



## Community Center Town Hall Questions from the Public May 14 & May 16 of 2020

### Community Center

*\*These questions came from community members that participated in the Community Center Town Halls in May 2020. If you have other questions and/or suggestions or if you want to stay informed of this project and others email us at [public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us](mailto:public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us)*

Question:	Answer:
What would the community center be used for?	The community center could be used for a variety of things. For example, it could be used for community events, public meetings, private functions, fitness classes, youth activities, art and theater workshops, etc. In addition, the City is proposing building it large enough to house a state-of-the-art Library.
Where would this be built?	As directed by the Council after community input, the plan is to build the community center on the Gabilan Court property off Fifth Street. This is adjacent to Fairview Middle School and next to the Joint Use Gym.
How would this project impact the traffic congestion on Fifth Street?	Until we know the size of the community center and what amenities it will include, we will not be able to estimate how much traffic will be generated. However, the center will experience most of its traffic during off peak hours, meaning residents will most likely use the center after school hours (2:45 – 7:00pm) and on weekends. For example, the heavier traffic from the Center will likely occur very similar to what currently occurs when the Joint-Use (Fairview) Gym is in use.

<p>Will traffic plans be reworked to address traffic?</p>	<p>Yes, as the project advances a traffic analysis will be conducted to quantify the vehicles expected during various timeframes so we can plan for expected impacts.</p>
<p>Will there be fees like the Community gym?</p>	<p>We are looking at different ways to fund the center and its operations and as of now nothing is set in stone. Although fees like what currently is in place for the City's recreational programs could offset some of the costs, but that is still to be determined.</p>
<p>What is the increase of the sales tax?</p>	<p>One of the options is a ½ cent increase to the local sales tax. This will generate approximately \$600,000 each year that would go to helping develop the center and pay for the future debt.</p> <p>It is important to understand that Gonzales has the second lowest sales tax rate in Monterey County next to the unincorporated areas of the County. That means when you shop in Soledad, Salinas and any other City in the County you pay a higher tax. Increasing the Gonzales rate by ½ cent to 8.75% would bring us in line with Carmel, Monterey, Sand City, Soledad and King City; but still lower than Marina and Seaside who are at 9.25% or Greenfield and Salinas who are at 9.50%.</p>
<p>How can we make sure that the Gabilan Court property is designated for public recreation purposes?</p>	<p>The City Council has designated the Gabilan Court property for a future community center. However, to design and construct this project we will need community support. In addition, as it pertains to a zoning overlay for this property, at the next opportunity presented the land use designation for this land will be changed to a Public Facilities (PF) designation.</p>
<p>How can we encourage the Gonzales community's support for a sales tax towards a community center?</p>	<p>If you are interested in joining us to work on this project and help assess its feasibility, please contact us via email at <a href="mailto:public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us">public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us</a></p>
<p>Will there be an opportunity to see what kind of kiosks would be available inside the center (i.e. Starbucks, Pete's Coffee)?</p>	<p>We will continue to gather community input for the center's operations. If you are interested in voicing your ideas and suggestions please email us at <a href="mailto:public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us">public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us</a></p>

<p>Is there a flyer with all this information that I can share with church members?</p>	<p>As we move on this project more information will be compiled to be shared with the community. We will create flyers that explain the project that can be shared with the community. Also, please feel free to share this Q&amp;A with them to get started.</p>
<p>Instead of raising taxes, can the building be partially rented on weekends for parties to increase revenue that way?</p>	<p>This could be an option we consider, but in order to get it built we will have to have some funding to get it going. Ways of getting that done will be discussed in the resident steering committee. If there is interest in being part of the conversation please email us at <a href="mailto:public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us">public.input@ci.gonzales.ca.us</a> It is important to realize and understand that preliminary cost estimates for the Center are \$20 million; so whether it is this amount or an amount lower due to a Capital Campaign, it is unlikely that the entire amount will be offset, therefore, requiring a significant and consistent revenue source to pay for the debt. However, in addition to developing and finding a way to pay for the construction, there will be significant annual operating costs for the Center that could most definitely be offset by rents, fees, leases, etc., generated by the Center.</p>
<p>Have studies been done as to whether the Center would get more here vs. the other side of the freeway?</p>	<p>We have looked at different areas that would be ideal for a community center and we have concluded that Gabilan Court would be a prime location for a community center due to its proximity to the schools and the fact that the city owns the property. In addition, the City Council provided clear direction to use this land for the Community Center because of its central location and significant community input. However, it is important to realize that as the community develops and grows to the east of Hwy 101, necessary public amenities and civic buildings will be included in the development</p>

**Census**

*\* During the meeting the Census was also brought up and these questions from the public were generated.*

<p>How can we help with the Census in Gonzales now that the date has been extended to October?</p>	<p>You can help by continuing to let people know how important it is to complete the census. Tell them it's important to get it done today and not wait.</p>
--	--

What is the current census participation rate in Gonzales?	As of June 23, 2020, the Gonzales response rate is at 54%.
What else besides asking our neighbors can we do to help others be counted?	You can point people to the phone numbers below and the website: English: (844) 330-2020 Spanish: (844) 468-2020 Website: <a href="http://www.my2020census.gov">www.my2020census.gov</a>