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EXCLUSIVE ALERT FEATURED

Guadalupe cuts meeting schedule, extends animal services contract

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Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Animal Services Administration Director Jan Glick, left, addresses the Guadalupe

Councilwoman Virginia Ponce made the motion Tuesday night to change the meeting schedule. Councilman Tony Ramirez seconded the measure. Mayor John Lizalde's vote secured the calendar change.

Lizalde said he supported the change because of the potential for cost savings.

"Our big goal is to look at a budget where we see that we are at least not in a deficit. Getting us as close to a balanced budget is our goal," he said.

Also on Tuesday night, the Guadalupe City Council voted to extend its contract with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department to manage animal related services in the city.

The city will pay the county \$57,496 for its services, which will include responding to animal related emergencies and calls, providing shelter and adoption services for animals from Guadalupe and conducting outreach operations in the city.

"We have regular patrols scheduled for the city and hope that you observed an increase in services from our field staff, along with events we have had with the Project PetSafe staff and our partner Care 4 Paws in the city of Guadalupe," Jan Glick, animal services director, said in his report to the City Council.

So far during fiscal year 2016-17, Santa Barbara County Animal Services Administration agents impounded 52 dogs, 51 cats and 7 birds. During the 2015-16 fiscal year the Animal Services Administration impounded a total of 170 animals in Guadalupe. During the current fiscal period the department has answered 297 calls for service in the city of Guadalupe.

"We have had a project going in Guadalupe to assist with a group of feral cats living in the Birch Street area. We assisted with free spays and neuters for eight cats and have completed this project. Our next target area is Elm Street where we believe there are 17 cats in the colony," Glick said.

Of the dogs taken to the pond from Guadalupe so far this fiscal year, 18 were adopted, 15 were returned to their owners, eight were transferred to another shelter and seven were euthanized.

"We have made a concerted effort to have an increased presence and visibility in the city of Guadalupe," Glick said.