

City Council and
Dinuba Unified School District
Joint meeting Agenda
January 25, 2011

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harness, Hinesly, Smith,
Morales, Gonzalez

DINUBA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:

Keel-Worrell, Froese,
Kizirian, Rojas, Villarreal

CITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Todd

DINUBA UNIFIED SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT:

Hernandez

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm.

Council Member Morales was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

INVOCATION

Council Member Harness led the invocation.

FLAG SALUTE

Council Member Gonzalez led the flag salute.

ADJOURN TO CITY COUNCIL AND DINUBA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD JOINT
MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith and President Keel-Worrell called the joint meeting to order.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1. City / School Joint Powers Agreement

*Review the Proposed revised Joint Powers Agreement between City and School
District*

City Manager Todd described the original agreement, adopted in 1981, and was revised over the years. The original agreement is about to expire per the terms described in it, 30 years.

Dr. Hernandez said the draft amendment to the agreement is before the Council and School Board for discussion. He added that the two bodies need to meet more often, possibly quarterly.

City Manager Todd said this too is an opportunity for training and evaluation for staff to be involved to talk about why it's important to have a relationship and the importance of working together. This too is an effort to keep up-to-date, educated and aware of the JPA.

Dr. Hernandez said many grants require the City/School to meet and work together. He said the two will again meet in the near future to talk about and sign-off on the JPA amendment.

The Council and Board briefly discussed the facility rental fee schedule. Mayor Smith said he would like to hold additional discussion about the facility fees prior to approving the amended JPA. He said he would like to meet more often as a joint authority.

Both the Council and the Board agreed they will review and discuss the JPA amendment separately before meeting together again and adopting the amended agreement.

2.2. School Resource Officer Program

Report on the School Resource Officer Program School and City Staff

Principle Nancy Ruble stood up and said the School Resource Officer oversees student behavior and there is a good relationship between the schools and the SRO. She went on to list the services the SRO provides such as common goals for the students and community and, is helpful with student attendance.

City Manager Todd said the School Resource Officer program comes out of the JPA. It is a result of pooling resources between the City and School District.

Vice Mayor Hinesly asked if there are grant funds for the SRO.

City Manager Todd said there have been grants in the past.

Discussion followed in regard to the SRO Program.

City Manager Todd referred to the City and School district working together as referenced in the JPA.

Council Member Morales arrived at 6:22 pm.

2.3. Joint Safety Applications

Safe Routes to Schools Presented by City Staff

Director Beltran said there is not currently a grant application available for Safe Routes to Schools. The City applied for and was granted a grant for the Hayes / El Monte Way crossing. She said the grants oftentimes have matches and the City does not have a grant writer but would welcome joint grant applications.

Board Member Froese said there are more school children on foot than ever before and it has been a concern of the School Board expressed at previous meetings. Froese also mentioned that he would like to see bicycle paths and education for student bicyclists and parents.

Dr. Hernandez said there have been accidents around the schools.

Mayor Smith said we all need to work harder on safety around schools.

Council Member Harness said there is a danger for students who walk down Hayes Avenue to and from school. He feels Safe Routes to School Program is a good place to begin.

Director Beltran said the City's application kept getting denied. Staff checked and there have been no accidents / fatalities at the Hayes Avenue area although, there are drainage problems. The state took funds the City has designated and in our Redevelopment funds but our goal is to get the project done anyway.

2.4. City / Dinuba High School Building Trades Home Program

Future of the Program

High School Principle Valdez shared a PowerPoint Presentation with the Council and School Board. She shared statistics of students who have been through the program, with 221 graduates completing the course. Valdez talked about the program and houses that have been built through the program.

Instructor Mike Emerson was present and he too spoke about the program and the students.

Past program participants Anthony Reyna and Hector Leon were present to offer their positive comments about the program.

General Contractor Ryan Nelson was present to share that one of his employees, Mario Aviles, is a graduate of the program and could not be present at this meeting as he just started a college class tonight. Nelson wanted the Council and Board to know how positive the program is for the students. Nelson said even if houses may not be what the students are building, perhaps they can build solar projects on school or city property or other community projects to help them learn valuable skills.

Mayor Smith said we currently use RDA funds for the program which the state is trying to take from Cities.

Principle Valdez said it is hoped that with the JPA we can keep focused on serving the students and the community. The future of the program will have to be a joint effort between the City and the School Board.

Director Nunes explained the financial history and outlook for the houses built through the program. She said the last house built through the program is still for sale, likely because of the economy.

Board Member Froese said the housing market is bottoming out nationwide. He suggested exploring alternatives. He said possible projects for the program could be indoor farmers markets; renovations, etc. not just building houses.

Both Froese and Mayor Smith said they would like to see the program continue.

2.5. Bob Barker Building
Sports Complex

Community Services Manager Carrillo explained that the Bob Barker Building is currently being used for various sports practices. He explained that it could accommodate so much more as the building is very large. He shared that the skate park could be moved to the parking lot. He said it is a potentially premier youth facility and it may be something the building trades program could assist with in updating the facility.

Discussion followed.

2.6. Aquatics Complex
Facility Update

School Facility Manager Rios shared that the complex is popular with many organizations. Other cities have used the pool and they are impressed with the facility. He jested that he is grateful for the old pool's problems. He added that the pool chemicals are quite expensive at about \$3,400 per month. The fee structure is such as to help pay for the expenses.

Board Member Villarreal asked what the old pool chemical costs were but Rios did not have the information available.

Discussion followed.

2.7. Redevelopment Agency Funding
City Council and School Board will discuss RDA Funding

Director Nunes explained Redevelopment funding and how it is received and what how the funds are allowed to be used. She expressed concern that the state is trying to take Redevelopment funds from cities and she informed the School Board that the City just recently formed a Housing Authority who took action to permanently place under contract, loans on properties to help us keep our Redevelopment funds. Nunes said sales tax from large developers has funded our Redevelopment. The State wants to abolish RDA by taking the funds to balance the state budget. RDA benefits our entire community including the School District. Primarily the state is looking at taking the RDA funds, secondly the state will go after fire and police and then finally the schools.

City Manager Todd said the level of taxes is a greater investment by the RDA. He shared that prior to the City/RDA purchasing the industrial park property about 20 years ago, property taxes collected on that property was approximately \$1100. RDA helped growing businesses and it now generates approximately \$1.3 million of which a portion of those property taxes goes to the School District. He said the governor would like to see the funds go directly to the schools and the state. If that happens, future opportunities to bring added tax base would disappear and with it the opportunity for added funds for the School District.

Nunes explained currently the City spends about \$4.1 million on projects and about \$70,000 on administration of the RDA funds.

2.8. Utility Tax Ordinance

City Council and School Board will discuss the City's Utility Tax Ordinance

Director Nunes talked about the City's Utility Tax Ordinance. She shared that the School District is exempt from utility tax.

President Keel-Worrell shared that the School District currently pays about \$5,000 in Utility Tax.

Nunes said her staff will look into that and find out what it's for and rectify it accordingly.

2.9. Information Sharing

None

ADJOURN JOINT CITY COUNCIL / DINUBA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING

Mayor Smith and President Keel-Worrell adjourned the joint meeting at 7:35 pm.

Mike Smith, Mayor

Linda Barkley, Deputy City Clerk/Secretary