

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23, 2022

6:00 P.M.

CHSU

6:05 – Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Casado
Flag Salute led by Adrianna Boyajian

6:06 – Roll Call

Present: Chair Chris Casado, Vice-Chair Greg Newman, Enrique Avila, Stephanie Babb, Karen Bak, Adriana Boyajian, Stacey Brinkley, Karen Chisum, Noha Elbaz, Thomas Klose, Drew Mosher, David Samarco, LaDonna Snow, Woua Vang, Rachel Youdelman, Blake Zante

Absent: Lauren Butler, Elba Gomez, Eulalio Gomez, Kintutu Kilabi, Chris Milton, Diane Pearce, Jacob Ulam, Jim Verros, Jay Virk

OPENING BUSINESS

6:06 – ITEM 1. APPROVED MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2022, CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.

Motion for approval by LaDonna Snow, seconded by Adrianna Boyajian. Motion carried 16-0-9 with Lauren Butler, Elba Gomez, Eulalio Gomez, Kintutu Kilabi, Chris Milton, Diane Pearce, Jacob Ulam, Jim Verros, and Jay Virk absent.

REGULAR AGENDA

6:07 – ITEM 2. APPROVED – CAC RES. 22-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF CLOVIS AUTHORIZING CONTINUED USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCING FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (AB 361).

Motion for approval by Greg Newman, seconded by Blake Zante. Motion carried 16-0-9 with Lauren Butler, Elba Gomez, Eulalio Gomez, Kintutu Kilabi, Chris Milton, Diane Pearce, Jacob Ulam, Jim Verros, and Jay Virk absent.

6:09 – ITEM 3. RECEIVED AND FILED – CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS. PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, ANDY HAUSSLER.

Greg Newman, asked staff to share the response to Question 6 from the survey respondent who's answers were not included in the staff report due to late submission. The comment provided in the survey was: Consider removing the hiring bonuses or lowering the amount.

6:19 – ITEM 4. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS LED BY CHAIR CHRIS CASADO AND VICE-CHAIR GREG NEWMAN.

Chair Chris Casado proposed that all CAC members provide their comments for discussion with executive staff including the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Finance Director and Police Chief not present in the meeting room. The City Attorney, City Clerk, IT staff, and Public Affairs & Information Manager are to remain in the room to support the CAC as needed. If there are any clarifying questions for executive staff, they can be called back into the room to provide answers.

Babb, Stephanie – Believes that the police department should receive the 50 officers over five years that the Chief is requesting for. The City should do what it can to keep the pay competitive, especially with the City of Fresno's new contract, in order to recruit officers. Had an eye-opening experience during the ride along with Clovis PD and is encouraging the CAC to ask the City Council to go on a ride along with Clovis PD. Not sure if Council understands what is currently happening with the types of crimes that are happening and how the officers do not have time to take a break for lunch or even use the restroom. After doing a ride along from 5:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., she believes that the CAC and the average citizen does not what's going on in the field for police officers. She is willing to pay for a tax but feels that a tax measure would not pass this year.

Bak, Karen – Agrees with Stephanie Babb's comments and believes that pursuing a special tax measure which requires the 2/3 vote will be difficult to achieve but pursuing a general tax measure which only requires 50%+1 will be better than nothing.

Boyajian, Adriana – Agrees with Stephanie Babb's comments. Would vote yes for sales tax, but why have there not been an increase in the last 10 years and how did we survive through that time without an increase? Has concerns regarding State legislation regarding increasing housing development. She is suggesting that Council consider if the City can afford additional public safety before approving additional development.

Brinkley, Stacey – Agrees with Stephanie Babb's comments. Is concerned that neither tax options will pass but the money needs to be found somewhere. Believes that the money should be coming from the people using it the most, from the areas that are using the most resources which could be paying a bigger percentage.

Butler, Lauren – ABSENT

Chisum, Karen – Agrees with Stephanie Babb's comments. Questioned if there is any room to cut other budgets. She is interested in looking more into increasing Community Service Officers (CSOs). Of 50 officers, how many are

sworn and how many CSOs. During her ride along, she felt that a lot of the calls could have been answered by CSOs and that might help with the budgeting issue. Questioned if the City can consider having the Fire department help with answering some calls for service since they are better staffed. Also questioned if the Police Department can have a formatted structure for growth by population and by radius of patrol like the Fire Department. Also had concerns about shortage of staff and burnout and how can the City find qualified people for the jobs.

Chris Casado, called staff into the room to answer Karen Chisum's questions.

Thomas Klose, commented on the repercussions of cutting other budgets because it will cut other services provided by the City.

Greg Newman, asked staff to answer the question: What happens to the City of Clovis if the city does not have the availability of the 9,000 rooftops required by the State?

Andy Haussler, answered that if the City does not adopt a General Plan with a Housing Element that is compliant, the City is open for lawsuits to be filed and a judge to decide where the City will put the houses and they will dictate the densities to the City.

Scott Cross, clarified that the City has to plan for those houses. If the houses are never built, there are no legal ramifications to the City as long as the City appropriately plans for the houses. It will be up to the developers to come and build the houses as it is market driven. The 9,000 units had to be planned for over an eight year period.

Noha Elbz, asked if infrastructure is supposed to come with the planned 9,000 units to include services like police and fire as well as schools. Has concerns that we are never catching up to the development of homes.

Andy Haussler, answered that infrastructure is planned with some exceptions. A fee program can be developed as a one-time cost, but operational money needs to come from tax revenues because developers can't be charged for an on-going expense.

Greg Newman, asked staff to answer the question: Is there any room in the existing budget to help fund the need for additional officers? Is there room to cut other budgets?

John Holt, answered that 87% of the General Fund budget primarily goes to public safety which is made up of Police and Fire. This leaves 13% which goes to the Senior Center, Recreation, General Government, City Council, Street Maintenance, and Economic Development. All of these could be cut, and it would still not be enough money to fund what the Police Chief is asking for. This will cut services like Senior Center which is 1% of the budget and Recreation which

is another 1%. These are services that would be cut, and one could argue that it will make the Clovis community less than it is.

Stephanie Babb, asked if the Fire Department has an on-going fee for the developers to build out Fire Stations.

Andy Haussler, answered that Fire and Police both have a couple of fees related to development. One is development impact fee that pays for capital needs like fire stations, police sub stations, vehicles, etc. When a house gets built, the development impact fees are paid one-time. Another fee is the the Community Facilities District (CFD) fee that every new home (built after 2004) pays about \$260 annually for on-going operations where 2/3 goes to Police and 1/3 goes to Fire. The CFD fees are increased annually based on the CPI.

Greg Newman, asked if homes built prior to 2004 can be assessed for a CFD fee when it is resold.

Scott Cross, answered that a Development Impact Fee would not be able to be imposed as it is a one-time fee which was already paid when the home was built. As for a CFD, the City could theoretically expand a CFD when an additional entitlement is done. There is not a mechanism to impose a CFD on the resale of the property but there could be a mechanism if they come an pull an entitlement like if an addition to the home was constructed. The Development Impact Fees are one-time fees that are imposed on both residential and commercial properties. The CFDs adopted by Council in 2004 is imposed only on residential developments and not commercial. It is a possibility that CFDs could be expanded city-wide but would require a 2/3 vote because it is a special tax.

Karen Bak, asked how the Development Impact Fees are calculated.

John Holt, answered that a study is done once every five years to determine the actual cost of the impact of that new home or business is going to have on the City of Clovis. The fees are updated on an annual basis. There are street fees, water fees, sewer fees, and more CUSD also has fees. The average home is charged about \$50,000 in fees.

Stacey Brinkley, questioned if the funding would be sufficient if the City collected CFD fees from the homes that were built prior to 2004 and if that percentage of homes would be 2/3 vote that is needed.

Andy Haussler, the City has approximately 28,000 homes that are not in the CFD which would be a big impact if \$200 + CPI are collected from those homes annually.

John Holt, added that CFD requires a nexus study to justify the amount the City is charging. The City can't just charge those 28,000 homes the \$260 annually. A full study would be required to identify the need and will still need 2/3 vote to be approved.

Elbaz, Noha – No further comments to add.

Gomez, Elba – ABSENT

Gomez, Eulalio – ABSENT

Kilabi, Kintutu – ABSENT

Klose, Thomas – As a previous Police Chief in the City of Sanger, they had passed a Sanger sales tax (Measure S) increase which proposed $\frac{3}{4}$ of \$0.01 for 10 years. The sales tax generated \$2 million per year. The funding went to both the Police and Fire Departments, so they were very involved in engaging with the community to pass the measure. Sanger just passed the same sales tax again two years ago. With today's inflation, a \$0.01 or \$0.015 tax would be asking for very little. If it was \$0.10, he would be willing to pay for it.

Milton, Chris – ABSENT

Mosher, Drew – When he first started with Clovis PD in 1999 the City had 1.4 officers per capita and had continuously decreased since then. To address the question of how we let ourselves get here, he stated that there should be a built-in growth formula for police services that has never been addressed. If the City had the built-in formula, the Police Department would be a lot closer to the 1.4 officers per capita. To address the question of how did we survive all these years, he answered that it is on the backs on the police officers. The Police Department continues to ask more and more of officers and it is not sustainable because it's overworking the officers. This impacts the efficiency of other divisions within the Police Department as well. Also addressed Bob Whalen's question about how is we stayed safest city in the valley. He believes that Administration has been doing a good job to attract law abiding citizens which makes the Police Department's job easier. If the Police Department fails, so will other components that keeps the City safe. The CAC was not tasked to determine the likelihood of a tax passing. The CAC was tasked to decide how we would like to see increased funding accomplished if it is the recommendation. Focus on recommending what CAC wants and let the experts focus on how to get a tax passed if that is the recommendation of the CAC.

Pearce, Diane – ABSENT

Samarco, David – Asked that if 87% of General Fund is already allocated to Public Safety which includes Police and Fire, why would we be looking at special tax if majority goes to Police & Fire anyway. He has concerns about voting yes on a tax. He believes that everyone agrees that the Police Department needs more officers but how do we get them? He does not believe that the \$260 annual CFD fee truly equates to all of the advantages and services the the residents receive when living in the City of Clovis. Also questioned why do we keep developing when we have an overworked infrastructure. Can the City slow the

growth by putting an extraordinary tax on the developers. He believes that we need more officers but not as many as 50. There are some areas of the Police Department like the animal shelter which could be allocated to another department. Agrees that a carefully worded tax might be the most likely solution.

Snow, LaDonna – Expressed support for giving the number of officers that the Police Chief asked for. Asked what police services are worth to individuals. Fresno did a citizens' initiative which was passed. What would it take to do this as well? She is willing to pay sales tax. If we don't hold back Fresno, we are going to become just like them. Shared two incidents of calls for service recently.

Ulam, Jacob – ABSENT

Vang, Woua – As a regular citizen, he didn't understand operation of the Police Department. After a ride along, he felt he was much more educated and was very surprised at status of the department, especially that there are only eight officers that are patrolling the entire City in a shift. He does not understand how Clovis is sustaining this. He is interested in pursuing a citizens' initiative

Verros, Jim – ABSENT

Virk, Jay – ABSENT

Youdelman, Rachel – Have not gone on a ride along, but watched the virtual ride along. She feels traumatized from Boston ride along so she did not want to do the ride along here in Clovis. Had a question regarding housing development and population growth and neglect and failure to plan for funding public safety. She believes that the City Council has been negligent in planning. She doesn't understand the housing element in how no one is forcing City to build housing but yet the City is open to litigation. If the City Council knows how many housing units they are intending to build over a period of time, there's no reason they cannot plan for public safety. The City Council needs to plan accordingly.

Zante, Blake – Asked what type of Clovis do we want to leave behind for the next generation. He chose to buy a home in Clovis. He believes we need to be mindful of having to face new adaptation of a tax being imposed. Willing to compromise and pay the sales tax whether \$0.01 or \$0.10 in order to have a safe community.

Avila, Enrique – He feels discouraged that we are controlled by a government that limits local control on housing development regardless of the City's ability to support it. He has lived in Clovis for 34 years and has seen deterioration of the city. We need enough police staff to live in the city that we would like to live in but doesn't believe that we can do it the way we want to. He would like for us to enforce fines on people who break laws and do not pay for anything. This way, the City might be able to get some funding for services. He believes that the worst enemy we have is government itself and that government has overreached because we can't do anything without their permission. He agrees that the Police

Department needs more officers and that the City needs to enforce some of the tax laws that are already in place.

Newman, Greg – Reiterated the task at hand and recapped that most members feel that the Police Department needs more officers. As the discussion wraps up, consider how many officers would be an appropriate number and what is the recommendation to Council.

Casado, Chris – As a business owner, he doesn't like taxes and would not have voted yes if he was not a part of CAC. Clovis is the best city to raise a family in and a team effort is required to makes a difference. There are cracks in our system even if it's one of the best communities around. And public safety is imperative.

Chair Chris Cassado proposed that the CAC present a recap along with the survey results and the comments made tonight to the City Council at the next CAC meeting on April 6, 2022.

It was the consensus of the CAC to schedule a joint meeting with the City Council for April 6, 2022, to be held at the regular CAC meeting location at CHSU to present a recap along with the survey results and the comments made tonight as well as any last comments as the recommendation to the City Council.

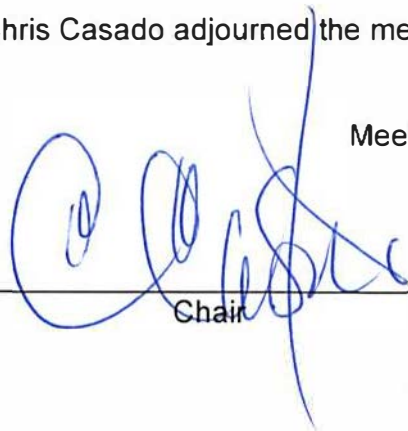
PUBLIC COMMENTS

7:54 – None.


ADJOURNMENT

Chair Chris Casado adjourned the meeting of the CAC to April 6, 2022.

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 p.m.



Chair



City Clerk