

**Minutes for
CALIFORNIA CITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday February 25, 2010**

City Hall Council Chambers
California City, CA 93505

The President C. McGuire called the meeting to order, at 5:38 p.m.

The following members were present: K. Collins, C. McGuire, R. Smith, D. Weaver, and R. Wilson

The following guests were present: City Manager: Tom Weil, Public Works Director: Mike Bevins, Fire Captain: Marcus Martinov and Fireman/Paramedic: David Orr, Bill Dennis, Chuck Hemingway, Denise Schofield and Rhonda Vazquez,

Adoption of Agenda: R. Smith made a motion to adopt the agenda and D. Weaver seconded it.
The motion carried 5- 0.

Minutes of Prior Meeting: The Secretary K. Collins read the Minutes for the January 28th, 2010 meeting. There were comments made after the reading. Changes were requested and noted by the secretary to be made to the official record. Changed the meeting date to 2010, Rhonda Vazquez changed misspelling of her name, on **page 3 item 18**, delete the line so they may not have to raise the water rates, on **Page 4** next meeting date changed to Feb 25th. R. Smith made a motion to accept the minutes with the stated changes and R. Wilson seconded it.
The motion carried 5- 0.

Special Business:

1. Application for New Membership from Denise Schofield

Chuck McGuire asked if all the members reviewed the application presented by **Denise Schofield** and if there were any questions. All the Members stated they reviewed the application and no one had any questions. **Kim Collins** stated that he felt that **Denise Schofield** would make a good member and made a motion to accept her membership and **D. Weaver** seconded it.
The motion carried 5- 0.

Old Business:

1. Update of Special Tax information:

C. McGuire reported that he is working to get the web site back up and running, with no luck. **Chuck Flores** was the owner of the sites domain name and now there is a problem with the domain name. **C. McGuire** stated that someone else brought it and they have not put up the web site.
R. Wilson asked **C. McGuire** if he had any information that he could retrieve. **C. McGuire** said information was on the server and he could not access that until the web page was brought on line and this has not happened. **C. McGuire** also stated that he might have to get a new domain name if all else fails.

New Business:

1. Presentations from some City Departments that are funded by the Special Tax:

The City Manager: Tom Weil made the fist presentation about the Special Tax Fund. He passed out a 1 page Interoffice Memorandum dated February 25th, 2010 with the Subject: Special Tax Estimated Annual Revenue. The **City Manager** stated that the \$100 per parcel tax generates a substantial amount of money estimated to be \$4.25 Million and that it cannot be taken away by any other governmental agency. The **Parks and Recreation Dept.** share is \$637,500 and this is the sole source of funding for this **Department**. The **Fire Dept.** receives \$1,06250 and **Police Dept.** \$1,27500 for there 24 hour a day operations, and **Street Improvements** receive \$1,275,000. **T. Weil** went on to state that all the money generated by this tax comes to the **City** and that we need to promote this tax a much as possible. Without this tax the **City** would be in dire straights.

[The Fire Department: Fire Captain: Markus Martinov and Fireman/Paramedic: David Orr made the second presentation. They took turns making this presentation of a 9 page report with the title sheet stating California City Fire Department Annual Expenditures & Annual Incident Response.](#)

M. Martinov stated that he recently attended a Hazmat training class with **Kern County**, and that a **Cert. Training program** was to start in March or April.

The **City Manger** stated that in the **City** there was a recent large apartment fire that involved 5 other engine companies from **Mojave, Boron and North Edwards**. **T. Weil** stated that without their help the damage would most likely have been much worse. With their help only some of the units were damaged. **M. Martinov** stated that the mutual aid relationship that the **City** has with **Mojave, Boron and North Edwards** is very important. Our **Fire Dept.** is more than willing to participate in this mutual aid system. There have been times when our **Fire Department** has responded and helped these other **Cities**.

Fireman/Paramedic: David Orr stated that the **City** was the first **Paramedic Fire Dept.** in **Kern County**. This was not cheap to do because; the equipment and the required schooling are very expensive. The **City** and **personnel** persevered to make this happen. **Kern County** now has other **Cities** with **Paramedic Fire Departments**.

Fire Captain: M. Martinov talked about arson stating that the **Fire Dept.** has an arson specialist, **Police Dept** has 2 arson guys and there has been a spike in these cases due to homeowner apprehension.

D. Weaver asked about how they do all these investigations.

M. Martinov stated the **City** starts their investigations using the **Fire Dept** fist then bring in the **Police Dept** if needed and on major cases they can all be sublimated with the help of the **Kern County Arson Specialists**.

D. Schofield stated that kids and adults were starting fires in empty homes in **Trona**.

M. Martinov stated that were many reasons for arson fires, some economical and lots of other reasons for these fires. It is very hard to figure out the reasons why people intentionally set fires and each case has to be handled in separate fashion.

D. Schofield stated that she pays for ADT service that covers Fire and Safety.

R. Smith stated that he has ADT coverage at his home and it worked well for him when he needed it.

Bill. Tarvin stated that he supports our emergency services.

Rhonda Vazquez stated that the **Fire Dept** takes care of her family. As workers for the **City** her family recycles some of the **Fire Depts.** old equipment, resulting in substantial savings for the **City**.

Marcus Martinov commented that there are maintenance issues at the old aging station for the **Fire Dept.** The web site for the **Fire Dept.** is now 2 years old. The **Fire Dept.** EMT and **Paramedics** are **Nationally recognized** and **County specialized** for abandoned mineshafts, swift water rescues, and Jaws of Life usage.

R. Smith stated that he was the **Fire Chief in the 80's** and since then the **State** level of training requirements has gone up about 1,000 %.

David Orr stated the **Fire Dept.** has experienced an increase in response rates of 28% over the last five years.

Marcus Martinov stated that **Kern County** dispatches 40 some stations and due to lack of staff, some dispatchers are working many days straight with 12-hour shifts.

C. McGuire stated that if our **City** were part of other areas it would rank very high in being busy. If part of **LA** would be 5th busiest in **LA**, **LA County** top 10% and **San Bernardino** top 10% in business.

M. Martinov stated the **State** has a mandated 2 in 2 out policy for entering a burning building. Our **City** should have a **Fire Chief** and **Fire Marshall** that we do not have right now. Also our **City** should have **4 firefighters** on an engine company. For interior fire fighting we should have one more **firefighter** to meet the law.

Rhonda Vazquez asked if that was the law and we couldn't go into a fire in a building until another engine company arrives?

Fire Captain: M. Martinov stated that that is the current **State law**.

T. Weil and **C. McGuire** are hoping to bring up how much it would cost to meet the **State** requirements for our **City**.

M. Martinov stated that grants are great but some come with strings attached and up-front costs and for personnel they only cover a certain period of time then they expire.

C. McGuire stated the people of this **City** need a new **Fire Station** badly.

T. Weil stated that the **Townsend Public Affairs** is working on the **Cities** behalf at **Washington DC** on the issue that the **City** is working on that pertain to the **Fire Dept. personnel**.

Bill Tarvin stated that our people have not pressed these issues with our elected officials.

Rhonda Vazquez said she shows up at the **Fire** station, works for community events and the **Fire Dept.** is always there for inter department issues and events.

D. Weaver stated that other **Fire Departments** are in the same conditions. Smaller **Fire Depts.** have the same issues.

The **City Manger** stated that mutual aid helps with our fire fighting needs.

M. Martinov personnel can face very dangerous situations. New **State required EMS coats** are thick and black colored, these are not very good in the desert heat here.

Chuck Hemingway talked about the municipal code as it relates to **Fire Dept.** issues and the **Fire Dept.** issuing tickets.

M. Martinov said that people do not understand burn allowed days with a burn permit. They must check to see that it Ok to burn prior to doing so. The **State Air Quality Board** controls these days. If the air quality is bad people are not allowed to burn. People can and are fined and billed for burning on a no burn days.

T. Weil stated that the **Fire Dept** touches all our lives.

D. Weaver stated that the **Fire Dept.** did a great job responding to an issue with his 80-year-old mother in law.

T. Weil stated to tell the community our stories.

The Police Department: Chief Colerick made the 3rd presentation. The Chief of Police: Steve Colerick passed out a 4-page handout where the first page has a block diagram of the Dept. workings with the Chief at the top. Page 2 Police Department Profile; page 3 Department Objectives & Projects For FY 2009/2010, Page 4 Expenditure Overview

S. Colerick stated get the word out on how great the **Police Dept.** is.

The **Police Chief** stated that his department is operating on a credit card with the **Special Tax** and **Grants** funding the bill. **Bill Tarvin** stated great effort with grant funding; they help desert funding and **cops fast grant**. 41/4 officer's salaries are paid from grants and permits. The **Cities Police Dept.** received over \$600,000 in grants this year.

S. Colerick stated his detectives are hard at work trying to resolve the **Cities** homicide cases. The **Chief** recently attended a **Kern County Chief's Conference**. They talked about 2 million at risk for DNA data testing. This could affect one of our **Cities** old murder cases. Last weekend there was a shooting that resulted in a murder. 3 suspects have been arrested and one is still on the loose with a wanted poster placed in our local papers. Without the **Special Tax** the **Pd** would die down to 9 to 10 officers. This would greatly affect the quality of life for this **City**. The **Police Chief** commented about replacing all the communication systems at the **Pd**. Live scan should be installed next month. This will allow for instant finger print checks. Coming soon is **Cal Photo/Id/Gangs system** that could help to track, recognize and help with arresting known gang members. **Microwave Data link** is almost done, it will allow the **Pd** to be able to transmit and receive instant information. The **Dept** now has an operational mortgage fraud division to help combat that growing problem in today's society. There is an up and running school safety program that is doing well. The **Animal Control** building had a new roof installed.

Rhonda Vazquez asked about the cost that is spent for the **Animal Control Dept.**

S. Colerick stated that the cost is about \$100,00 this year.

Rhonda Vazquez made a number of comments about the **Animal Control Dept.** Some comments were in regards to cost cutting ideas.

T. Weil stated that we might want to get the **County** to help with combined costs.

Bill Tarvin asked about what was required of the **City** as far as **Animal Control**.

Chief of Police responded by stating the **State** only requires that the **Police Dept** file an animal bite report. A pit bull fighting ring was recently broken up and the animals were put down. The **City of Lancaster** is aggressively going after gangs by using a **new City ordinance** that targets the pit bull issues.

S. Colerick stated that he has been appointed to be in charge of the **Parks and Recreation** maintenance. There is a 5 million grant in the works for **Balsitus Park**. The **Parks and Recreation Commission** are in charge of the **Balsitus Park** grant process. The **Chief's** goal is to have the **Parks** all fixed up and looking really great by the 4th of July. The **Mormon Church** is going to have a large group of volunteers to cleanup and fix up the **Park** area at and near the tennis courts. The old **Community Center** is undergoing an engineer's cost and structural evaluation to see if it is repairable or should be removed.

Chief Colerick talked about his **Department** being the only tactical team in **Kern County** when started in 1995 and the **Pd** has an old 1993-armored truck that they use for the tactical team. The **Police Dept.** has 2 **Detectives** that the **Chief** believes, they are the smartest that he has ever seen. The **Pd** is heavily involved in our **Cities Disaster Preparedness Planning**. The **Chief** is highly involved with budget related issues and is ready to deal with any **State** cuts to the **Cities** funding.

Denise Schofield asked if there were gang related problem that she needs to worry about.

Chief Colerick responded by stating that compare to other **Cities** our size we do not have a problem like they do. Some of these other **Cities** have a real gang problem. In our **City** there are some gang members but our **PD** keeps a real close watch on there activities and when they get out of hand they are arrested or they put so much heat on them they move away from our **City**. During the last big gang incident 3 members were arrested and they have murder charges pending.

The City Manager stated that the **Code Enforcement** is involved in graffiti abatement and the **City** brought a power washer to deal with this issue.

S. Colerick stated that our **City** recently had some predictable homicides.

Chuck Hemingway asked what do you mean by predicable homicides?

The Chief explained about 2 homicide cases that he called predicable homicides. One involved a father that shot his son. They both had been in trouble with the law many times in the past. The son had been in **State Prison** for a number of years and was on the **State Prisons Parole program**. It was only a matter of time before these 2 got involve in a really heated confrontation with themselves or someone else. The other recent murder involved 2 groups of young guys that had 2 prior shoot-outs in our **City**, which did not result in anyone being injured. It was just a matter of time before they shoot

at each other again. Their last shoot-out resulted in a young man being murdered and 3 young men being arrested and charged with murder.

S. Colerick stated that we need to start a **Special Tax** educational program now, not at a much latter date.

The Public Work Department: Director Bevins made the 4th presentation. Mike Bevins handed out a one-page sheet with the title being Federal and State Road Funding. **Mr. Bevins** started out by stating that if the **Special Tax** funding for the **Police Department** was cut people will want to move away from here. This is the desert and there is no tolerance level here if we were to have no water. **R. Smith** is here and is a reporter for the **Mojave Desert News**.

Mr. Bevins stated that our **City** couldn't due more for less money. Right now our teams do more with the limited funds that are available.

Police Chief stated that the **Pd's** ability to keep the gangs out of our **City** couldn't be done without the proper funding that comes from the **Special Tax**.

M. Bevins stated to repair or replace our **Cities** roads would cost over **70 Million** and we simply do not have that much money to do all these projects. To build a proper road you need a 3-inch AC cap over a 6-inch compacted base put down over compacted native soil and this process is very costly. The **City** recently did an experiment on 2 roads using the **City Staff** to save money on these road projects. The roads were **Desert Butte Blvd.** and **Forest Blvd.** Desert mix paving is no longer a legal option for roads in **California** and **California City** has miles of these types of roads. This presents a big problem to deal with since these types of roads have become about 45 years old. They are now becoming badly deteriorated and are now in dire need of replacement. **Mr. Bevins** stated that 2 of these type roads in the **City** are **Redwood Blvd** and **Mendiburu Road** both of these roads need lots of replacement work done to them. **California City** receives about 1.2 Million from our **Special Tax** fund and **M. Bevins** stated he is trying to leverage that money to get the most roadwork done.

M. Bevins stated that for our **City** to receive **Federal** road funds we must send out a request for an engineer every 3-year to be able to get funds for **Federal** funded projects. Our **City** received **Federal** funds for the traffic signal at **CCB** and **Randsburg-Mojave Road**. This project is to start right after Easter of this year, **April 6th** is the scheduled date. **Neuralia Road** is to be rebuilt this year. The **City** hopes to be able to rebuild all four lanes from **Redwood Blvd to CCB**, this may happen in June. **Mr. Bevins** has had 2 meeting with his staff to try and deal with the potholes in our **Cities** roads. At present the crew uses the throw and go method that result in only very temporary repairs on potholes. The **City** is forming a pothole task force that performs a new method of dealing with the potholes. The **City** crew will remove a much larger area and blow clean the area to be repaired then apply heat, fill and then compact the patched area using a roller. This process should result in a much better patch job that will last a lot longer. Crack sealing will begin when the weather get warmer. Right now there are 4 people on the road crew with 500 miles of roads to take care of. These guys also do drainage control for the roads and drainage channels in our **City**. **Victor the supervisor** is out there doing work on a daily basis to help with the roadwork. The **Cities Special Tax** keeps the road program alive.

D. Weaver asked if the City had a road to **Hwy 395**.

Mr. Bevins stated that the present road does not go all the way to **Hwy 395**. It stops about a mile short of the Hwy 395 and that last stretch of road is dirt and gravel only. The **Cities** portion after **Kennedy Road** turns off to **Silver Saddle** is a graded grind only road for miles.

2. Discussion about Plans for Special Tax Election:

The **City Manager: Tom Weil** made this presentation. **T. Weil** has had 2 discussions with Ed and Mary in regards to the **Special Tax**. We are all ambassadors for the **Special Tax** and when we attend meetings talk about this subject whenever possible. **C. McGuire** reported that this group was designed to oversee how the **Special Tax** money was to be spent and feels that it would not be appropriate for this group to formally promote or endorse the **Special Tax**.

T. Weil stated that he could understand that situation and stated that there are some 52,000 parcels that pay this tax for 14,000 residents with 5,000 landowners in the **City** center.

Bill Tarvin suggested that the **City** put out a quarterly newsletter encouraging the public to get involved.

Rhonda Vazquez stated to show her something tangible and feels the money should be spent wisely.

D. Weaver stated that the **Special Tax** takes care of our **City**.

Adjournment of Meeting

C. McGuire made a request that we table the rest of the meeting until our next meeting due to time restraints.

R. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting as per **C. McGuire's** request and **R. Smith** seconded it.

Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting date is March 25th at 5:30 p.m.