

CITY OF MERCED AIRPORT AUTHORITY MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MERCED CIVIC CENTER
678 WEST 18TH STREET
MERCED, CA

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2009

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Janet Young called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Janet Young, Rich Basart, Larry Morelock, Robert Avalor and Jerry Crews.

Members Absent: Allen Rutledge and Kraig Riggs

Staff Present: Ron Elliott, Bill Cahill and Jessica Cortright

C. WRITTEN PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATION

None.

D. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2009.

M/S/C – Basart/Morelock motioned to approve and file the minutes for September 15, 2009 as submitted.

F. REPORTS

1. TOM LOPES, PRESIDENT GATEWAY AIR CENTER, LLC.

Tom Lopes told the Authority that general transient activity is down and that the flight school continues to utilize the fuel island at Gateway Air Center.

Mr. Lopes gave a verbal report on how Gateway's fuel prices compare to other neighboring airports and explained how the price of fuel is calculated. The board requested this item be discussed again with a fuel comparison spreadsheet and detailed operating report at the November meeting.

2. CHUCK HOWELL, CEO OF GREAT LAKES AIRLINES

Chuck Howell gave a presentation about Great Lakes Airlines. After a brief summary of how GLA has evolved as a company he discussed their Airline as it is currently. GLA has expanded into 23 EAS Communities and 4 Hubs in the past 2 years. They are currently servicing 48 out of the 66 cities that participate in the EAS Program. Mr. Howell explained the “State of the Industry” and how the EAS Program has drastically changed in the last 24 months, and for this reason service to many destinations or communities have been put on hold. Mr. Howell assured the Authority Board that they are committed to Merced and obtaining service to Las Vegas, and progress has been made with assistance of Mr. Elliott, Airport Superintendent.

3. 2009 ACA CONFERENCE REPORT – SEPT 16-18, 2009

The Association of California Airports (ACA) 2009 Annual Fall Conference was held September 16 – 18. ACA's goal is to "Educate, Advocate, and Assist" the aviation community. Over 250 people attended. This three-day conference presented a number of guest speakers covering a variety of topics. Of special note, Session 6: Going Green – Lessons Learned, provided guest speakers from Fresno International and Santa Monica Municipal Airports to discuss their challenges with instituting “green” initiatives. To view the conference agenda and power point presentations go to www.calairports.com.

4. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Elliott reviewed this month’s superintendent report:

Airline Status: Great Lakes Airlines is flying their posted schedule as advertised. Eight departures were cancelled – Five for reasons other than weather/ATC. Enplanements were slightly up from the preceding month.

Small Community Air Service Development Grant: TJA has completed the DVD and new webpage. The webpage has been delayed in “going live” while options are explored on the best way to host and maintain the site.

Capital Project and Construction: The new security system for the Airport has been approved and contracts have been approved and awarded by the City Council. Installation of the new system will come in two stages starting in the next couple of weeks. The first stage will be the installation of new fiber optic line between Fire Station 52 on the airport to the main terminal. Installation of all the security cameras, software, and monitoring devices will occur in the second stage. All work is projected to be finished prior to December 15.

Demolition has begun on the B-side hangars. The building has now been removed, and final clean up has begun. The area will continue to be used as a commercial truck parking lot, and pay parking meters will be added in the future.

Airport Staff has been exploring the possibility of adding an electrical outlet to the row of T-Hangars that parallel Condor Drive. Estimates from electrical contractors have been requested. If the project proceeds, rents for these hangars will increase \$10 per month to cover the additional electrical expense.

Other: The City Council has approved the sale of the Hangar Café to Francisco D. Quinones and Olivia Duran.

Tom Nevis is selling his interest in the corporate hangar he built in 2004 to Clay Nordman. The City Attorney provided Clay Nordman with a new lease to review and sign. After edits are reviewed by the City Attorney the lease will be signed and go to the City Council for final approval.

Legal is working with Gateway Air Center on consolidating numerous lease amendments into one lease with updated “due” dates for future growth and expansion. Nothing further to report until legal provides an updated/amended lease.

G. AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. POSSIBLE INCOMPATIBLE LAND USE ACTIVITY

a) POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF AIRPORT PROPERTY

At the September Authority meeting a request was made for an update on the possible exchange of Airport Property from New Phase Development that was presented on July 17, 2007.

Mr. Bill King, the Principal Planner for the City of Merced’s Development Services Department said the developer interest went away when the housing market crashed. Planning Staff is not pursuing the land swap at this time. Mr. Elliott said that the Airport is still interested in this land swap and staff will contact the current landowner to discuss this matter further.

2. OTHER BUSINESS FROM AUTHORITY MEMBERS

None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C – Basart/Avalle motioned to adjourn the Airport Authority meeting at 7:59 pm and to meet again on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Civic Center, 678 W 18th Street, in the Council Chambers.

Janet Young, Chairperson
Merced Municipal Airport Authority