

**CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**JOINT MEETING MINUTES  
WITH THE AGUA CALIENTE TRIBAL COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010**

Spa Hotel and Resort, Grill Room, 100 North Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pougnet and Tribal Chairman Milanovich called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Foat, Councilmember Hutcheson, Councilmember Mills, Mayor Pro Tem Weigel, and Mayor Pougnet.  
**ABSENT:** None.  
**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Ready, City Attorney Holland, City Clerk Thompson.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT:** Richard M. Milanovich, Chairman, Jeff L. Grubbe, Vice Chairman, Karen Welmas, Secretary/Treasurer, Vincent Gonzales III, Member, and Anthony Andreas III, Member.  
**ABSENT:** None.  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Tom Davis, Tribal Council Chief Planning Officer, Margaret Park, Director of Planning and Natural Resources, Alva Johnson, Director of Government Affairs, Todd Hooks, Economic Development Director, and Laura Fregozo, Executive Assistant to the Tribal Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

JOHN TYMON, commented on the fees and rents at Horizon Mobile Village, requested rent control at the facility, and commented on the Desert Fashion Plaza.

SHERYL HAMLIN, commented on the Belardo Road Project, and encouraged the undergrounding of utilities as part of the project.

BLAKE GOETZ, Fire Chief, commented on his upcoming retirement, and the significance of the relationship between the City, the Fire Department, and the Tribe.

**1. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1.A. PALM SPRINGS VISITORS CENTER JOINT REMODEL PROJECT.**

Thomas Wilson, Assistant City Manager and Margaret Park, Tribal Director of Planning and Natural Resources, provided background

information and update on the Visitors Center Remodel Project, and stated the project was completed about four months ago.

No action taken.

**1.B. SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FUND UPDATE.**

City Manager Ready, Alva Johnson, Tribal Director of Government Affairs, and Geoffrey Kiehl, Director of Finance, provided background information on the status of the Special Distribution Fund.

Discussion was held regarding: the upcoming scheduled County Committee meeting, the County participation, the lack of funding by the State to the City for over one-year, and the participation of State Sen. Denise Ducheny.

No action taken.

**1.C. BELARDO ROAD PROJECT UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT.**

David Barakian, City Engineer, and Margaret Park, Tribal Director of Planning and Natural Resources, provided background information and an update on the Belardo Road Project which is fully funded.

Discussion was held regarding: the City has issued an RFA to Caltrans for authorization and the City is prepared to proceed with construction, conceptual plans will be submitted by the Tribe to the City in February, 2011, the lack of undergrounding the utilities as part of the project, the possible use of additional Indian Reservation Road Program Funding for undergrounding the utilities, the Tribe to lobby Congress for such funding, the participation of the State to distribute the federal grant funds, and the amount of time from bidding to construction.

**ACTION:** Request staff to draft a letter to our Federal and State Representatives to assist in moving the project forward. **By consensus of the City Council.**

**1.D. INTERSTATE 10 INTERCHANGES UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT.**

David Barakian, City Engineer, provided background information and an update on the Interstate 10 Interchanges construction, and stated both the Gene Autry Interchange and the Indian Avenue Interchange are both under construction.

Discussion was held regarding: the live-action cameras available on the website, and the expected completion dates for both Interchanges being 2011.

No action taken.

**1.E. COLLEGE OF THE DESERT WESTERN COACHELLA VALLEY CAMPUS UPDATE.**

John Raymond, Director of Community and Economic Development, provided an update and progress report on the College of the Desert Western Coachella Valley Campus, and provided the schedule for the approval of the College Specific Plan.

Discussion was held regarding: the transfer of the property to the District and escrow has closed, the estimated construction date in 2012, programs starting in 2014, and the investment of the District of nearly \$40 million toward the project.

No action taken.

**1.F. MUSEUM MARKET PLAZA SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE.**

Mayor Pougnet provided an update and progress report on the Museum Market Plaza Specific Plan and the status of the Desert Fashion Plaza.

Discussion was held regarding: the frustration of the community on the lack of progress toward the facility, and the hardships caused to the City and the Tribe due to the condition of the property.

No action taken.

**1.G. PALM SPRINGS ANIMAL SHELTER UPDATE.**

City Manager Ready provided background information and a status report on the construction of the new Palm Springs Animal Shelter, and stated the project is approximately eight weeks ahead of schedule.

Discussion was held regarding: the use of reclaimed water at the facility, the interest in other communities contracting with the City as part of the "no-kill" shelter, and the scheduled date for opening the new shelter.

No action taken.

**1.H. VISTA CHINO BRIDGE OVER WHITEWATER RIVER FUNDING AND PROGRESS REPORT.**

David Barakian, City Engineer, provided background information and an update on the Vista Chino Bridge Project, stated the completion of the project will require \$95 million, and \$1 million has been committed to start the environmental work.

No action taken.

**1.I. MUSEUM ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE.**

David Barakian, City Engineer, provided background information and an update on the Museum Road Construction Project.

Discussion was held regarding: the approval of a design contract, and the start date of construction for the proposed Tribal Museum.

No action taken.

**1.J. INDIAN RESERVATION ROADS PROGRAM AND FUNDING.**

Tom Davis, Chief Planning and Development Officer, and Margaret Park, Tribal Director of Planning and Natural Resources provided background information on the Indian Reservation Roads Program.

Discussion was held regarding: the Tribal relationship directly with FHWA, grading or priority of roads within each city, the process of Federal funding to the Tribe.

No action taken.

**IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

Chairman Milanovich congratulated Police Chief Dominguez for his efforts toward the recent gang and narcotics task force accomplishments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The City Council adjourned at 6:36 pm. to the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at 6:00 P.M., Council Chamber, City Hall, preceded by a Closed Session, Small Conference Room, City Hall, 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

**APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE PALM SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN P. POUGNÉ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES THOMPSON, CITY CLERK