

**SALINAS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2010**

The City Council meeting convened at 4 p.m. in the Rotunda.

Present:

Mayor Dennis Donohue
Councilmember Janet Barnes
Councilmember Tony Barrera
Councilmember Gloria De La Rosa
Councilmember Jyl Lutes
Councilmember Sergio Sanchez
Councilmember Steve Villegas

Also Present:

City Manager Artie Fields
City Attorney Vanessa Vallarta
City Clerk Ann Camel

COMMUNITY SAFETY ALLIANCE PROGRAM (CASP)

Retired Monterey County Superior Court Judge Price outlined the history of this multidisciplinary team of thirty organizations formed in January of 2009 under the leadership of Mayor Donohue to build and sustain a peaceful community. Georgina Mendoza, Senior Deputy City Attorney/Community Safety Director, outlined the six critical issues that were identified during twenty-three sessions held to gain input from a diverse group of over two hundred community participants: 1) social and economic conditions; 2) unsupervised, unengaged children and youth; 3) environmental design and urban planning; 4) education and schools; 5) law enforcement, and 6) impact of drugs and alcohol. Next steps include follow-up meetings with the community and creating an interagency joint governance review committee. Salinas is one of six cities in the nation who were invited to attend the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention conference in Washington, D.C.

PRESENTATION

1. Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Smart Meters

In response to Councilmembers, Bill Devereaux, PG&E's Senior Director for Smart Meter Program, stated that they are striving to increase their proactive community outreach. All electronic devices require FCC approval to ensure that emissions are within their guidelines based on the consensus science on the impacts of exposure to human health. The SmartMeter's emission is 8.8 compared to the allowable standard of 601, and below emissions from cell phones and other widely used devices. The World Health Organization and other scientific organizations continue to review these issues. The Commission has not contemplated how an opt-out would work for individual consumers; some of the prior technology is no longer being manufactured. They are taking it under consideration. Cities that have enacted moratoriums include a few in the Bay area that have written the PUC to request delay pending the outcome of the investigation relating to the accuracy and billing. San Francisco petitioned the PUC for a moratorium, which was recently denied. Watsonville and Fairfax have passed ordinances requiring PG&E not to install meters. There are jurisdictional issues that have not been answered. PG&E is working with those communities on outreach to address the

concerns that led to the moratoriums. The outdoor meter transmits a total of forty-five seconds per day. Tens of millions of meters have been installed nationally; 6.9 million meters have been installed to date state-wide.

Mr. Devereaux stated that the Commission authorized an independent investigation in April to answer meter and billing accuracy concerns and to determine the cause of the complaints. The report given on September 2 states that the meters are accurate, but highlighted areas to improve on including customer service complaint resolution, which they recognized and are already working on. PG&E's authorized cost for deploying meters was \$2.2 billion; the cost is offset by the benefits. Eighty percent of meter readers are being deployed to higher paid positions; most of the balance have taken retirement.

The following people spoke in opposition to SmartMeter installation/in support of a moratorium:

Ann Marie Tresch expressed concern regarding her pace maker.

Unidentified speaker

Eric Petersen

Margaret Serna Bonetti

Dave Jones

Hans Jongens

The following people spoke in support of SmartMeter:

Wayne Schapper spoke about his positive experience with his SmartMeter for his solar paneling.

Samantha Harris, Monterey County Business Council

Mike Jones

Ken Scherpinski, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Other comments included:

Bob Oliver stated that a Marina meeting at 7 p.m. was better attended and had a rebuttal session. Monterey will be voting on a moratorium.

Joey De Santa asked what the cost is to run the program and whether it is offset by the savings.

City Manager Artie Fields stated that the City cannot effectively enact a moratorium since this is a PUC issue. PG&E is working with the cities that have enacted moratoriums to address their concerns before the installation of meters begins. City Attorney Vanessa Vallarta stated that the State agency has preempted the local field, although she has not completed the legal analysis of the pros and cons.

Councilmember Barrera stated that communication with residents is needed.

Councilmember Barnes supports improved technology, but asked PG&E to work with Salinas to have the meetings and to hold off with installation until the meetings can be held.

Councilmember De La Rosa suggested that evening community meetings should be scheduled also. This is the wave of the future and promotes green technology, but more public information is needed.

Councilmember Lutes would like to be kept informed on the ruling from an administrative law judge and Assemblyman Huffman's request for an independent confirmation of this claim from the California Council on Science and Technology.

Councilmember Villegas expressed concern about the loss of the meter reader who may smell gas.

Councilmember Sanchez stated that he believes there are too many unanswered questions. He would like to have this item included on a future agenda for the City Council's consideration and action.

Mayor Donohue stated that the State has jurisdiction, and the public process has been taking place for several years. Technology and high-paying jobs are needed. He urges PG&E to get in on the front end of the public communication process.

JOINT CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONSENT RESOLUTION

Upon motion by Councilmember Barnes and second by Councilmember Barrera, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Consent Resolution.

SALINAS CITY COUNCIL

1. Approved minutes of September 21, 2010
2. Approved financial claims report.
3. **Fire Apparatus** – Adopted **RESOLUTION 19932** authorizing, 1) the modifications of the current lease purchase agreement with Oshkosh Capital Lease, and 2) the direct purchase of two (2) fire pumpers from Golden State Fire Apparatus, Inc. (Fire)
4. **2nd Reading, Conflict of Interest Code Ordinance** - Adopted **ORDINANCE 2509** amending Chapter 2A-2 to update the designated position titles in the City's Conflict of Interest Code, introduced on September 21, 2010. (Admin.)

SALINAS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1. Approved minutes of September 21, 2010.
2. Approved financial claims report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Permit Center Operations

Dennis Richardson, Permit Center Manager, reported on operational improvements. He reviewed the organizational chart, which reduces the layers of management and supervisors. Staff has been receiving training on problem solving orientation. The Mayor's Permit Center Advisory Committee made recommendations in June of 2010. These recommendations, along with those of the Business Development Task Force and others, were taken into consideration in the development of a work plan. The work plan priorities include creating greater resources and efficiency, improving the direct delivery of customer service, communicating change, and implementing legal mandates. He outlined the improved plan review timelines and fast tracking. Future steps include more options for Zoning Site Review from the Mayor's Permit Committee, more appointment times, more customer service training, expanded menu of options, and regular scorecards to the City Council.

Dave Elliot, Salinas architect for thirty-five years, stated that it has been an unprecedented pleasure to work with the Permit Center during the last year. Taco Bell Corporate has never seen a permit go so fast.

Mike Jones, California Water Service Company, stated that the process for getting permits through the City during the last year has been extraordinary. They have had \$7 million worth of projects approved in the last twelve months, which is great for the City's water supply.

Councilmembers spoke in support of the changes and improved customer services.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) Covering the FY 2009-10 CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

Community Development Director Alan Stumpf presented the report.

The following people spoke in support of the funding received by their organizations:
Angel Garibaldo, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Monterey County, spoke in support.
Eileen, Suicide Prevention Service for Monterey County
Elvia Perez, Visiting Nurses Association
Brandon Hill, PAL Youth Activities League

COUNCIL ACTION

Upon motion by Councilmember Barrera and second by Councilmember Barnes, the City Council unanimously approved the FY 2009-10 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and authorized its submittal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The City Council/Redevelopment Agency recessed to closed session at 8:15 p.m. pursuant to:

- a. **Potential Litigation** – Government Code Section 54956.9(b), significant exposure to litigation (one case)