

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council



Minutes of Meeting – September 16, 2021

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. This is the second meeting since the return to regular, in-person meetings at Hummel Hall for the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council. There were 14 people in attendance.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll call of the Directors and Attendance: Directors Seaneen McArdle, Tim Blakeley, Lisa Sanchez, Brennan Riley and Bill Parkman were in attendance. Directors Dennis Shoffner and Donna Morris were excused absences.

4. Adopt Agenda: A motion was made by Tim Blakeley to adopt the agenda and seconded by Lisa Sanchez. Vote was unanimous. In accordance with Chairman Parkman's comments last month, he turned the Chair responsibilities over to Lisa Sanchez for this month's meeting.

5. Approve Minutes: The August 19, 2021 meeting was recorded and was posted and made available on YouTube with the tagline available on the RMAC Facebook page. Erroneously, it was not motioned or seconded and, therefore, will be presented at the October 21, 2021 meeting for approval along with the September 16, 2021 meeting minutes.

6. Guest Speaker(s): No guest speaker this month.

7. Community Leader Reports:

A. Kern County Sheriff's Office: Lt Kraft and Sgt. Smith attended on behalf of the Sheriff's Office. Lt Kraft commenced his presentation by noting that the Sheriff's Office had put out a press release on the attempted homicide that had occurred recently. He indicated this event happened when a resident confronted a catalytic converter thief. The suspect presented a shotgun and fired off a round. The two (victim and suspect) grappled over the weapon and this led to the shotgun discharging striking the victim in the leg. Lt Kraft responded that he has since come to find out that the victim's leg was amputated. He noted that this should caution residents not to take the law into their own hands because things of this nature can happen. A warrant has been issued for the suspect with the hope that it will lead to their arrest. Turning to the community parade on the 25th of September, he advised that the Sheriff Youngblood will be participating in the event. Lt Kraft noted that Sgt Smith and his deputies along with County Search and Rescue will be on hand to provide support as required. Jack Miller inquired if there was any information on what type of vehicles are being targeted for converter thefts. Lt Kraft responded that he did not have that info on hand but would look and see if that data can be extracted. He also advised the community that they will be stationing a deputy at the football games for the rest of the season as a precautionary measure to monitor community behavior. Director Sanchez asked if Kern County could institute a catalytic converter engraving process like the LA County Sheriff is doing in Lancaster. Lt Kraft advised that he would look into it.

B. California Highway Patrol: Commander John Williams was not in attendance.

C. Assemblyman Tom Lackey: Carlos Basail introduced himself to the Council and advised that he had two notes to pass on to the community of Rosamond from Tom. He noted that the Assembly is currently not in session and will not resume activity until January 2022. Carlo noted that Tom had authored and presented a few bills to the Assembly, the first being on Cannabis research (AB1305). The second bill (AB465/467) on fostering Homeless Youth through the development of Apprentice Programs to teach them a trade. Carlo advised that Tom was also active in getting \$4 million allocated to clear the backlog of sexual assault/rape evidence kits as well as getting an audit kicked off to review the sexual assault database. In closing, he noted that the EDD abuse is under review by the Assembly and it is hoped that this will fix the problems that the State has with that Department.

D. Kern County Supervisor's representative: Laura Lynn Wyatt opened her presentation with an update on a Code Compliance issue in the community at 1830 Locust. The 14-day notice went out to the property owner and they have failed to respond to the notice and comply with the requirement to abate the problem. On the 13th of September, the Final Notice was posted and now the County is soliciting bids to clean up the property. Turning to the County Resources Event, Laura advised that it would be held on the 30th of September and would include representatives from numerous County Departments to answer questions. The event will wrap up with a movie at the Chamber of Commerce Event Center that is open to the residents to attend.

E. Rosamond Community Services District: No representative in attendance.

F. Rosamond Chamber of Commerce: Jack Miller advised that the Chamber of Commerce was preparing for the Septemberfest that is to occur on September 25, 2021. It will be a parade only with no Festival activities due to ongoing concerns regarding the coronavirus. Dennis Shoffner will be the Master of Ceremonies. Sheriff Youngblood and Tom Lackey will be attending. He did advise that there will be food vendors along the parade route across from the Event Center. Laura Wyatt asked when the Chamber will be returning to open meetings and Jack responded that they are planning to do that in October. Lisa Sanchez asked when the Welcome to Rosamond sign was going to be repaired/repainted. Jack advised that there are some issues associated with the sign (not a Chamber problem) and that he anticipated it will be some time before the work is accomplished. Jack also noted that

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they are looking at a computerized sign that will facilitate updates rather than the static sign currently being used. Laura and Lisa offered support to move this forward. Laura also commented that she believed that there might be funds available to get the computerized sign. The remodeling of the office has been placed on hold due to the coronavirus impact on the cost of goods for the remodeling effort. They anticipate it will resume once prices have stabilized.

G. Southern Kern Unified School District: Barbara Gaines, Superintendent, was in attendance. She noted that there are now 3,540 students in the SKUSD area of responsibility. There was also discussion of dress code for staff and students. The Superintendent advised that when she took the reins the District was \$4-million in debt to the County and that they have been working to reduce/pay off that obligation and had accomplished that in her first year. She is projecting a reserve of 17 percent. This does not include the \$9-million that the District will be getting from the State for Covid-19 relief. Those funds will be used to mitigate student academic learning loss, student enrichment programs and an assortment of counseling services for students and teachers to deal with the effects and after-effects of the coronavirus. The Superintendent also advised that they are having difficulty filling positions and have been very active in trying to recruit new teachers and staff. These problems are not unique to Southern Kern, it is happening in all the school districts in CA and the nation. She then advised that the District is working on upkeep, upgrades and construction at all of the schools but, most especially, Rosamond Elementary because the additional classrooms are urgently needed. Superintendent Gaines also informed the community that they are receiving \$7.2 million to build a new cafeteria at Rosamond High School. She followed this up by noting that the District will be receiving about \$23 million to build 28 classrooms at Tropico Middle School. Turning to fighting and vandalism at the various schools, the Superintendent expressed her unhappiness with some students who are taking a cue from Tik-Tok videos to vandalize their school. She wondered aloud what other things this computer program/website might encourage our community's youth to do.

H. Antelope Valley Citizens for Responsible Use of Water: Randy Scott was not in attendance. Director Parkman noted that there have not been any significant changes in our water situation including precipitation. John Joyce of the Rosamond News advised that \$550-million is being earmarked for and planning was underway for the DYAS Treatment Plant.

I. Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB): No representative in attendance.

J. Others – Don Simmons, resident of Rosamond and first-time attendee to the RMAC meeting, had several questions on law enforcement, county operations, and community services. Another attendee brought up her concern regarding the new crosswalk at Eagle Way and Rosamond Boulevard that the signaling lights are not big enough nor is there adequate lighting in that area to see pedestrians at night. The Council advised that getting the signalized crosswalk warning lights was a recent accomplishment but, in the interest of safety, will take a look at street lighting in that area to see what else can be done.

8. Public Comment Period: None.

9. Business Meeting - Committee Reports - Ad Hoc Committees established for the following items:

A. Review of By-laws: Chairman Parkman and Directors Sanchez and Shoffner. Committee meetings to start in October.

10. Old Business:

A. Administration, office space, files and equipment - Director Parkman noted that a request will be resubmitted to District 2 for phones, internet service, furnishings and supplies.

B. RMAC Goals and Project Status for 2019/2020/2021 – No update this month. A copy of the current status is attached.

C. Rosamond-Mojave Rehabilitation Project. Work is continuing. **Speed limit remains 55 in work area.**

D. Brown Act/Ethics Training. New Directors and Incumbent Directors need to complete AB1234 Ethics Training. Brown Act Training will be set up for accomplishment through Zoom and based in Hummel Hall to facilitate training by County Counsel. October 7, 2021 has been identified as the primary date with October 21, 2021 as the secondary or fallback date. Director Parkman emphasized that these tasks must be completed. Christina Oleson, County Counsel, has also advised that the Council will need to attend Sexual Harassment Training.

E. Road Repairs/Upkeep/Safety. Community has been solicited to identify areas requiring road repairs, upkeep or repaving in Rosamond and outlying areas (boundaries currently defined as Edwards AFB on the east, Avenue 'A' on the south, 190th Street on the west and Dawn Road on the north. The Council would also appreciate input on what unpaved streets community residents believe should be paved so that they can be catalogued by the Council for input to the Public Works Roads Department.

F. Notice of Public Hearing before Kern County Board of Supervisors: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Raceway 2.0 Solar (AES) and Notice of Preparation for Amendments to the Rosamond South Solar Project 2.0 by Golden Fields Solar, LLC. No resident of the community filed an appeal on the Board of Supervisors approval of the Project.

11. New Business:

A. Trash/Debris in Rosamond: "National Volunteer Day" is a program that sets aside the last weekend in October for community activities such as cleanup. Francis Thompson commented that she would love to see the community do something along those lines on that weekend. An area will be selected for a cleanup and Director Sanchez mentioned that she would get that going and talking with responsible parties. It was emphasized that a hazardous materials dropoff is already on the schedule for the first

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Saturday in November. Director Parkman suggested adding a map to the RMAC Facebook page that shows the route and area at the Mojave Airport that takes those materials from residents.

B. Director Training: Director Tim Blakeley is tentatively scheduled to serve as Chair for the October 21, 2021 meeting.

C. California High Speed Rail Alignment: There is no indication at this time that the alignment for the CA High-Speed Rail has been finalized.

12. Director's Agenda Referrals: None.

13. Director's Comments: None.

14. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Director Parkman and seconded by Director McArdle. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Reminder: The next RMAC meeting will be held on October 21, 2021 at Hummel Hall at 7:00 p.m.

California Government Code, Section 31010: The Board of Supervisors of any county may by resolution establish and provide funds for the operation of a municipal advisory council for any unincorporated area in the county to advise the board on such matters which relate to that area as may be designated by the board concerning services which are or may be provided to the area by the county or other local governmental agencies, including but not limited to advice on matters of public health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning. Unless the board of supervisors specifically provides to the contrary, a municipal advisory council may represent the community to any state, county, city, special district or school district, agency or commission, or any other organization on any matter concerning the community. The board may pay from available funds such actual and necessary expenses of travel, lodging, and meals for the members of the council while on such official business as may be approved by the board.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(Government Code Section 54953.2)

The meeting room of the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the RMAC may request assistance at 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Fifth Floor, Bakersfield, California, or by calling 661-868-3153.