

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council



Minutes of Meeting – April 21, 2022

1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.** There were 21 people in attendance.
2. **Flag Salute – RHS CA Cadet Corps**
3. **Roll call of the Directors and Attendance:** Directors Bill Parkman, Brennan Riley, Tim Blakeley, Seaneen McArdle and Dennis Shoffner were in attendance. Director Lisa Sanchez is excused from attending. The seventh seat on the Council remains vacant.
4. **Public Comment Period:**
 - a. Rosamond resident, Dave Snyder, advised that he had spoken with the Manager of the Rosamond Community Services District. He asked why they had returned control of the community swimming pool to the County and he was advised that the organization felt that it was fiscally irresponsible to keep the pool because not everyone in the community is paying to support and maintain it. Dave was advised that the housing tract north of WestPark on 35th Street does not pay anything on their property tax bill for the pool. He added that he had done some research on it and found out that there were only three housing tracts in the Rosamond area that have that proviso on their property tax bill. Dave further related that RCSD had met with the County regarding funding and the disparity on the property tax bills as it relates to maintaining the pool and he was advised that they were not interested in addressing the problem. He wanted to ensure the Council understood where the problem was as it relates to the community pool. Chairman Parkman related his knowledge of the history of the community pool and noted that it was discussed a long time ago to put support and maintenance of the pool on everyone's property tax bill. He added that he does not know if that ever went anywhere but he thought it might be on his property tax bill. He advised Dave that the Council will look into the matter and see what the scope and magnitude of the problem is and what the solution might be to get the pool funded properly. A fellow community resident related that the WestPark pool and development was set up as a Special District and that the pool was a part of their "fees" and would not have to pay to use the pool but other residents in the community would have to pay. She added that a ballot initiative was floated by RCSD to get the pool addressed but it did not pass on vote by the community. Discussion continued for an additional period of time. Chairman Parkman advised that the matter will be taken under review.
 - b. Rosamond resident, Fran Thompson, commented on the fires, break-ins and related crimes that have been occurring in the community at an alarming level. She noted that the Sheriff's Department was on hand and that she hopes to hear something from them regarding this matter.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Approve Minutes:** The minutes for the 03172022 meeting were approved on motion by Director Blakeley and seconded by Director Parkman. The Minutes were approved on a vote of 4-0-1 (one abstention).
 - b. **Guest Speaker:** Charles Wallis and a few of his California Cadet Corps personnel provided a presentation of the California Cadet Corps, its founding in April 1911, a brief unit of the Corps and gave a glimpse into their personal experiences in the program and how it has helped them to mature and to give the same focus to their studies.
 - c. **Community Leader Reports – (Please limit report to no more than two minutes):**
 - **Kern County Sheriff's Office:** Lt Lackey advised that he has replaced Lt Colbert in this area. He related his law enforcement background and his association with Rosamond that goes all the way back to 2008. He noted that he has a vested interest in East Kern because he lives out here. He turned the floor over to Sgt Smith and he thanked Fran Thompson for contacting him. He noted that they have increased patrols but that they are still limited on the number of officers they have and the amount of area they have to cover. He noted that he is also an East Kern resident and that his response time is often very long even in the community he lives in. Sgt Smith concluded by noting that they are trying to be responsive to the needs of the community. In response to an offer from Fran Thompson to utilize the Rosamond Hills facility as an interim office, Lt Lackey advised that the Sheriffs have moved into the Kern County Search and Rescue Office on Desert Street and that it is suitable for their purposes of writing reports and being available to the public. In closing, Sgt Smith noted that the majority of the calls for service are in the Rosamond area and that the area is getting the attention of law enforcement.
 - **California Highway Patrol:** Sgt Batista advised that he had been transferred into East County. He tagged onto the discussion that Sgt Smith presented and noted that Southeast Kern County is a very, very busy place for law enforcement. He added that he did not have any stats to share with the community as he and the OIC are still getting sorted out. He noted that he is a field Sgt and that he is out and actively working the roads in and around the

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council - Minutes for April 21, 2022 Meeting

communities of Rosamond, Mojave and others. Sgt Batista noted that the CHP office receives a lot of calls regarding offroad vehicles operating on the street, having loud exhaust, riders without safety gear and the like. When the CHP arrives, the riders and vehicles head off into the hills at great speed. He expressed concern that some of these folks may lose control of their vehicles and end up getting hurt. Sgt Batista, in response to a concern from residents regarding the signalized crosswalk at Rosamond Blvd and Eagle Way, advised that the CHP is aware of the problem and when officers are available, they do monitor that and other related traffic problems.

- **Kern County Fire Department:** No representative in attendance.

- **Assemblyman Tom Lackey:** Carlo Basail informed the community that Tom has been a very busy man and is usually only in the Valley on Fridays and the weekend. He noted that there are many, many assembly bills, and that Tom is having some success getting his through. He noted that the one renaming the Antelope Valley as Aerospace Valley has run into a rough patch. The legislators are also working on AB2726 (Better Communications for Correctional Officers), AB2281 (Early Childhood Mental Healthcare), by the way, he is also working on an Assembly Bill extending Domestic Violence Reporting, AB2415 (Extend Farm Vehicle Exemption), AB2120 (Study the Effects of Cannabis on Driving) but he is not having much success with AB2853 (Expand the Timeline Threshold for 5150 Cases). For additional information on these bills and others, please see the website www.leginfo.ca.gov for status updates.

- **Kern County Supervisor's representative:** Laura Lynne Wyatt recently celebrated Rio Tinto's Borax 150th year. They are one of the largest employers in this area. They have also made great progress in recovering lithium from the trailings generated from mining operations. The County celebrated its 156th anniversary on April 6th. In the absence of Director Sanchez, Laura also reported on the Spring Fair and Easter Egg event that was held in Glendower Park on April 9th which was a hugely successful event. Laura noted that we will probably need to double the amount of eggs next year as it looked likely that there would be some children not getting to find an Easter Egg. She noted that it was a blast and it included kids' Karaoke. Speaking of Glendower (Rosamond) Park, she noted that some money has been found to do some remodeling of the Park Building and kicking around the idea of a skatepark at this site. Laura noted that she is waiting for some drawings for the skatepark so that she can share it with us for discussion and development of construction plans. In response to a question, Laura advised that approximately \$800,000 has been allocated for the improvements and repairs at Glendower Park.

- **Rosamond Chamber of Commerce:** Jack Miller advised that Clearway Energy Group had been selected for solar work at the Chamber of Commerce Office and that the Chamber had a grant that would cover most of the cost of that work. He noted that the 'Welcome to Rosamond' sign has been repaired and repainted. Jack advised that they are working on the Septemberfest and Armed Forces Appreciation Day parade. He hopes that there will be a flyover connected with it. Dennis Shoffner suggested that it be tied to the POW/MIA Observance Day and he offered to help with those arrangements. He provided additional guidance to the Chamber to help assure them a better chance of gaining approval of their flyover request.

- **Southern Kern Unified School District:** Barbara Gaines, Superintendent. She noted that State testing will commence on Monday, April 25, 2022 at all six school sites and run for about two weeks. They are optimistic that the children will do very well on the tests. Enrollment is rising and currently stands at 3,570 in the District. She added that hiring for many positions is now ongoing and that they hope to staff all of their open positions. The Superintendent expressed disappointment that the deputies had left early, she noted that the Adult Education campus had been vandalized four nights in a row in the last two weeks along with two automobiles being stolen from the school parking lot. She added that the services of law enforcement are critically needed in the community and at the schools. The Site Administrators do their very best to handle issues that arise at the campus because they understand the shortfall of officers. Ms. Gaines also noted that Canine Solutions (drug dogs) randomly visit the campus every month. She noted that it is very short notice and that she usually does not know until they have arrived on campus. The dogs have been very helpful in keeping the campus clean. Superintendent Gaines also noted that painting at Rosamond High School and the Adult Education Campus will begin on 4 June 2022. She noted that summer school first session will begin in June and be followed up with a second session in July. She noted that it presents an opportunity for students to catch up on their studies, gain additional credits, add enrichment and fun to their learning experience. Three new projects are planned, the first is the new cafeteria at Rosamond High School for which we are preparing packages for presentation to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval. They are also proceeding with a plan to add 28 classrooms at Tropico Middle School. She noted it is progressing rapidly. The final item is expanding to allow 4-year old kids to attend pre-school in accordance with the Governor's direction (this would be a modernization of the older buildings on the east side of the Rosamond Elementary School campus).

- **Antelope Valley Citizens for Responsible Use of Water:** Randy Scott provided his monthly report in written format and was read aloud by Chairman Parkman to the attendees. A copy of the report is attached to these meeting minutes.

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

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council - Minutes for April 21, 2022 Meeting

- Others: None.

d. Community Announcements: None.

e. Committee Reports:

(1) **Review of Bylaws:** Identification of sections of the Bylaws that require revision is continuing.

(2) **Standup of the Gem Hill Ad Hoc Project Review Team:** Director Sanchez has been appointed as Lead for the review. The community was advised about the correspondence from the Division Chief, Advanced Planning, Katrina A. Slayton, is provided as an attachment to the previous month's minutes. In addition to Director Sanchez, Tim Blakeley and Seaneen McArdle will serve on the committee. Two community members will also serve on the committee. No meeting date has been established.

(3) **Standup of the Ad Hoc Special Projects Team:** The name of this committee was noted to be incorrect and should be identified as Standup of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Team. Accordingly, the Ad Hoc committee is being formed at the request of the District-2 Supervisor's representative, Laura Lynne Wyatt. Selection of committee members will occur in the May RMAC meeting but will include the RMAC Chair and two other Council Directors.

6. Old Business:

a. **Brown Act/Ethics Training/Sexual Harassment Training.** Director McArdle completed her Brown Act Training. Directors Blakeley, Riley and Shoffner have completed AB1234 Ethics Training. Directors that did not complete AB1234 Ethics Training in 2021 will need to complete and submit their certification for year 2022. As a reminder, 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 advised that the survey is continuing. A Draft letter to Kern County Public Works will be presented for public reading at the May 19, 2022 session of the RMAC.

7. Director's Agenda Referrals: None.

8. Director's Comments: None.

9. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Director Shoffner and seconded by Director Blakeley. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Reminder: The next RMAC meeting will be held on May 19, 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.