



Santa Fe Springs Sister City Committee
Town Center Hall – Meeting Room 1
Monday, July 2, 2018

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Peggy Radoumis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – ANDREA LOPEZ
3. ROLL CALL – MICHELLE SMITH, COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPERVISOR

Members Present: Debra Cabrera, Francis Carbajal, A.J. Hayes, Susan Johnston, Andrea Lopez, Jacqueline Martinez, Marcella Obregon, Beverly Radoumis, Peggy Radoumis, Mary Reed, Laurie Rios, Jeannette Wolfe, Doris Yarwood, Charlotte Zevallos

Members Absent: Martha Villanueva, Manny Zevallos

Staff: Michelle Smith, Community Services Supervisor/Executive Secretary

Council Liaison: Jay Sarno, Mayor

Guests: City Manager, Ray Cruz
Director of Finance, Travis Hickey
Councilmember, Bill Rounds

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PEGGY RADOUMIS- CHAIRPERSON
 - Nothing to report

5. SALES TAX INITIATIVE PRESENTATION – CITY MANAGER, RAY CRUZ

Mr. Cruz gave a presentation regarding the financial situation of the City and why the 1% sales tax is needed in order for the City to maintain its current way of running programs and services. City Council will vote at the Council Meeting on July 12, weather or not to put the initiative on the November 2018 ballot.

Santa Fe Springs has a long history of financial stability and providing many services and programs for its residents, such as public safety, cultural art programs, programs for seniors and youths.

Last year alone 80% of Fire Department calls were citizens requiring medical attention. We have also enjoyed a positive 20+ year relationship with the Whittier Police Department who last year responded to 18,000 service calls. The City has 25 after school programs that serve the youth and help keep them educated,

entertained, and deter them from gangs and drugs. There are several programs for seniors which provide, education, recreation, health and hot meals.

All cities were adversely affected financially in 2012 when the State pulled redevelopment funds. This had a huge effect on Santa Fe Springs with the loss of 32 million dollars per year that was used for city up-keep projects. Due to this loss we reduced our work force by 25% and made major program cuts which are still felt today.

We are currently running at a 5 million dollar deficit. Council and staff were able to balance out the budget with one time funds. If we are unable to solve the financial deficit with a reliable and significant revenue we will be forced to make cuts to vital services such as fire, police, senior programs, educational programs, youth mentoring, and city events. Fire and Police services use 52% of the budget. This is relatively low compared to other cities which are in the 60 percentile. The City is also dealing with deferred infrastructure repairs which were basically set aside due to the recession and loss of redevelopment funds. This includes street repairs and water quality systems. Services may have to be contracted out to the county services. The example given would make us similar to an unincorporated area which is over seen by Los Angeles County. Santa Fe Springs is not the only city facing these fiscal issues.

The proposed 1% sales tax on the November ballot will affect residents by about \$100 per year. The initiative will need to pass with a 50% plus 1 vote. Groceries and prescription medications will not be taxed. It will mostly effect businesses in the City and generate roughly 12 million dollars. The State will have no access to the money this initiative will generate.

Questions were asked if the 5 million dollar deficit was caused by the retirement program. Will the pension issue be resolved with this initiative? It was explained that this issue is only part of the problem. Many other cities are in the same situation with the pension payments. This is a seven year problem which will eventually stabilize. The members of this City Council were not in office when the agreements were made.

Peggy Radoumis stated that the on-line survey should be re-worded. The repetition caused it to be too lengthy and somewhat insulting.

Francis Carbajal asked the cost of the consultants who are generating the survey and promotional materials. Director of Finance, Travis Hickey stated it was not to exceed \$50,000. Mr. Cruz stated that the company, FM3, is in the 2% rate of accuracy for voter outcome.

Peggy Radoumis asked how many residents called and asked for the survey in Spanish. Mr. Cruz stated that he would have to check with his clerical staff for exact numbers. However, the names, addresses, and language preference were obtained from the L.A. County Registrar of Voters. All information and forms are online in Spanish and English.

Francis Carbajal inquired about the Senior Program – Meals on Wheels fun by SASFA. Ms. Carbajal was interested if the City subsidizes this program and if the initiative did not pass would it affect the seniors. Mr. Hickey stated that the City does contribute money to this program and if the initiative does not pass there is the possibility that this program will be effected. The City would need to look at the different programs and make cuts based on the budget.

Concern was expressed about the City having to contract out for Fire and Police and what would the savings be to do so. Mr. Cruz stated that it would be a long process to research and determine the amount saved. He stated that with savings you will lose quality and availability.

6. APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2018 MINUTES*

A motion was made by Doris Yarwood, and seconded by Jeannette Wolfe, to approve the Minutes of June 4, 2018 as amended. The motion was carried unanimously.

Section 7: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT, amend to read:

“EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT – MICHELLE SMITH.”

Section 12: Future Agenda Items, Item G, amend to read:

“\$15 per person”

Section 14: Adjournment, amend to read:

“Chairperson Peggy Radoumis adjourned meeting.”

7. COUNCIL LIASON REPORT

Mayor Jay Sarno reported on the following:

- Mayor Sarno emphasized the importance of the 1% tax initiative. It is geared towards the business residents that use our city during the day.
- Mayor Sarno will be hosting ‘Meet the Mayor’ on July 25, August 25, September 25. Mayor Sarno will be visiting different areas in the City. On July 25 he will be at Los Nietos Park.

8. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT – MICHELLE SMITH

- a. Independence Day Celebration – Tuesday, July 3, 2018** – The Independence Day Celebration will be held at Los Nietos Park on Tuesday, July 3. Events begin with ‘Soto’ at 4 pm, ceremony at 6:15 pm and the band ‘Chico’ at 7 pm. The fireworks show will begin at 9 pm.

9. OLD BUSINESS – PEGGY RADOUMIS

- a. Independence Day Celebration – Peggy Radoumis** – Ms. Radoumis asked for an update on if the council was able to vote to allow the Sister Committee to have a fireworks booth next year. The Council has not met on this issue yet. The youth will sell soda and water at the Independence Day Celebration on July 3. Ms. Radoumis asked that the members be called and reminded to bring their donations to the park. All left overs will be held and used to sell at Fiestas Patrias.

- b. **Fundraiser Ideas – Peggy Radoumis** – Chairperson Peggy Radoumis opened the floor to discuss ideas for fundraisers. Discussion ensued.
 - a. Casino bus trip – Peggy Radoumis reported that the Viejas Casino will provide a bus if there is a minimum of 40 guests. If 40 guests are not in attendance or the trip is canceled there is a \$500.00 deposit which will not be returned. Each guest must spend \$20. If this criteria is not met fees may go up on next use.
 - b. Polo Shirts – No samples were provided and it was decided that the cost of \$30 per shirt no one would purchase them.
 - c. Candy Bar Fundraiser – Sales are going good.

9. NEW BUSINESS – PEGGY RADOUMIS

- a. **Incorporation Papers – Review** Incorporation packets were passed out to the committee members.
- b. **Mission Statement** – Subcommittee: A.J. Hayes, Francis Carbajal, and Peggy Radoumis. Ms. Radoumis will contact the City Clerk to gain access to a current mission statement and to make sure that they are able to alter it from the International mission statement.
- c. **City Yard Sale June 23/Clothing Drive July 7** – Yard Sale went well. Clothing drive will be July 7. All clothes must be in black bags and delivered to Charlotte Zevallos by Friday, July 6.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT* - JEANNETTE WOLFE – TREASURER

- a. **Bills/Invoices** – Treasurer Jeannette Wolfe distributed the Finance Report for period ending in June 2018 and gave a brief overview of the youth account and the committee account.

A motion was made by Laurie Rios, and seconded by Susie Johnston, to receive and file the financial report of June 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Charlotte Zevallos requested change in the amount of \$150.00 for use at the Independence Day Celebration booth. A motion was made by A.J. Hayes, and seconded by Charlotte Zevallos, to provide \$150.00 in change for the Independence Day Celebration sales booth. The motion carried unanimously.

Susie Johnston requested \$20.00 for black trash bags and tape for the clothing drive. A motion was made by Andrea Lopez, and seconded by A.J. Hayes not to exceed \$20.00 for trash bags and tape. The motion carried unanimously

11. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – PEGGY RADOUMIS

- a. **Young Ambassadors Subcommittee Report** – Peggy Radoumis
There are currently 5 students on the subcommittee. There are two more students interested.
- b. **Navojoa Subcommittee Report** – Peggy Radoumis
Francis Carbajal reported that she spoke with the Fire Chief and he is looking into finding breathing apparatus to donate to Navojoa. He believes he can get two for \$1,500. He will be checking with other cities for possible donations of older machines. He will report back to Ms. Carbajal.

Elections were just held on July 1. Loretta Martinez lost her bid for the Senate seat. The winner is the nephew of Dr. Silva.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – PEGGY RADOUMIS

- a. Independence Day Celebration
- b. Navojoa Subcommittee – breathing apparatus
- c. Mission Statement
- d. Clothing Drive
- e. Nominating Selection Committee

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS – PEGGY RADOUMIS

- The Women’s Club is going to Barona Casino on July 14. \$25 per person.
- The Women’s Club fashion show is August 12. Tickets are \$25. All money goes to scholarships for youth within Santa Fe Springs.
- The Japanese Center is having a two day festival on July 28 & July 29.
- Ms. Carbajal’s mother had surgery on her leg. The surgery went well and she is feeling good.

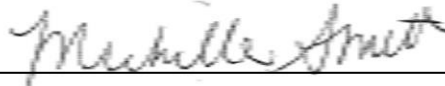
14. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Peggy Radoumis adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 10, 2018 at the Town Center Hall at 6:30 p.m.



Prepared by:
Amanda Lascano, CSPL III



Michelle Smith, Executive Secretary