

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council



Minutes of Meeting – February 17, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.** This is the fourth meeting since the return to regular, in-person meetings at Hummel Hall for the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council. There were 17 people in attendance.
2. **Flag Salute**
3. **Roll call of the Directors and Attendance:** Directors Brennan Riley, Lisa Sanchez, Tim Blakeley and Bill Parkman were in attendance. Directors Seaneen McArdle and Dennis Shoffner were ill and excused from attending.
4. **Public Comment Period:**
 - a. Mrs. Sheri Duman, a resident from the Land of Promise community came to the meeting and informed the Council about the open pit mining project planned for north of where she lives. She expressed dismay at the planned Cal/Portland Gravel Mining Project that is planned for the Tropico Gold Mine area. She noted that it was a really bad project for their area. It will deplete the water that residents use for dust control. This project, she added, is two miles from the Land of Promise area. There will be drill blasting on going Monday through Saturday. She wanted to make sure that the public is aware of the Project. Mrs. Duman advised that it really does not belong in that area at all. In closing, she said that "We came out here to build a house and enjoy the pristine desert but it is being eroded without any consideration for the people that live there/". Chairman Parkman advised that it is somewhat premature to discuss the project because the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has not been issued. Several attendees spoke out that waiting until the DEIR is issued before it is discussed by the community will result in the community's concerns not being addressed by the Kern County Board of Supervisors. The Chair noted that while Cal/Portland did give a brief on the plans for the site back in November 2021, he felt that it was insufficient detail for the Council and the Community to have a meaningful dialogue regarding that Project. He added that the **Planning Department will be pressed to ensure that the DEIR will be issued and sufficient time allowed to permit the communities of Rosamond and Willow Springs to review, assess and make comments on the document.**
 - b. Frances Thompson, Roger Hensley (Owner-Foster Freeze) and a few other residents commented on the condition of Rosamond Boulevard, the Freeway 14 overpass and traffic conditions as it related to the Rosamond Boulevard off-ramp, the bridge and its delineators and the proximity of both to the new Rosamond Elementary School. Mr. Hensley was particularly incensed with the condition and he noted that the traffic coming off the freeway is traveling faster now onto Rosamond Boulevard because they have their own dedicated lane. He stated he has all of the accidents marked on his calendar and many of the accidents have come into his parking lot. He added he knows how many times his poles have been knocked down, how many bricks have been taken out, how many cars have come over the driveway and hit the wall instead of the back of the motel. He noted that it is over one-hundred accidents. Rollovers come into the driveway. He added that the CHP is tired of it. A couple of the Council Directors pointed out that CalTrans is well aware of the problem. There have been several meetings between Kern County Roads, CalTrans, CHP (John Williams), Kern County Sheriff as well as members of the RMAC regarding what can be done to make that area safer; that the solution that was implemented and in use is a temporary one and that a permanent solution is still being worked on by CalTrans. It will probably be three to five years before the plans are generated.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Approve Minutes:** The minutes for the November 17, 2021 meeting have not been completed and will be presented at the March 17, 2022 meeting.
 - b. **Guest Speaker:** None scheduled.
 - c. **Community Leader Reports – (Please limit report to no more than two minutes):**
 - **Kern County Sheriff's Office:** Chairman Parkman informed the Council that Lt Colbert had advised that their agency is under direction from the command staff not to attend public meetings due to COVID concerns at this time. He added that this may be lifted any day, but as of right now, he would not be able to attend. If the directive gets lifted, Sergeant Smith or I will be there at the next scheduled meeting.
 - **California Highway Patrol:** Lt John Williams retired on January 14, 2022 from the Mojave station of the California Highway Patrol. His successor has not been identified. John Joyce of Rosamond News advised that it was notable that the Directors of the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council had presented an engraved mantle clock on behalf of the Council and Residents of Rosamond to John Williams in recognition of his strong support for the community.

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- **Kern County Fire Department:** Chief Anthony Romero was not available to attend this month's meeting.
 - **Assemblyman Tom Lackey:** Carlo Basail informed the Council that the biggest item in the Assembly at the moment is the legislation for Universal Single Payer Health Insurance.
 - **Kern County Supervisor's representative:** Laura advised the community that she would be on hiatus until July 2022. She noted that her contract with the County and Supervisor Scrivner's office is such that she is required to be off the payroll for 90 days. She added that Supervisor Scrivner's Chief of Staff, John Antonaros, will be attending future meetings until July-August. She expects that Supervisor Scrivner will arrange for new funding so that Laura can return to serve the residents of East County. Laura also announced that a \$25,000 signing bonus for deputies that want to transfer laterally from LA County to Kern County because of the LA County mandate for deputies to be vacated. She explained that Kern County had done a promotional video seeking to attract deputies. Sheriff Youngblood is hoping to increase staffing levels in the Sheriff's Department. She noted that it is being hampered because retirements are happening faster than the hiring process.
 - **Rosamond Community Services District:** No representative in attendance.
 - **Rosamond Chamber of Commerce:** Jack Miller
 - **Southern Kern Unified School District:** No representative in attendance, however, John Joyce, Rosamond News, advised that at the recent School Board Meeting, the community was brought up to date on the school loan which has now been paid in full.
 - **Antelope Valley Citizens for Responsible Use of Water:** Randy Scott.
 - **Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB):** No representative in attendance. John Joyce advised the Council that the Edwards AFB Air Show is scheduled for 14-16 October 2022 and is expected to be open to the public.
 - **Others:** None.
- d. **Community Announcements:** Carlo Basail informed the community that Tom Lackey will be doing a series of "Hero of the Month" in the District he represents. He wanted to encourage Rosamond to pick a Hero and submit him/her/them for the award.
- e. **Committee Reports:**
- (1) **Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing: Vesting Tentative Parcel Map No. 12422:** Proposal for the division of a 15.13 acre (gross) parcel into ten (10) commercial parcels ranging in size from 32,696 square feet (net) to 2.32 acres (net) and a 35,721 square foot (net) sump parcel; development variations to the Land Division Ordinance to allow a 30-foot-wide private access easement where a 60-foot-wide public access easement is required and deletion of Type A improvements for the private access easement. This parcel is a portion of the NW/4 of Section 20, Township 9 North, Range 12 West, S.B.B.M Assessor's Parcel No. 251-181-12 (Southeast corner of Rosamond Boulevard and 28th Street West, Rosamond area. A few attendees questioned which parcel this addressed which was clarified for all concerned. The intent of the Notice is to provide an opportunity to make comment regarding the splitting of the large parcel into smaller commercial properties. Chairman Parkman noted that this parcel had previously been submitted for vesting and that this new proposal changes a few things as it relates to the new ten (10) commercial parcels that the Owner wishes to offer for development. He added that he believes that there may be some concern from the residents that live on 28th Street West but no one had come forward seeking to discuss the Project.
- (2) **Review of Bylaws:** Chairman Parkman advised that bylaw committee has not met since the holidays and that he had been working on them over the Holiday period. He noted that the Adobe file, for some reason, does not permit the conversion of the document into OCR (optical character recognition) so that it can be imported into a word processing program.
6. **Old Business:**
- a. **Brown Act/Ethics Training/Sexual Harassment Training.** Brown Act Training has been completed by all but one of the Directors on October 21, 2021. The remaining Director has been advised to contact Kendra Graham at Kern County Counsel for direction. New Directors and incumbent Directors need to complete AB1234 Ethics Training for year 2022. Ethics Training is available online at <https://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>. Sexual Harassment Training is also available online at: <https://www.dfeh.ca.gov/shpt/>.
- b. **Road Repairs/Upkeep/Safety.** Chairman Parkman provided a draft handout to interested persons. He advised that it covers the community north of Rosamond Boulevard to 30th Street West. He again encouraged the public to identify and report either direct to Kern County Public Works on their "Reporting" page or to submit to one of the RMAC Directors for inclusion on the Log that the Council was building. A general discussion ensued on alternate traffic routes for entering and

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leaving the community of Rosamond from residences on 25th, 30th, 35th and 40th Street West (essentially completion of one or more north-south roads from Orange Avenue to Avenue 'A' within those residential communities to bypass the clogging of Rosamond Boulevard during high traffic periods. Extending Orange Avenue to tie into Laurel Street (residential street/frontage road between Rosamond Boulevard and Avenue 'A' and paving the incomplete Laurel Street roadway from Gaskill Road to an area ¼ to a ½ half mile north of Marie was also discussed but it was revealed that there is a significant drainage problem in that area which would make paving problematical. Further it was noted that the CHP and Kern County Sheriff might pose an objection as it would provide an escape corridor for motorists seeking to evade law enforcement.

12. Director's Agenda Referrals: No guest speaker currently scheduled for the March 17, 2022 meeting.

13. Director's Comments: None.

14. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Director Lisa Sanchez and seconded by Director Tim Blakeley. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Reminder: The next RMAC meeting will be held on March 17, 2022 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.