



EMPIRE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 1841

Empire, CA 95319

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Members:

Christopher Nunes, Chair

Dorothy Roberts, Secretary

Fabian Tamayo, Vice-Chair

MEETING NOTES INFORMAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 @ 6 PM

Empire Community Library, 98 I street, Empire, CA 95319 - Community Room.

Present: Fabian Tamayo and Dorothy Roberts

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice-Chair. Public was made aware that due to lack of quorum, this would be an informal meeting and no action items would be considered.
2. The pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
Community Manager, Erica Inacio, offered translation for non-English speakers.
3. Vice-Chair welcomed the public and the members introduced themselves.
4. April Meeting Minutes were not approved.
5. Public Comment
 - a. Raphael Rodreguez brought to attention that the Empire Community Library has been up and running for almost a year and that the plan had included a sheriff's substation and asked about the progress. Community Manager Erica Inacio and Deputy Davis will be checking on the progress of said substation.

Stars volunteers, Louis and Frantz, have reported that some office stuff has been ordered, some Ipads are still being held up.
 - b. Juan Alanis introduced himself as running for district assembly 22, encouraging the community to reach out with any concerns.
6. Community Reports
 - a. Public Safety:
 - i. Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office
 - Deputy Austin Davis took over Empire 5 months ago. He reported for the month of April, there were a total of 133 calls. The homicide on C street is still ongoing and could not provide any information at this time, he also reported that theft was on the rise. Parking enforcement has an increase in calls in abandoned trailers etc.

Attendees brought up concerns of illegal marijuana growth and he reminded the community if you see it report it.

Speeding was also brought up and the solution was to try to bring up another operation to combat speeding on Church Street.

Concerns of trains blocking access to Empire were mentioned and Deputy Davis said the railroad has their own private security enforcement and recommended that we try to get someone from the railroad to attend a meeting. He offered his email to address any concerns.

ii. California Highway Patrol

- Officer Moore was not in attendance but left stats for community manager Erica Inacio. For the month of April there were 2 minor injury crashes, 1 hit and run (veh. Vs motorcycle), 1 abandoned vehicle call, 1 arrest - DUI crash, 1 stolen vehicle, 1 bicycle traffic impediment call, and 3 reckless driving calls.

iii. Stanislaus Consolidated Fire

- Marks reported 64 calls for the month of April, 46 of those were medical calls, 12 fire alarms (commercial and residential), 3 vegetation fires along the river, 1 illegal burn on the tracks, and 2 miscellaneous calls. Training has been completed. As they are gearing up for fire season he reminded the community to keep track of weather advisories. He also encouraged the community to report overgrown and dry areas and report illegal fireworks, for more information, concerns, or complaints please use StanConnect. He then brought up the Love Stanislaus volunteer site where you can sign up for assistance from volunteers to check up on the elderly and disabled friends or neighbors during the heat of the summer. The life jacket sharing program is available at all fire departments.

iv. Animal Services

- Officer Sheila Ernest discussed the June promotion - 5 dollar microchips and 1 year license that is included with the chip. The microchips are a great reminder for pet owners for the upcoming 4th of July holiday where a lot of animals tend to wander off. The spay/neuter program is available and all programs are listed on www.stanislausanimalservices.com. Animals not spayed/neutered are \$150 to license, whereas fixed animals are only \$12 and for seniors, the license is \$6. The community brought up concerns of strays and officer Ernest stated to call the number to animal services and to dial ext. 115 as you are more likely to get an operator. Animal services is currently taking owner surrendered cats but not dogs as they are at capacity with dogs. Valley Pet Care store will spay and neuter captured cats for free as long as you take them with you when you leave. She then

encouraged the public to use the website and to email her directly at ernests@stancounty.com.

b. Local Government:

i. Board of Supervisors –Channce Condit

- Supervisor Channce Condit introduced himself and thanked his public for their participation. Supervisor Condit announced the new postponed clean up day date which is on June 25th, 2022 from 7 am to 1 pm, and they will be meeting at the Church located at 343 Church Street at 7 am. His goal is to have this twice a year to decrease the amount of illegal dumping happening in the community.
- Supervisor Condit reported that the last 5 clean ups in other Stanislaus county areas were extremely successful. He again encouraged the community to contact him anytime for concerns ranging from potholes to illegal dumps and feel free to send pictures for reference and he will work with Stanislaus County to get the issues resolved, he mentioned the use of the StanConnect app to send complaints or concerns as well.

ii. Chief Executive Office

- Erica Inacio, Community Manager, provided information on the surveys for the \$50M in ARPA funds. She stated the surveys were mailed again but you could also go online to complete the survey. Workshops for ARPA funds will happen on approximately June 6th and results will be given to the supervisors so they can address these areas. She then introduced Interim Supervisor Brian from Public Works who reported that Mr. Rodriguez concerns about the stop signs and the faded red zones have been fixed. He encouraged the community to reach out to public works with any concerns about blocked stop signs, curbes, ect. He also mentioned about the use of the StanConnect app with any complaints or concerns and a supervisor will put it through. Concerns with sidewalks near the schools were mentioned and Erica Inacio stated that Measure L was approved, with a highlighted section regarding Empire for 2024. Supervisor Condit will be looking into this and provide more details at a later date.

c. School District

- Claudia Manzo, Principle, stated that surveillance cameras are being installed. They started at the school district and a couple of schools working East. Empire should be installed within the next month or so. Food distribution will stay on the first and third Friday of every month. The district will also be providing lunch for those 18 and younger at various locations, with more information to come. Due to recent tragedies that have occurred, the community brought up the concern of what the school is doing to ensure the safety of their students. At this time Claudia

introduced the superintendent of Empire Union School district David Garcia who ensured that the schools are practicing safety drills, cover drills, and reuniting plans in case anything like this occurs. He also stated that they are closely working with Anthony Escobar who is the central california projects director of Knowledge Saves Lives. Anthony will be providing training to the district to ensure safety such as the raptor system which will have a better scanning and signing in system for visitors, working with police branches to update the district on plans and drills. Teachers are also being trained to an updated lockdown system with new rubber locking mechanisms on doors. Fencing has been installed all around campus to a single door entry system which is in the office and all hard doors are to remain locked. They are also working with engineers and planners on the glass lobby buzz in system. A question was brought up about summer programs for the kids and they were directed to contact Claudia Manzo with ideas so she can take them to the board to get approved.

d. Library

- Diane Ramirez, Library Assistant, shared the annual summer reading challenge will run from May 17th to August 2nd. There will be a drop off for ballots inside the library. In person voting will begin June 1st through the 7th and story time will be paused during that time. Art program will continue after the election. Story time will not be held in August but will continue for September, October, and November. All libraries will also have a performer such as a magician etc. for June.

7. Informational Items – None.

8. Action Items - None.

9. Council Comments & Recommendations for Future Agenda Items – Member Tamayo highlighted how proud he was of the sidewalk project coming to Empire.

10. Adjournment: 6:59 pm

Next Regular Meeting – June 22, 2022, at 6:00 PM.