

MINUTES

**DUARTE CITY COUNCIL/AZUSA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING – JANUARY 29, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Duarte and the City Council of the City of Azusa met in a special joint meeting in the Azusa Auditorium, 213 E. Foothill Boulevard, Azusa, California. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Azusa Police Chief Bob Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

DUARTE CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: Fasana, Finlay, Gaston, Paras-Caracci, Reyes

ABSENT: None

AZUSA CITY COUNCIL

PRESENT: Carrillo, Gonzales, Macias, Rocha

ABSENT: Hanks

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Deem, Azusa, stated Vulcan's lawyers indicate they have the right to mine additional acres, they have threatened litigation, he feels they are bluffing to make the City succumb to their demands, and encouraged City Council not to give in to those demands and to wait for the lawsuit.

Lino Paras, Duarte, stated clean and bad air has no boundaries, he would like Azusa to consider everything, Duarte has invested in litigation in the past, and health is number one.

Al Contreras, Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District, stated he would like Irwindale to join the discussion, the more we dig, the more polluted the water becomes, and he hopes the City is watching the mining to avoid contamination.

Charles Gwyn, Duarte, stated there have been positive changes in both cities, discussed a number of projects, stated the backdrop of the mountains has an eyesore that can be seen from many areas, and we need to assess where we want to go in the future, as we will have to live with the decision for a long time.

Alan Heller, Duarte, stated he has been involved in trying to prevent mining for a long time, he sees the dust, asked that the City Councils take a serious look at this, he was assured that Vulcan had no plans to come over the hill, but they now have, and he views the ridge from his back yard.

Susan Buchanan, Duarte, stated the water runs clear in the river until it goes by the mine, then it is not clear, the mine is not in compliance with several resolutions Azusa has made, and stated the mine should be stopped.

Azusa Mayor Rocha stated the mining issue will be considered last on the Agenda, this meeting is a workshop and no decisions will be made, and stated the meeting will end at 8:00 p.m.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Encanto Parking Restrictions**

There was discussion about the possibility of Azusa lifting the parking restrictions on one side of Encanto on weekends or for special events, and additional discussion pertaining to speeding, safety, and liability issues.

Encanto Nature Walk Project

An overview and update of the Encanto Nature Walk Project was provided, and discussion ensued pertaining to design, bio-swale project, Corps of Engineers' concern about public safety, need for more frequent patrol of the area, and completion date.

Pedestrian Bridge
San Gabriel River

There was discussion about Los Angeles County's ownership of the Puente Largo pedestrian bridge that crosses the San Gabriel River, issues pertaining to safety, lighting, and graffiti, the possibility of installing portable solar lighting with the use of motion sensors, and estimated cost to have lighting installed.

Foothill Boulevard
Street Conditions/Maintenance

There was discussion about the poor condition of Foothill Boulevard located between the cities of Duarte and Azusa, including damage to the asphalt from tree roots, dangerous street curves, and lack of lighting, with further discussion about the possibility of grant funding. It was reported that the City of Irwindale has agreed to include the maintenance of Foothill Boulevard in its next capital project budget, the City of Azusa would do the same for that portion of Foothill Boulevard that is within its city limits, and it has been requested that Los Angeles County re-surface the bridge street.

San Gabriel River Homeless
Issues

It was reported that Los Angeles County services have been used to assist homeless persons living in the San Gabriel River area to move to shelters, overgrown brush is a challenge in the search for homeless persons in that area, and although there have been no major violent crimes, there has been vandalism, and conditions are unsafe and unsanitary.

Mining Issues

An update was provided about the Vulcan mining operation, and discussion ensued about reclamation, vested mining rights, compliance, threatened litigation, visual impacts, health issues, access to waterfalls, preservation, dust, benefits of the canyon, and impacts on both communities.

ADJOURNMENT

On behalf of the Duarte City Council, Mayor Reyes thanked Mayor Rocha and the Azusa City Council for hosting the meeting. The special joint meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor Phillip R. Reyes

ATTEST:

City Clerk