



"Raising Expectations"



SUMMARY MINUTES

Joint Meeting

Visalia Unified School District Board of Trustees/Visalia City Council

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 - 5000 West Cypress Avenue
5:00 p.m. Dinner - C4 (Elected officials and senior staff)
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting - Board Room

City of Visalia

Mayor: Jesus J. Gamboa - *present*
Vice Mayor: Bob Link - *present*
Council Member: Greg Collins - *present*
Council Member: Donald K. Landers - *absent*
Council Member: Amy Shuklian - *present*

Visalia Unified School District

President: Juan Guerrero - *present*
Clerk: Jim L. Qualls - *present*
Board Member: Rodney Elder - *present*
Board Member: William A. Fulmer - *present*
Board Member: Larry Jones - *present*
Board Member: Michael Lane - *present*
Board Member: Donna Martin - *present*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

INTRODUCTIONS/COMMENTS

CITIZENS REQUESTS - This is the time for members of the public to comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Visalia Unified School District Board/Visalia City Council. The Board Members and Council ask that you keep your comments brief and positive. The Board/Council members cannot legally discuss or take official action on citizen request items that are introduced tonight. In fairness to all who wish to speak tonight, each speaker from the public will be allowed three minutes or a total of 20 minutes per topic. Please begin your comments by stating your name and providing your address.

There were no citizen requests.

(Additional written materials, if any, will be made available at the meeting)

- 1. VUSD Akers/Riggin Annexation Status Update - Fred Brusuelas, City of Visalia Assistant Community Development Director

Fred Brusuelas, Assistant Director Community Development, reported on the annexation for the northwest corner of Akers and Riggin Avenue. The Council has approved the request and an application has been filed with LAFCO. A public hearing by LAFCO is expected in July or August of 2009.

2. City Budget Update – Eric Frost, City of Visalia Administrative Services Director

Eric Frost, Administrative Services Director, reported on the city's fiscal position for 2009/10. Due to declining sales and property tax the city is expecting a \$4.5 million shortfall.

Board Member Lane discussed the importance of warning residents of what will happen to both the city and school district if the propositions on the May special election fail.

Board Member Jones asked for an update from city staff regarding the empty buildings around town and on Mooney Blvd. City Manager Steve Salomon discussed: 1) ongoing discussions with a prospective business in the Industrial Park; 2) the recent filing of bankruptcy for the Visalia Mall; 3) new ownership for the Sequoia Mall; 4) a prospective new tenant for the Sportsman Warehouse.

3. VUSD Budget Update – Christine Statton, CFO VUSD

Christine Stanton, VUSD Chief Financial Officer, reported on the school district's financial status. Stanton reviewed the funding estimates, components of stimulus funds and the timing of distributions. Stanton emphasized the federal money coming to schools in the next few months is one-time money and cannot be counted on to continue.

4. VUSD Visalia Technical Educational Charter (VTEC) Petition Update – John Ramirez, VUSD Alternative Education/CTE/ROP Director

John Ramirez, Director of Alternative Education for VUSD, discussed the alternative education options offered by VUSD and the progress made towards a Technical Educational Charter School. The new charter school will target 10-12th grade students and will reduce the district's drop-out rate, develop vocational training and increase educational options. The charter school will be partnered with Industry and COS and will lead to career pathways in plumbing, electrical, machine and welding technology, legal and government services. Ramirez said the petition will be completed by May 2009 and the school should open in the Fall of 2010.

5. Update on City of Visalia Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force gang reduction strategies and efforts – Police Chief Bob Carden

Police Chief Bob Carden, Lt. Jason Salazar, and Lt. Steve Puder reviewed the activities of the Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force to reduce the impact of criminal street gangs in Visalia and increase the safety of the community. The efforts of the task force resulted in a reduction in gang violence for 2008 that has carried over into the 1st quarter of 2009. The task force focuses on suppression, intervention, and prevention measures.

6. Street Project Updates: Houston Avenue (Santa Fe Street – Ben Maddox Way); McAuliff Street Overcrossing; Mooney Boulevard at Goshen Avenue Traffic Signal; Tulare Avenue Extension (Lovers Lane – McAuliff Street) – Chris Young, City of Visalia Assistant Community Development Director

Chris Young, Assistant Community Development Director reported the following street projects updates:

- Houston Avenue from Santa Fe St. to Ben Maddox Way - includes street widening, a roundabout at Santa Fe, signal modifications and storm drain line extension, reconstruction of the pond at Soroptimist Park. The project design is complete should be completed by January 2010.
- McAuliff Street Overcrossing at Mill Creek and Evans Ditch - construction should begin in July 2009 and will be completed in 4-5 months.
- Mooney Blvd at Goshen Avenue – traffic signal. Construction to be completed in early 2010 depending on the California Public Utilities Commission.
- Tulare Avenue Extension – Lovers Lane to McAuliff Street – will extend street improvements and provide a traffic signal at Tulare/Lovers Lane. Design will be completed in spring 2010 and construction is scheduled for summer of 2010.

7. Safe Routes to Schools Grant Applications Update – Chris Young, City of Visalia Assistant Community Development Director

Chris Young, Assistant Community Development Director updated the Council/Board on grant applications awarded for 2008 safe routes to school.

- Burke Street (Houston to Harold) – Project will complete sidewalks on the east and west side of Burke Street from Houston Avenue to the Four Creeks Elementary School. Also included is a new lighted pedestrian crosswalk at Harold Ave. Construction should be complete this summer.
- Chinowth St. (Myrtle to Meadow) – project will complete sidewalks on east and west side of Chinowth from Myrtle Avenue, south to Veva Blunt School. Also included is a new lighted pedestrian crosswalk. Project should be complete this summer.

Mr. Young also reported on two 2009 grant applications that were submitted to CalTrans in April:

- Linwood Street (Walnut to Cherry) – street improvements on the west side of Linwood St. including sidewalk, curb/gutter, asphalt, and painted bike lanes
- Installation of LED lighted crosswalks with pedestrian ramps for Cottonwood Creek, Manuel F. Hernandez, and Royal Oaks Elementary schools.

8. Update on Phase II of the Visalia Riverway Sports Park – Vince Elizondo, City of Visalia Parks and Recreation Director

Vince Elizondo reported on the progress of Phase II of the Riverway Sports Park. Phase II, approximately 12 acres, will be devoted for youth baseball fields and will include additional concession and restroom facilities, lighting for two soccer fields, lighting of the BMX facility and parking lot and roadway improvements. The Grand Opening of Phase II of the park is expected in February or March 2010.

9. Pilot program to encourage recycling in VUSD Schools – Andrew Benelli, City of Visalia Public Works Director

Andrew Benelli, Public Works Director, discussed starting a pilot program in a VUSD elementary school to increase recycling efforts. Stan Carrizosa, VUSD Superintendent, recommended that staff from both the city and school district meet to jointly determine which school and to discuss systems issues that would be required to implement the program.

10. Census 2010 Complete Count Committee – Nancy Loliva, City of Visalia Community Relations Manager

Nancy Loliva, Community Relations Manager, reported that April 1, 2010 is Census Day in the City of Visalia. A Complete Count Committee has been established with about 20 members from various agencies.

Trustee Juan Guerrero indicated that preparing a Foto-Novela may be effective in reaching out to Spanish speaking citizens.

Stan Carrizosa discussed the importance of the Census as it relates to school boundaries, student population balancing, and the possibility of trustee area boundaries for election of trustees. The Board of Trustees authorized a Trustee Election Study Plan and will appoint a committee in June to begin working on the study in September. Legal counsel's from both the City and School District will be working together to determine the relationship of the two agencies as set forth in the City Charter.

Closing Comments:

Council member Shuklian made a request to the school district to allow the public to use the infield at the Mineral King Bowl for the 4th of July fireworks show. Superintendent Carrizosa indicated that the matter will be referred to the Board for decision after studying the risks involved.

ADJOURNMENT 8:35 p.m.

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Monday, May 18, 2009, 4:00 p.m. Joint Meeting City Council and Planning Commission, Convention Center, 303 W. Acequia
- Monday, May 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Convention Center, 303 W. Acequia
- Monday, June 1, 2009, 4:00 p.m. Work Session; Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers 707 W. Acequia

Note: Meeting dates/times are subject to change, check posted agenda for correct details.