Discussion of Police Department Issues, Needs and Goals Marissa Trejo, Interim City Manager

Interim City Manager Trejo made the introduction for the evening's meeting. The Council has invited the PD to this meeting to discuss their issues, needs and/or goals and to receive any suggestions from the department.

Suggestions from the Police Department:

Need their own shooting range with 360-degree range. They have been using the Coalinga Rifle Club which is limited for their need.

Council Member Raine suggested checking with Granite and/or leasing land from Chevron. Does the City have property? Is there a training school?

Council Member Vosburg asked about having enough people?

Mayor Pro-tem Keough asked about using some of the old homes for training. It was reported that the Sheriff's Department used last home for their training where the Dollar General is now located.

Officer Rebecca Wagner suggested the College Farm of the Future for possible land. Council Member Keough suggests the CCC. He reported there is a piece of land, but there are issues due to near sump and City shops.

Council Member Vosburg suggests the airport land; there would be sufficient land for a 360-degree area.

Mayor Ramsey said PVSP used CCC; need to keep looking.

Officer Rebecca Wagner stated as to goals, we need staffing/people.

Council Vosburg said we are here to listen.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said with salary and driving, it is not worth it. Several are leaving because they can't afford it. They would stay, but they cannot afford it; they leave to get closer to home.

Staffing is 3 administrative, 4 sergeants, 2 detectives, 1 Evidence Technician, and officers. Council Member Vosburg asked about local people and sponsoring cadets to the academy.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said that is 26 weeks of not working. If hired, they get their time in and then they leave.

Council Member Vosburg said if officers want to stay, how can we make it affordable. Can we check out Hanford or Fresno. Some smaller cities have cadets.

Police Chief Salvador said we need to be competitive. Merced has housing next to Police Department for cadets. Signing bonuses are offered. Madera County is very competitive. Most cannot afford to go to the Police Academy. It is a buyer's market.

Council Member Vosburg said we need an incentive program, housing and to bring in our locals.

Mayor Ramsey said years ago our salaries were competitive, We need to catch up.

Chief Salvador said it is a highly competitive market. We need to be at trade shows with booths.

Council Member Vosburg asked about costs.

Chief Salvador said for every ten applicants, you will get one that is qualified. There was an instance where an applicant was in the background check and he asked about has 215 medical marijuana card.

City Attorney Santos said they think a Prop. 215 will not prosecute; it is still a federal offense.

Council Member Vosburg said there are lots of rumors that the Council/City has not supported you. We are working on problems and we can't cut anymore. Complaints? What is City doing wrong?

Someone said it is perception - department not a moneymaker.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said with cuts, people get hurt. They have heard bad things and it affects everyone and makes it hard to come to work. Need little things to keep their heads up. This is their life.

Council Member Vosburg said we support the PD. He defends the PD all the time. What can we do to make you know you are supported?

Officer Rebecca Wagner said to come to ride-alongs at night. We buy locally and do networking in the community to get to know the kids. Networking keeps us from getting hurt. She has five kids and she is at their activities. Social media is hitting us hard. Need pictures of what is good. The Webpage is bad, we need good stuff on the Webpage. They are sponsoring a scholarship to high school. Need more Citizens on Patrol; one couple left who is interested. Need DARE program.

Mayor Pro-tem Keough asked if the Union Chief would support a tax measure with the fire department? Two-thirds or 50% plus one? The previous tax issue fell far short. He is worried about going General Tax, but our budget is public. Citizen needs to hold Council to their word; hold Council accountable. We need a strong committee. People need to come to a public session. It would not take effect until January 1, 2017.

Hopefully, you will spread the word and get people to come and talk to us. He has seen many things buried. Make the Council get what you need. The Council is transparent. Ask again and again. Get what you want. If you have problems you need to tell us. The Chief and PD need to communicate. We live in a culture where citizens are negative about law enforcement. PD needs to get out and shake hands with people. People are often afraid of the PD. Complaints are huge and the public perception is that they don't support the PD. We need to compromise and get together.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said it is not her job for people to like her; it is a Catch 22. Anyone can come to her and ask anything or email her for an answer; she will do whatever it takes.

Mayor Pro-tem Keough said to let the Council do its job; let them be the buffer for you (PD). It takes one-on-one in all areas. People want answers. He did not know about communication issues so let's try to communicate.

A Police Officer said ride-alongs, Coffee with/Cops and events are important. They must meet the PD.

Council Member Vosburg, said people are all over us and we are constantly trying to fix; we can't have

indecisiveness. We need a budget for community outreach. He will do ride-alongs, be at social events for PD and FD and available for photo ops. We need to change the view of our Council and PD.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said we need a resource officer and open understanding.

Mayor Ramsey said he went along on a ride-along and there was a raid on Houston Street.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said she is more guarded at times off duty. She shuts down. She has five kids to care for.

Council Member Raine said his youngest brother is in PD and it is challenging. He has a heart for PD and FD. Measure P did something to eradicate everyone. When defeated, the Council knew they were going to have to do something to raise funds for public safety.

Council Member Vosburg said he hates taxes. The 50% is easier to pass and it could be our backdoor to public safety. The public would need to trust the Council. He feels the people are ready to do something. The PD & FD, Council and Miss Delano will work with the public on this.

Mayor Pro-tem Keough said to hold the Council accountable; trust but verify. Trust us but check it out and create continuous conversation.

Council Member Vosburg said anyone can call him on the phone.

Mayor Pro-tem Keough said he likes to be evaluated. Let him know; give him a chance to fix it and let him prove himself to you.

Council Member Vosburg said to decompress on me and we can resolve issues together.

Speaker said we need to know what PD has and what they want. What level of service do you want to prove?

Officer (name unknown to City Clerk) said this is a band-aid and we need to build up business in town and increase revenue with big business.

1. Give land for business.
2. Give 5-year tax break
3. Think bigger

Mayor Pro-tem Keough said a company (Harris Construction) sent site finder and \$150K into Coalinga and offered 200 F/T jobs. It is not that simple, there are sewerage needs, etc.

We have a veterinarian clinic we can give away to attract a vet to Coalinga. The public needs to express needs. We need to work with water service systems.

The Garlic Plant has complaints about noise and smell.

We need to ask the public how we do it. The public needs to come and talk to us.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said we have 37 teams of 15 girls playing travel softball and we pay \$15.00 to park; there are people selling things like Panera Bread. We pay to play. We need two more fields. We have the Sports Complex that could be developed. People will come and pay for everything. We need a place to play softball; the competition is not coming here and we need to keep the talent here. There are travel ball

team and Youth Football. The school charges too much for fields. It is little things. In one night, we could tell the park district to fence the Sports Complex. There are many misconceptions. If no one from town approves of the park's board, community needs to appear. It cost the City \$45K annually to maintain.

Mayor Pro-tem Keough said the drainage is not there. The \$45K comes from the General Fund. There is a lot of land. People wanted softball and college paid for soccer fields and the college doesn't have a soccer team. We need people at the park board meetings.

Officer Rebecca Wagner said we need to focus on the problem. These teams bring 100 people into town.

Council Member Vosburg said it takes help. We need vision and not make assumptions. We have to hold people accountable and we need additional meetings.

Mayor Ramsey said this is good dialog and we need to take first steps. The Council can listen and try to fulfill your vision. Hold us accountable. The public needs to come. People don't know your jobs. They think you are robots and not people. We need better concepts.

Mayor Pro-tem Keough said we need to promote the tax measure.

Council Member Vosburg said we will work on building a City team and bring things in. He will help with input and what will work and he will tell people of the needs. He will be honest 100% of the time.

Mayor Ramsey said his job is to build better communications.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. City Manager's Announcements

None

2. Councilmembers' Announcements/Reports

None

3. Mayor's Announcements

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Vosburg said we should have another meeting at a convenient time to continue these meetings. The meeting should be set after the F/D meeting and we could combine meetings thereafter.

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9. CLOSED SESSION (NONE)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 6:43 PM.

Ron Ramsey
Ron Ramsey, Mayor

Dana Luce
City Clerk/Deputy Clerk

12/3/15
Date