



City Organization and Services Committee
1st Floor City Council Conference Room Area 'B'
100 W California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Wednesday, April 27, 2016 (4th Wednesday each month)

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Draft Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lori Acton, Mike Mower, Solomon Rajaratnam, Cecil Yates

Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m.

This meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Accommodations and access to City meetings for people with other handicaps may be requested of the City Clerk (499-5002) five working days in advance of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:05.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mike Mower, Cecil Yates
Absent: Lori Acton, Solomon Rajaratnam,
Staff: Peggy Breeden, Dennis Speer, Gary Parsons
Recording Secretary: K. Morrison

APPROVAL OF AGENDA *Motion To Approve Agenda as Amended Was Made By Breeden, Seconded by Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote of 2 Aye (Breeden, Mower) 0 Nays, 2 Absent (Acton, Yates), 0 Abstain*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *Motion To Approve Minutes as Amended Was Made By Breeden, Seconded by Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote of 2 Aye (Breeden, Mower) 0 Nays, 2 Absent(Acton, Yates), 0 Abstain*

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

David Matthews – There should be some way to alert the community to issues in closed session negotiations, such as the casino, so it is not a surprise.

Mower - We are limited by law on what we can release to the public.

Gary – The reason we went straight to agenda is because there is a timeline problem for the developer. What we're doing now is stretching out his time dramatically.

Mower – And if we put it on the ballot it will kill the whole deal.

O’Neill – The reason everyone is upset is because they felt it was dumped on them.
That creates a PR issue that stretches out the process.

Stan Rajtora – It could have been shorter if we had the meeting we are having tonight.

Mower - Whether it would have solved anything is another issue.

Speer – If it was just for discussion and potential action that would have calmed people down.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

1. O’Neill Dynamics

O’Neill – The retention recruitment subcommittee from the base was successful. It’s now a monthly meeting. Our goal is to keep it work minded. The action item is to investigate the organizations to see what they are doing for retention recruitment and what they need. There is a lot of regulation and limitation with the base and the main take away is that the city needs to take greater responsibility as being the meeting place of some of these ideas. If the city has the right contacts in place, it can be handed from the base to the city and then disseminated. The base has more limitation. To improve on the relationship, we can try to explain it better and figure out a way for the channel of communication to be used for businesses to get information to the base. The work I’m now doing is looking at the casino opportunity, which fills a lot of gaps, in a PR role to get as much information to the council and public so they can make decisions. We’re going to see after tonight. We’ve been working since our meeting with Mediacom and our conversation tomorrow will be predominately about getting back to the policy. We have a commitment to Mediacom. We’re also reaching out to Frontier and sat down with SBC wireless to see what they can offer to the community

Mower – In regards to Frontier, everyone I’ve talked to said it slowed down when Frontier took over from Verizon and when they called and complained, Frontier said they could upgrade. On my bill, I was charged \$386 just for them changing over. That’s \$55 a landline. I was hoping you were going to say Mediacom was moving along. I don’t have much hope that Frontier will do us any good.

O’Neill – The VP for Frontier said she wants to gather some information. We in the community need to communicate what Verizon has been for us in the past.

Breeden – can the committee invite Frontier to come speak? We should invite many of the communities that attended the SBC meeting to talk and allow them to tell us what they’re doing.

O’Neill – I can reach out again. The last time I reached out, the transfer from Verizon to Frontier finalized in March and then they were waiting on something else when I last contacted her. She said the first thing out the gate was to come into these communities and meet people.

Parsons – You’ll get the best response if you send it through the city rather than the committee.

O’Neill – I can draft up a letter. Shall I address it as being from you, Peggy?

Breeden – I would be okay with that.

Parsons – When the city took up the issue instead of the committee, we got an immediate response.

Breeden – I would like to make a motion that we will extend an invitation and if you can write up the letter.

O'Neill – With permission, I'll do it with the broadband committee.

2. Broadband Committee

Stan Rajtora – We don't necessarily need to limit ourselves. We just need someone to take off from the digital 395 and bring it into the city.

Jay Chun – And that's what SBC is doing.

Stan Rajtora – SBC is fine with me.

Jay Chun – SBC tried to negotiate with CBC and it didn't come through. In our informal meeting with Mediacom, they said CBC was not a non-profit organization. He insinuated that their prices are too high.

Speer – And they built that system on grant money.

Jay Chun – That's why SBC was very surprised they weren't able to get a deal with CBC. They're offering 5, 7, 15, and 25 megs with a tiered price structure.

Parsons – It's tricky since you're dealing with the private sector.

Mower – But they put it in with Grant money.

Parsons – For that part, we could go to who issued the grant.

Speer – They were to bring the lines in with the grant money. They were subsidized to bring the lines in and made money in the process so that it would reduce costs. We'll find out who the funding organization was and give them a call.

Stan Rajtora – Did anyone want to talk to an entrepreneur to create a business opportunity?

Speer – I think we're better off dealing with people who are already in the business.

Jay Chun – Maintaining and operating the digital 395 does cost money. Right now the private sector isn't interested in doing business with CBC.

Stan – I was considering enticing investors with money. There are people in the telecommunication business that don't know we have those lines.

Mower – We were encouraged when Mediacom met with us.

Parsons – The senior VP was very clear with his commitments to the city, but some of the junior staff that we've talked to say it is not possible to do what he is saying they can do.

Jay Chun – To me it was nothing more than presenting the company.

Parsons – He made the commitment to one gig service in three to four months.

Speer – And then they'd test it for a month and then it would be marketed.

Parsons – I think it would be reasonable in two to three months to send a letter or give the VP a call to check where he is with his commitment. He may provide the local staff what they need.

Stan Rajtora – If he doesn't do that, then we need to reach out to other people or bring in investors who can pull both sides together. They don't have to put the infrastructure in. They just have to distribute it.

Speer – The original policy issue I saw drafted for the broad band committee needs to be revised. It's beyond what we need for a policy to work with providers to bring that in. I'll do a follow up call on CBC.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

No Comments

SUPPORT STAFF COMMENTS

Speer – It will be interesting to see what happens with the meeting on the Casino tonight.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Ways to communicate policies or issues that might be controversial
- Broadband Committee
- O'Neill Dynamics

NEXT MEETING

- May 25, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT at 5:44 p.m.