

MINUTES

JOINT GONZALES CITY COUNCIL & REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2011
6:00P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Orozco called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The flag salute was recited by all present.

1. ROLL CALL-

CITY COUNCIL AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Funk, Liz Silva, Jose G. Lopez, Jack L. Reed, and Mayor Maria Orozco.

STAFF PRESENT:

City Manager René L. Mendez, City Attorney Michael F. Rodriguez, Community Development Director Thomas Truskowski, Administrative Specialist/Deputy City Clerk Mary Villegas, Recreation Coordinator/Administrative Analyst Sara Papineau-Brandt, Building Official/Fire Marshal Michael Lechman, Public Safety Director Paul Miller, and Emergency Services Director/Special Projects Analyst Harold Wolgamott.

- * Redevelopment Agency Item
- ◆ Financing Authority Item

PRESENTATION

2. Legislative Update by Assemblymember Luis Alejo

Assemblymember Luis Alejo explained that he was doing a legislative check in constantly with the local Cities and the County's Board of Supervisors. He gave an update on some of the things they accomplished this year, and hoped he can work together with the cities on some key issues impacting local cities and counties. He informed the Council on the various committees he serves on. He thanked the Councilmembers for their service to the Community, and also City Manager Mendez, Police Chief Miller and staff for always being receptive in terms of showing him around the community, and for their work. He introduced one of his Field Representatives Linda Gonzalez. He announced a "Ought to be a Law" legislation contest on ideas to improve State Government, and handed out the information, as well as a brochure with information of services his office provides.

Assemblymember Alejo also expressed his concerns about the Plasco Project. He said he has heard from a lot of residents and have met with some of the staff about it. He informed on the following: insisting Plasco to hold a community meeting to provide information to local residents about the project, previously dealing with similar technology in Santa Cruz County when he was a Planning Commissioner, following how other communities have dealt with this, and communities rejecting this technology. He mentioned that he cares about there being a transparent process, and that the public is getting the facts. He added that he has heard that they are not being as truthful in what they were presenting, and commented that he wants them to be truthful with the community of Gonzales because there are long term ramifications, and every other plasma gasification company have been very open that the way they make money is by importing trash from elsewhere. He said he has met numerous times with Plasco and other stakeholders in this project but this is something that has come up from the agricultural community before the Council. He added that he just wanted to let the Council know where he was at, and his concerns have not been addressed and he continues to express them. He realized they are going through the environmental review process, but he said the way these companies are profitable is by being able to import trash from elsewhere.

Councilmember Reed congratulated him on the completion of his first year. He asked him if we can count on his support on making sure that the RDA debt is considered old debt not new debt if in case the Supreme Court comes back and is unfavorable towards RDA.

Assemblymember Alejo responded that on all those issues a lot is in the air because we are waiting on the court decision, and also it is tough to kind of know where leadership in the Governor's office is going to be on some of these decisions, while is administrative or legislative. He said there were some bills they passed regarding hardships to communities who could not even make the payment and they were vetoed by the Governor. He indicated he is committed to work with Gonzales whatever the end result may be to see how we can deal with some of those issues. He said the hard part is that if it is legislative, it has to go through the Governor's Office for final signature, so that would be the key to talk to staff early on.

Councilmember Reed asked him if he can say that he will oppose any cuts to pre K-12 education.

Assemblymember Alejo responded it is hard to commit to what the cuts will be because you have to look at all options. He said they had to make devastating cuts on all areas.

Councilmember Reed said he understood that, but the kids here in Gonzales suffer more than kids in other areas, so to cut more from their education budget because the legislature can not get on page and create a budget that is workable and to go off dreams of revenue that is never going to happen, he just wants to know if he will oppose anymore cuts to education pre K-12.

Assemblymember Alejo responded that he will commit to work on budgetary issues to try to minimize the pain that we have had to our schools. He said he can not just say he will or he won't. He stated his job is to look at all options and certainly try to minimize the pain for our local students and families and he has been doing that already. He indicated that other folks we should be talking to are our Senators since they were at the key negotiating table

with the Governor. He added he was going to work hard and see how we can minimize this pain for the local districts.

City Manager Mendez mentioned that staff has had a lot of communications with him and his staff on a lot of issues, particularly the RDA. He said staff was thinking on bringing a legislative platform to adopt early January or February then we can provide to our Assembly Member, and he will know what our priorities will be as a City Council. He indicated that on the RDA, his staff has been very versed on our issues, and depending on what happens, staff will be working with his staff.

In regards to the Enterprise Zone, Assemblymember Alejo mentioned it was important because it provides local businesses tax credits for hiring employees. He said last year it was set for elimination, but he and Coachella Valley Assemblymember Perez stood up and it was not touched last year. He added this was another fight they will be having.

On another note, he presented the City of Gonzales with recognition for being awarded the Governor's top award for Environmental and Economic Leadership. He said this was the highest and most prestigious environmental honor, GEELA Award. He thanked and congratulated the Mayor, Council and staff.

Mayor Orozco received the recognition and thanked Ms. Treleven, Recreation Coordinator Papineau, Mr. Velasquez and City Manager Mendez for attending the event in Sacramento on December 13th.

3. Certificate of Recognition to Oscar Ochoa

Mayor Orozco presented the certificate of recognition to Mr. Ochoa and congratulated him for being awarded that American Public Works Association Scholarship. She noted that she met Mr. Ochoa's siblings and parents who are from our Sister City of Tatesosco. She said he will be attending CalPoly where he plans to major in architectural engineering.

Mr. Ochoa thanked the Mayor and everyone for this recognition. He said he had the pleasure already to thank everyone that helped him with the scholarship who had been very helpful. He commented it has opened up a lot of doors for him and showed him that he chose a good career. He also said he got to know the Mayor who is a nice person and very family oriented, and he is happy that she is here to help everyone.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

4. Julia Rocha, Chamber of Commerce President, announced a decision from the Chamber of Commerce to form a special Task Force Committee in order to implement a buy local, support local plan. She explained how it came about at one of their meetings. She announced and welcomed anyone who would be interested to a meeting on January 11th at Latte Café at noon, where they want to build a pool of businesses, services, school district, and non-profit organizations so they can help each other to keep our money local. She thought the City, some time ago, implemented some kind of policy to buy local or support local businesses, and if so, she would like to review it. She said if there is not one, she suggested maybe consider coming up with one and work with the Chamber of Commerce.

Roman Barba mentioned he was involved in the Gonzales Wrestling Team and usually buys the bread, meat, etc. out of town. He suggested to Ms. Rocha to not only the schools but the boosters too.

Margaret Serna Bonetti, congratulated the young man for his accomplishments, and as he pointed out about the Mayor representing the community, she knows she cares about the community and thought that was right on. She reported on the Monterey Regional Solid Waste Authority meeting they had on Friday, where the County Board of Supervisors gave a letter in which they were proposing a consolidation between the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority and the Monterey Authority. She said their Director Mr. Merry was presenting what had taken place at the last County Board of Supervisors meeting when they were talking about submitting the letter and Plasco came up in the conversation. She said when they talked about gasification there was a collective laugh in the room. They had just approved looking at composting and going forward with creating energy out of composting and they were very negative in even considering anything having to do with gasification, as they said it is incineration. She asked them to consider it and they said the two agencies were in talks regarding this. She also said she looked at the minutes from the last meeting where Mr. Culligan spoke about this, and she has been speaking with them for a while and said Ag was not on board with this. She asked the Council as representatives for the City of Gonzales that their first and foremost attention to this matter and concern should be for the residents that live in this City. She elaborated on the attention that needs to be put on the children, City expansion, toxins and pollutants, housing, etc. She reminded the Council that the public had little or no input in the decision before it ever got to CEQA. She also indicated that it was a coalition that was growing of people that are in an uproar and do not want to see this, and there are some that are offering to contribute money since it would affect the quality of life of the Peninsula as well. She said they are going to be coming forth with other actions that are going to be taken. She asked the Council to put their heart back into the City and reminded them that this is the town that allows the Council to serve them. She said electeds only serve for short periods of time, and even a 20 year span is a short period of time, but the decisions they make impact us all, the long term.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approve the November 21, 2011 Joint City Council and Redevelopment Agency Minutes
- * 6. Approve RDA Accounts Payable Warrants #1122 - 1125
7. Approve City Accounts Payable Warrants #27854 - 27956
8. Departmental Activity Reports
 - a. Building/Fire Marshal Department
 - b. Community Development Department
 - c. Public Safety Department
 - d. Public Works Department
 - e. Recreation Department
9. Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2011-89, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Rescheduling the City Council Meeting of January 2, 2012 to January 3, 2012 in Observance of New Year's Holiday
10. Consider Approval of Resolution No. 2011-90, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Adopting the City Council Meeting Schedule for 2012

11. Accept the Recommendation of the City of Gonzales Planning Commission To At This Time, Withdraw From Consideration The disposal of City-Owned Property of Approximately 4.11± Acres
12. Consider Approval of Resolution No. Resolution No. 2011-91, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Second Amendment Extending the Term of the Franchise Agreement Between the City of Gonzales, City of Soledad, City of Greenfield and Tri-Cities Disposal and Recycling Service, Inc., From January 1, 2012, through January 31, 2012
13. Consider Approval of Resolution No. Resolution No. 2011-92, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Approving A Contract Extension With Tri-Cities Disposal And Recycling
14. Gonzales Grows Green (G3) Update
15. Gonzales Web Site Update

Councilmember Reed pulled item 7 and 8a for further discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk pulled item 8e.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Fund made a motion to approve the consent agenda items minus items 7 and 8a, and 8e. Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. Approved by vote; all ayes.

In regards to item 7, Councilmember Reed said he wanted to pull a specific check on page 13 of the report for Radio del Rey. He commented that as the City, if we are going to pay in support of the Gonzales High Football Games, in a show of equity we should also consider maybe making a donation of an equal amount towards a girls program, or if they have a radio broadcast, he wants to make sure that we support that also for Title 9 of the School Regulations.

City Manager Mendez indicated that this has not happened in a long time. The Radio Station came before and asked for support to televise the football games. He said that a few years ago, they came before and asked to televise the playoff for the Soccer Team. He said he is not aware of any girls game that has been televised. Should they come forward, that would be something we would do if that is the direction of the Council. He added he was not aware of any other request that has come through the last few years similar to this, but if that is the direction from the Council, as requests come forward, we will consider them to be equitable.

Mayor Orozco stated if it happens, staff can bring the Council further information.

City Manager Mendez said that if it is within this magnitude, which he is not expecting every week, we would do it.

In regards to item 8a, Councilmember Reed asked clarification for the record because we did not get a correct complaint report, it shows that we received 49 complaints and results 79 complaints, and when he added the numbers, it should reflect 83 complaints received and results 79, with a percent resolved as 95% as opposed as 161%.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk asked for clarification if he was looking at code enforcement not abandoned properties.

Councilmember Reed said that was correct. He said the original report on the abandoned properties had a month percent of 3% as opposed to 30% and staff corrected that, but did not give us a revised page on the City code enforcement.

Mayor Orozco said we will make that notation.

In regards to 8e, Mayor Pro Tem Funk asked if there was a specific demographic for the Recreation Commission Vacancy.

Recreation Coordinator Papineau responded that the seat that was open is a general seat.

Action: Councilmember Reed made a motion to approve items 7, 8a, and 8e. Mayor Pro Tem Funk seconded the motion. Approved by vote; all ayes.

REGULAR AGENDA

16. Street Sweeping Update

City Manager Mendez presented the report.

Public Comment: Cecilia Tejeda, 214 Fifth Street, commented that she has cleaned the street herself but the workers would not take the garbage. She asked the Council to tell them to pick it up.

Councilmember Reed asked if they needed to make a motion to extend the date of the program since he thought it would end at the end of the year.

City Attorney Rodriguez indicated that we did not have an action agendized for this particular item this evening, just provide direction, but not an actual adoption of a minute motion. He added that the current program will run through the end of the year, and we have the first meeting on January 3rd so that should give staff enough time to agendize the program.

◆ 17. Annual Public Financing Authority Report

Executive Director Mendez presented the staff report.

Public Comment: There was none.

Action: Vice Chair Funk made a motion to accept the 2011 Annual Public Financing Authority Report. Agency Member Lopez seconded the motion. Approved by vote; all ayes.

18. Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority Report to the City Council on the Environmental Review of the Proposed Waste Conversion Facility with Plasco Energy Group at the Johnson Canyon Landfill

Informe de la Autoridad de Desechos Sólidos del Valle de Salinas al Concilio de la Ciudad Sobre la Revisión Ambiental de la Instalación de Conversión de Desechos Propuesta por el Grupo de Energía Plasco en el Relleno Sanitario Johnson Canyon

City Manager Mendez reported that as part of the public review process, the Authority agreed and has been providing us the reports, so this was the second one on the second meeting of the month on their status of the environmental review process. They listed conference calls, meetings, and what has occurred since the last report to the Council. He told them Ms. Warner was here if there were any specific information or questions. He added that staff was putting together a public area at City Hall and the Library and would be making the appropriate connections on the website. He stated that all the information that has been provided to the Council on all sides of the issue will be available for the public at City Hall and the Library, and any questions that come through will be forwarded to the Authority. He commented that one of the things we are going to try to endeavor if it is a question to the City Council, we will separate that question and response, and if it is a question to the Authority from the Environmental Review Process, the Authority will respond to that.

He also stated that Community Development Director Truszkowski will be endeavoring to set up a few workshops sometime next year before the scoping meetings occur, so people can attend to get more information on the process, scoping meetings, how to participate, etc.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk asked when staff anticipates putting the information at City Hall and Library.

City Manager Mendez responded at the beginning of the year.

Susan Warner, Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority Diversion Manager, commented that she wanted to augment the attachment that was included in the report, a copy of the letter sent to John Culligan from D'Arrigo Brothers in response to comments that he made at second meeting in November, in response to the first report that the Solid Waste Authority had provided to the Council. Part of the reason they felt it was important to provide that letter to Mr. Culligan and to copy the Council as well, is to clarify that the Authority certainly realizes the value of potential consolidation with the Monterey Regional Waste Management District and as Ms. Bonetti indicated, there is activity on that particular question and proposal at this time. The letter is important for you to recognize that the reason the Authority did not pursue that course of action in 2002 as a result of the regional facilities environmental impact was because very simply, the District's Board said we are not interested in receiving the Authority's trash. So it is a logical process and we are pursuing the discussion again and she understands it was the topic at the District's Board meeting last Friday, and it was also requested by Supervisor Parker from the Board of Supervisors. So both the District's Board and the Authority Board look forward to entering into those discussions.

Ms. Warner also wanted to respond to a couple of comments that the Assembly Member made and she wished he had stayed so that he could hear. Because she has actually provided this information to the Council previously. He mentioned a few projects such as the City of Los Angeles, Sacramento, Santa Cruz where the technology was rejected or specifically Plasco rejected. She wanted to take issue with the word rejected. We are a

public agency, you are a public agency, we have specific procurement processes that are inherent in our charge to handle public finances. That includes the request for proposals process. When that process is done as it was for the Authority when we were soliciting proposals for conversion technologies, many proposals are received and typically only one is awarded the contract, or in our case one is the top ranked vendor for which to go forward into the CEQA process. She believes that it is not correct to state that it was rejected, there is specific criteria, which is in place in each of those procurements and each of these public agencies do their best to fulfill that criteria by selecting the vendor that is most appropriate for their particular situation, and in alignment with their criteria. So because plasma gasification is not appropriate for one area, does not mean that it is not for another. She said that he also stated that these projects are only successful when they import trash. She said that he, she and others on the Authority have specifically addressed this issue on several occasions. One of the reasons Plasco was appropriate for the Authority and in alignment with its criteria, is because they have modular units. The three units that they are proposing to be studied in the environmental review process would have the capacity of processing 123,000 tons. Last year the Authority landfilled 171,000 tons so it is not correct to state in this particular case, the project would be contingent upon importing trash from anywhere. We are looking at only our responsibility for the garbage that is generated within the Salinas Valley and no other. She said she would be happy to answer additional questions for the Council or those that may be raised by the public.

Councilmember Lopez asked her if she received a reply from Mr. Culligan's Office in regards to the question he proposed at the last meeting.

Ms. Warner responded no.

Councilmember Reed asked for clarification the 173 tons that was placed in the landfill was strictly just from the Salinas Valley.

Ms. Warner responded no, it was actually 172,000. About 80,000 tons are received from south Santa Clara Valley, that is under a long term agreement that currently exists between the Authority and Recology Waste Services which plans to terminate the end of 2013. So those tons would not be included in a future waste conversion project unless our Board took action to extend that.

In regards to the 80,000 tons, Councilmember Reed asked how much the Authority receives to receive that tonnage.

Ms. Warner replied she does not recall the specific tonnage amount, but it is less than the current \$64 gate rate. She recalls that the total revenue to the Authority over the term of the contract is \$15 million.

Public Comment/Comentarios del Público: Roman Barba commented Plasco was a bad word for him and should not be put in Gonzales. He said from the beginning they have been told lies, and one of those lies was that there was not going to be no stack, so there was not going to be no emissions. He said he went on the internet today to download the Salinas minutes and one of the ladies on the Council mentioned about there was not going to be no emissions. Where does she get that information? He believed she is hiding under a rock because she is a member of the Salinas City Council and she thinks there is not going

to be any emissions. He believed she has been told a lie. If she is thinking that way, there's probably a couple of other people sitting on those seats that think that way. Gonzales is going to be growing toward the dump, we are going to have a school over there so that is pretty bad to put a facility and have emissions. One of Plasco's mishaps that they had in Canada was that a valve busted, and his answer was that they fixed the problem and it will not happen again, and he guaranteed it. He gave an example of a car. He said there were lies after lies. He thinks we should close the dump. He said all they are concerned about is money not health. He said this was a project that should not be brought into our town. Burning waste has many negative impact and environmental health issues, they are going to poison our environment and food supplies with all these chemicals. He said he has talked to some of the farmers and has not found one that is for this. He said they have a petition that is going to be going and has some farmers that are willing to sign this petition, so they will bring that petition up to them as soon as it is signed. He mentioned that technology is good but he does not think we are ready for this technology here because it is not proven. Nowhere in California has this technology so why do we want to be a guinea pig. If those emissions land on our fields, we have to eat that stuff and if it lands on the water we have to drink that. He told the Council to think about those things. He wished the City would wake up and see what people are telling them. He said he was coming up here for a reason, he hates coming to Council meetings with a passion but he came because he believes this is very wrong.

A Spanish speaking resident asked the Council why Gonzales. Why did they choose here to make an experiment with us. She also asked how many days a week we have garbage trucks coming into this area.

Translation: Una persona pregunto en Español al Concilio porque Gonzales. Porque escogieron aquí para hacer un experimento con nosotros. Pregunto cuantos días a la semana tenemos troques de basura viniendo a esta área.

City Manager Mendez translated her questions to the Council. He asked her if she meant to the landfill or the area of Gonzales.

Translation: El Administrador de la Ciudad Mendez tradujo las preguntas de la persona al Concilio. Le pregunto a la persona si quiso decir al relleno sanitario o al área de Gonzales.

She responded to the landfill.

Translation: Ella respondió al relleno sanitario.

City Manager Mendez responded that the landfill was open everyday.

Translation: El Administrador de la Ciudad Mendez le respondió que el relleno sanitario estaba abierto diario.

She said she noticed on Saturday that there were four trucks coming from the San Jose area to here. She commented that she works early in the morning and works towards the hills. She said there is a lot of condensed fog in the valley on the vegetables, so she could not imagine when we have that plant here, all the vegetables is going to be contaminated, all that we take in our mouth is going to be contaminated. The hill is clean. She said when the

fog is here, when you go up the hill you can see the sun. She mentioned that at the Authority's last meeting they said that they were going to have thousands of jobs. She thinks there is going to be thousands of unemployment because when the retail centers find out that there is contaminated food, nobody is going to want to buy it from the farmers, no one is going to want to eat contaminated vegetables. There are a lot of flies, the weather is bad, and we have enough with the pesticides. We do not want more contaminants in this area.

Translation: Ella dijo que noto el Sábado que habían cuatro troques viniendo del lado de San Jose para acá. Ella comento que se levanta muy temprano y trabaja para el cerro. Aquí esta toda la brisa condensada en el valle en la verdura en cuanto sube al cerro tantito en el cerro allá esta el sol, imagínense cuando se ponga esa planta aquí. Lo que va a pasar es que toda la verdura va a estar contaminada, todo lo que nos llevemos a la boca va a estar contaminado, el cerro esta limpio y cuando la brisa esta aquí bien tapada, en el cerro esta el sol. Dijo que en la junta pasada de los de la basura dijeron que iba a haber miles de trabajo, va a ver miles de desempleos porque en cuanto se enteren los centros comerciales que hay verdura contaminada, nadie se la va a comprar a los rancheros, nadie va a querer comerse una verdura contaminada. Hay muchas moscas, estamos en un clima muy feo y pienso que con los pesticidas tenemos. No queremos más contaminantes en esta área.

City Manager Mendez informed the Council that he would translate her comments in Spanish as part of the minutes, so they would be reflected at the next meeting. He said he was not able to arrange for translation for this meeting, but he is going to see if we can get it for the next one.

Translation: El Administrador de la Ciudad Mendez le dijo al Concilio que iba a traducir los comentarios en Español como parte de las notas, y estarían reflejados en la próxima junta. Dijo que no pudo hacer arreglos de traducción para esta junta, pero iba a ver si podía hacerlo para la próxima.

City Manger Mendez asked her if she can identify herself.

Translation: El Administrador de la Ciudad Mendez le pregunto que se podía identificar.

Ms. Bonetti asked him if he can make it clear that she does not have to, but if she would like to, that is not a requirement.

Translation: La Señora Bonetti le pregunto a el si podía aclara que ella no tenia que, pero si quería hacerlo, que no era requisito.

City Attorney Rodriguez told her that it was a request. He said he just requested her name for the record.

Translation: El Abogado de la Ciudad Rodriguez le dijo que era una petición. Dijo que el nada mas pidio su nombre para el record.

Ms. Bonetti told him if he can make it clear that is not a requirement.

Translation: La Señora Bonetti le dijo que si lo podía hacer claro que no era un requisito.

City Attorney Rodriguez responded that the City Manager does not take direction from her, and on a legal matter that she is bringing up, he advises the Council and the City Manager, so he made a request.

Translation: El Abogado de la Ciudad Rodriguez le respondió que el Administrador de la Ciudad no toma dirección de ella, y en un tema legal que ella estaba trayendo, el le aconseja al Concilio y el Administrador de la Ciudad, por lo tanto el hizo una petición.

The lady indicated in Spanish that she knows that this group is not going to attack her like the Plasco Group. She told the Mayor and City Manager that various people know her and her name is Ana Isabel Camacho and she is part of the Poder Popular Grupos Unidos.

Translation: La persona dijo en Español que ella sabe que este grupo no la iba a atacar como el Grupo Plasco. Ella le dijo a la Alcaldesa y el Administrador de la Ciudad que varias personas la conocían y su nombre es Ana Isabel Camacho y pertenece al Grupo Poder Popular Grupos Unidos.

City Manager Mendez translated to the Council that she did not have a problem identifying herself. He said one of the things he will do at the next meeting is to see if he can have translation, but all this will be translated in the minutes.

Translation: El Administrador de la Ciudad Mendez le tradujo al Concilio que ella no tenia problema identificándose. El dijo que una de las cosas que va a hacer en la próxima junta es ver si puede tener traducción, pero todo esto será traducido en las notas.

Ms. Bonetti asked if he was going to translate all the comments that she made prior.

Translation: La Señora Bonetti le pregunto si iba a traducir todos los comentarios que la persona hizo anteriormente.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk reiterated that the City Manager stated that he would have them translated in our minutes.

Translation: El Vice Alcalde Funk le repitió que el Administrador de la Ciudad dijo que iba a traducirlos en las notas.

Mr. Barba mentioned that at the last meeting of the Authority, they talked about jobs and the lady that was doing an environmental report stated that they were going to bring 1,139 jobs in the City. He said those sound kind of inflated. He said when they had the meeting in CHISPA, he asked the question about how many jobs, and he was told 35 jobs and 68 jobs to build the facility that once they build it, they are gone. He added that Mr. Barrera commented that there were not true numbers. He believes they are giving false information. He said Councilmember Silva was there and he did not know if she had already told them, but he said they were giving false information.

Julia Rocha said she was here tonight with Asamblea Popular de Gonzales of which she is a member. She indicated she has a letter from the Monterey County Supervisors that went out to the Monterey Regional Waste Management District in which they are suggesting a working relationship between the Solid Waste Agencies within Monterey County. In this

letter they state that the Board of Supervisors believe that ultimately a single solid waste agency would be in the best interest of the residents and businesses of the Monterey County. The Asamblea agrees. We are building a coalition and we are drafting and working on a petition because we want to get it right. But our coalition consists of residents, business owners, students, and farmers, and is building and growing and we will soon bring a petition, which will bring you, the Waste Authority, the Board of Supervisors, the Air Control Agencies, and anybody that is going to be involved in this project. The Asamblea believes that the Board of Supervisors recommendation toward consolidation of the two agencies into one is the best option. Johnson Canyon Landfill has a limited capacity and diverting waste of the Marina Landfill would be the best solution. We believe it is time for common sense approach to our financial wars. It defies logic to continue to operate two waste agencies in the same County. The Monterey Regional Waste Management District has a projected life span of 150 to 200 years. They said this at their last meeting on Friday and is operating within budget. In contrast, the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority is operating in the red approaching \$40 million in debt and they have a life span of approximately 25 years. Consolidation will result in a savings of over \$12 million per year just in operational expenses that are incurred by the Waste Authority. She said she has submitted some questions to the Waste Authority in regards of the poor performance of the test facility in Canada and the numbers are ridiculous, as compared to the theory, the brochures they are getting, no emissions, and waste to energy. She says is laughable. She has questioned the performance of that facility, she sent an email to Ms. Warner and also the Plasco Representative Kristina Wyatt and did not get a response from them, but she got a response from the Waste Authority General Manager Patrick Mathews in which he informed her that her questions would be submitted to the CEQA process. She said she was really unhappy and uncomfortable with this decision. She thinks that undermines her right to know all the relevant information, and undermines her right and the public's ability to fully participate in the CEQA process, and that she should be offered a response to her question now so that she can participate in the CEQA process appropriately.

She stated that another fact is that the Waste Authority continues to bring very misleading information to the community such as the presentation they had for the Salinas Council last week in which Ms. Warner did a presentation of conversion technologies. So there are pictures of beautiful facilities in Germany and Europe and they are doing well in a residential area. She mentioned that she emailed her and asked her to tell her how many of those are plasma arch gasification facilities and which ones, and her answer was none. She stated that nobody is using this technology but her presentation, which she saw on video it seemed like they were all working with this technology, but it is not and is in her email. She added that she asked Mr. Mathews how this convinced him, and she explained the example he gave her about building something. She asked if they should be gambling with the almost \$40 million in debt. She said the data is there and the Waste Authority still bought it.

Ms. Bonetti apologized and said she did not meant to have the discourse with staff, and the reason she was asking for clarification about identifying oneself is that at one of the prior meetings there were some young ladies that were present and spoke, and when they were still in the building they got approached by representatives of Plasco who asked them to identify themselves and it became very uncomfortable, but they thought they were required to so they gave their names. They were under the age of 18 but still it did not matter. That was the reason she was asking staff to make it clear to the public since there are some that do not know that. She apologized for any misunderstanding and for the back and forth.

She elaborated on the closure of the landfill project. She said 3% of the garbage that goes there comes out of Gonzales and the rest comes from all the surrounded area so Gonzales is being asked to carry the brunt of everyone's garbage. She asked the Council to think about that. She said one of the things in the discussions coming out of Plasco is that we need to educate the public on this, and it gives her the impression that if she says no, that she must not get it and there must be something wrong with that because somehow she does not get it. So no means no. She mentioned the residents here are not interested and they are being treated as if there must be ignorant those Mexicans down there in Gonzales and those dumb farmers they must be ignorant because they do not get it. So sit down and I will explain it to you one more time. That is insulting to the community to think that. She informed about questions that were raised at the last Waste Authority meeting, which took place here, about telling Mr. Mathews that these people have important questions and wanted someone to educate them and someone needing to take time to explain it to them. She said when she looks at what is proposed for these workshops, it sounds like they are going to be about explaining to people one more time. She stated she went to the last meeting at the Gym and it was an insult to think that they were raffling gifts off to the public. She said a project like this is very costly. She elaborated on Ms. Warner's comments to Assemblymember Alejo and thought that what she left out was the reason stating why they did not get the project. She told the Council not to fall for the smoking mirrors.

City Manager Mendez mentioned that this item is agendized on the second meeting of the month to get feedback and input, and it is working, which was the whole intent of this. He clarified that the workshop he is talking about is not going to address the Plasco Project. It is set up to discuss and explain the CEQA process and how people can participate in the environmental review process so it is not staff's intent to get into a huge discourse on Plasco. He said anyone can attend meetings, but that is not the intent of the meetings. They are not intended to discuss the Plasco per say good or bad. It is intended to present the CEQA review process and discuss when people are asked to make comments, how to make comments. He added he was even thinking we would facilitate the submission of the questions so people may feel more comfortable and are not being directly asked to submit a question. So for the record, it is not intended to discuss Plasco or the project. When the information is presented, the lead agencies are required to respond to the questions and issues presented. He added staff would work very hard to have appropriate translators that understand it so they can discuss it. He said this was an emotional issue and staff is trying to maintain respect, so if people want to address the Council, he would ask that they come up and identify themselves and ask the question of the Council and then Council can ask staff to address or our Legal Counsel here. He mentioned we were not running away from this, we are just trying to simply put a meeting in place so people can feel comfortable talking to them, which is the whole intent.

Mayor Orozco indicated she appreciates the workshops because we have other projects that come before the Council that involve the CEQA process, environmental reports, mitigation, etc. which we need to be informed of what they are. She reiterated that it was not a workshop to talk about a certain project, but to talk about the CEQA process. She also said this item will be coming before the Council so if there are any concerns about information, meetings, workshops that needs to be improved on, that is something we would like to know. She mentioned we can be here all day to talk about a certain subject which is important, but she wants us to focus whether the information getting out to the community is appropriate or not appropriate.

Councilmember Reed asked if Ms. Warner can provide at a future meeting information on the statement made whether the landfill was going to be closed after a 25 year period, when is that date. He believed one of the things we need to talk about in one of these meetings in the future is the actual Authority and review where Gonzales sits on the Authority since we are just one voting member on that Board, and maybe need to relook at our position whether we need to have a second voting chair.

Mayor Orozco announced this was just an informational report and there was no action required.

19. **Public Hearing** to Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 2011-87, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Adopting Program Guidelines for Business Assistance Loan Program Funded by the City of Gonzales with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Community Development Director Truszkowski presented the staff report.

Mayor Orozco opened the public hearing at 7:43pm.

Public Hearing: No comments came forward.

Being there no comments from the public, Mayor Orozco closed the public hearing at 7:43pm.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Funk made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-87. Councilmember Reed seconded the motion. Approved by vote; all ayes.

20. **Public Hearing** to Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 2011-88, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Adopting a Program Income Reuse Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Community Development Director Truszkowski presented the staff report.

Mayor Orozco opened the public hearing at 7:45pm.

Public Hearing: No comments came forward.

Being there no comments from the public, Mayor Orozco closed the public hearing at 7:45pm.

Action: Councilmember Reed made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2011-88. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Approved by vote; all ayes.

21. Consider Adoption of Ordinance No. 2011-74, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Gonzales Approving an Extension to the Term of A Development Agreement Between the City of Gonzales, American Cooling, Inc., and Herbert G. Meyer Concerning Development of the Vista de Santa Lucia Industrial Subdivision (Waiver of Second Reading/Read by Title Only)

Community Development Director Truszkowski presented the staff report.

Public Comment: There was none.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Funk made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2011-74. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Approved by vote all ayes.

* 22. 2011 Redevelopment Agency Annual Report

Executive Director Mendez presented the staff report.

Public Comment: There was none.

Action: Agency Member Reed made a motion to adopt the 2011 Redevelopment Agency Annual Report and direct staff to submit the Report to the State Controller's Office. Agency Member Silva seconded the motion. Approved by vote; all ayes.

BUSINESS FROM CITY COUNCIL

23. City Council Board/Committee Reports

- a. League of California Cities Monterey Bay Division – Councilmember Lopez, on behalf of the league, wished everyone Happy Holidays. Councilmember Reed reported on the December 12th Holiday Mixer he attended, and they named Mayor Pro Tem Funk as the 2nd Vice President of the Monterey Bay Division. He congratulated him.
- b. Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments – Mayor Pro Tem Funk reported no meeting in December and will resume January 11th at 6pm at the Marina Library. He noted a new Interim Director.
- c. Transportation Agency for Monterey County – Mayor Orozco reported she could not attend the meeting due to illness, but on the agenda they were going to discuss the toll fee.
- d. Mayor Selection Committee – Mayor Orozco reported she could not attend due to illness. She will be the incoming Chair for the Mayors Committee this year.
- e. Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority – Councilmember Silva reported they had a meeting last Thursday here in the Chambers, where there were many reports given that night. One of them was from the nominating committee, and she will be moving from the Alternate Vice President to Vice Presidency, Fernando Armenta will be the new President of the Board, and Dennis Donohue will be the alternate. Next meeting is January 19th, 6pm here in the Chambers.
- f. Monterey Salinas Transit – Mayor Orozco was not able to attend this meeting also, but the item that was on the agenda was a closed session item regarding discussions on the new site for MST.
- g. City & School Joint Steering Committee – No report.
- h. Citizens Advisory Committee – Community Development Director Truszkowski will set up a meeting towards the end of January.
- i. Community Center Committee – City Manager Mendez is looking at March to get the group together to go over general stuff.
- j. Economic Development Committee – Community Development Director Truszkowski reported the meeting in December got cancelled because the Mayor was in Sacramento receiving an award. Next meeting is January 10.

- k. Budget Committee – City Manager Mendez reported Councilmembers Silva and Reed attended this meeting along with Blackstone Winery General Manager Erik Martella, GUSD Superintendent Liz Modena, GUSD Board Chair Wendy Franscioni, Rabobank Branch Manager Rutilia Baltazar, and Roberta Camacho, who are members of the committee. He said there was some information presented, and once the audits are out, he will present them to the group as well as additional information.

24. Oral Communication

Councilmember Reed wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He noted school is out of session so we need to be cautious. He stated that his Grandparants were farmers, and he said there was one statement made here tonight. He just wanted to say anyone who feels farmers are dumb, they do not know any farmers. He mentioned Farmers are some of the smartest and hardest working people who instill strong work ethics to people.

Councilmember Lopez congratulated Oscar Ochoa for the recognition and said it was good to recognize the talent that Gonzales Youth has and to encourage other young people in our community to dream big and continue to be very successful in their lives. He wished all the residents and our friends that are not from Gonzales Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Silva wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She thanked everyone who has helped with our local pantry.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. In regards to the Recreation Commission, he indicated that we have a youth representative but she was getting ready to go to college, so he asked if we have a plan in place to transition prior to her leaving.

Recreation Coordinator Papineau responded she will resign in June, then staff will open the position up for the youth vacancy.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk asked if there was an opportunity to address that with the school to get someone in place before the person resigning.

City Manager Mendez said that was a good idea. Recreation Coordinator Papineau will work on getting the recruitment started sooner, and then do an overlap of one meeting. He said staff will look at the bylaws to adjust that.

Mayor Pro Tem Funk thanked the Chamber of Commerce President for the idea of buying local, which has been very successful in other cities. He said looks forward to seeing this in the near future.

Mayor Orozco wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked City Manager Mendez, and staff, Public Safety Officers, Volunteer Firefighters and all the staff who continue to work very hard to make Gonzales a safe place to live and raise our families, and to continue to keep our residents informed of all the projects, activities, etc. She said it was amazing what we

have been able to accomplish the last couple of years even with budget cuts. She added we have non profit groups who step up and make this happen. She thanked her colleagues on the Council for their time and commitment to attend meetings and bring back some valuable information. She also thanked Councilmember Reed for his first year in the Council and for keeping us informed on the kids' activities, and looks forward to receiving additional information from the youth and the different activities they are part of.

Ms. Bonetti asked if she can make a quick comment.

Mayor Orozco indicated she will give her one minute.

Ms. Bonetti clarified to Mr. Reed about the comment he made about being descendant from farmers. She hoped he did not misunderstand her statement because he said something was said here tonight about farmers being dumb. She hoped he did not misunderstand what she was saying.

Councilmember Reed said no. He was not insinuating that she was calling farmers dumb. He said he does not want the public to insinuate or mishear any statement either.

Ms. Bonetti thanked him because she said she grew up in this community and definitely does not think that.

BUSINESS FROM CITY MANAGER

25. Oral Communication

City Manager Mendez handed out an update to the Council on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program for their information. He reported that we got our lights on downtown and Alta Street, and staff is working on major Alta. He informed he will be out of the office for the rest of the week, but he will be available by phone, email, etc. He said anything direct just work with Public Safety Director Miller, or other stuff directly on staff who are very capable of keeping everything moving forward.

Councilmember Reed mentioned there was some work going on at the sidewalk in front of the apartments in front of the south entrance, and some of the residents there were saying that there was no place provided for them to be able to walk through that area without going into the street. They were wondering if in the future, there could be a safer route provided. He mentioned he went out there and they had both sides roped off and did not see where there was a way that the residents from the apartments could bring the children down to the preschool.

City Manager Mendez said they will look at that.

Department Head Updates

Community Development Director Truskowski wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Special Projects Analyst Wolgamott reported on the Chevron Project, leaves recycling, and Chamber of Commerce meeting January 11th at noon.

Public Safety Director Miller wished everyone Happy Holidays and reminded people to be very vigilant during this time of the year.

Building Official Lechman reported on Pure Pacific Organics expansion.

Recreation Coordinator Papineau thanked the Mayor, City Manager, Mr. Velasquez from Fairview School, and Maury Treleven for going to Sacramento to accept the Governor's GEELA Award who were very privileged to go accept it. She said she was proud to bring it to the City of Gonzales which was for the 2010 Environmental Leadership Academy in the area of children's environmental education. She reported on the winter break free children's activities for 8 - 14 year olds at the Vosti Center, which were classes from the Monterey County Arts Council.

* **BUSINESS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

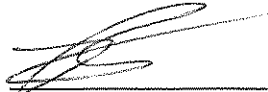
26. Oral Communication

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint City Council and Redevelopment Agency meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

ATTEST:



René L. Mendez, City Clerk