

City of Gonzales

City Manager Report

June 2023



June was a busy month for the City of Gonzales as we kicked off our summer activities and worked on preparing the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget, and closing out Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The Budget was presented and approved by the City Council on June 20th.

On that same day, the Council was presented with the prestigious All-American City Award by former Hayward Mayor and National Civic League Board Member Barbara Halliday. A local delegation of community representatives attended the competition in Denver on June 9-12th and competed against 19 other national cities (after making the Top 20) to bring the award home. A huge THANK YOU to our representatives: Jessica Olmedo-Albor, Michelle Slade, Cindy Aguilar-Castañeda, Jose Chavez, Guillermina Flores, Aliyah Castillo, Luke Naegle, Mary Flores, Lizette De Leon and Monica Rico for showing the judges what the *Gonzales Way* is all about!



Congratulations Gonzales!

Local Housing Efforts

- In support of the Council's housing priority, the City entered into a contract with Design Path Studio to design a pre-approved set of Accessory Dwelling Plans (ADUs) that will be made available to the public for a low fee with the goal of assisting the community to build more local housing. The pre-approved plans will be made available in early August.
- The City is continuing to engage with DR Horton to understand their feasibility study for potential housing on the D'Arrigo property. The City and the School District will also be meeting around this to align efforts as housing is a critical need for their workforce.
- The City Manager and Community Development staff are engaging with Housing Element consultants from 4Leaf to move the work along in order to meet the State's established deadline of December 2023. The Element's approval can influence and make available housing monies. As part of its public engagement process, a team of folks were out at the 4th of July event conducting surveys to gather community input for the document.

- On June 27th, the City Manager and Community Development staff attended MBEP's Housing Summit where there was a robust conversation around the Housing Element, potential policies, and impediments to housing construction. The conversation was productive and there were key individuals in the room that can help make shifts at both the local and State level to ease some of the restrictions on housing development.
- The City Manager is connecting with CHISPA to further discuss the Senior Housing project on Alta Street.

Gonzales Community Center Complex

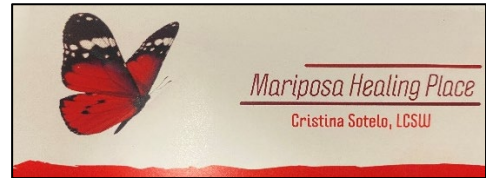
- The work on the Gonzales Community Center continues to move forward. The Agreement between the Consultants from Otto Construction and WRNS, our Design-Build team, is almost finalized.
- On the financing part, the City Manager met with representatives from the California National Resources Agency to discuss the funding for the Teen Innovation Center and the draw down process. The Capital Campaign is also moving along nicely. We just received another commitment of \$25,000; and in the month of June, we received \$7,500, with the total of cash on hand being \$4,064,605, and a total pledged amount of over \$6.4 million.

Economic Development and Revenue Generation

- The City Manager is engaging with partners at the County and the Community Foundation for potential funding opportunities that may be able to support certain aspects of our Community Health Worker program.
- The City is also working to adjust some of our fees to bring them up to industry standards as many of our fees have not been updated in quite a few years. This includes the reinstatement of our water fees and shutoffs since during COVID-19 we did not conduct any shutoffs.
- The City Manager and Community Development staff will be meeting with a Legacy Signs representative to continue the discussion and exploration of a potential digital sign for the community. This billboard and communications opportunity can bring in upwards of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the community and serve as a communications tool if the Council decides it's something that can be of benefit to the community.
- The Rianda Cooler project is on track. The cooler will be located on Gloria Road and will operate a Fresh Vegetable Food Processing and Cooling Facility. The City will be taking the formal application to LAFCO for Annexation in September. The project is expected to bring in 436 jobs and contribute \$75,000 in taxes for the City. It is expected to open in the Spring of 2025.



New Business Spotlight:



Community Engagement

- The City Manager attended MBEP's Digital Equity Workshop on June 2nd. The Workshop aligned with our efforts around broadband access and our work on the Middle Mile. The discussion was interesting and intriguing as information was provided on potential upcoming grant opportunities.
- The City Manager and the GUSD Superintendent are meeting to collaborate and plan for next year's Gonzales Youth Council. A joint meeting of the School Board and City Council is scheduled for August 8th at 5:30pm.
- The Gonzales City Manager has also been appointed as an Alternate to Steve Adams (City of King, City Manager) on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, representing South County.