



CITY OF RIDGECREST
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Final Minutes

MEETING OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST PLANNING COMMISSION
City Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00pm**
2. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Beres, Commissioners Pope & Sanders
Absent: Commissioner LeCornu (excused)
Staff Present: Matthew Alexander, Ricca Charlon
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Motion to approve Agenda as written by C. Pope, seconded by L. Beres
4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, and 1 Absent
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 27, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting**
Motion to approve March 27, 2012 Minutes by J. Sanders, seconded by L. Beres
4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, and 1 Absent.
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA - None**
7. **PUBLIC HEARING**
SPR 12-01 – a request to install and operate an unmanned fiber optic node at 1320 McLean Street, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 Parcel 13, PM 10819 (APN: 033-070-13), that will serve as a regeneration facility and distribution point for fiber optic services to the community of Ridgecrest, California. Applicant: California Broadband Cooperative.
City Planner M. Alexander gave staff report and background information on California Broadband Cooperative as well as the project site itself. Staff has the concern of it being an eye sore due to the chain link fence that is proposed. Chain link along with plants, possibly oleanders, is an option as well as a solid brick/cement wall is an option.
Beres – concerned with fence catching trash; who will maintain site if it is unmanned?
Porter – Where is the water retention site on the site plan? Resolution mentions it but no provisions shown on site map. Also concerned with the site being only a chain link fence and this is supposed to be a business park with offices and such.
Sanders – Who owns the property? Is this City Owned Utility or privately owned?
Alexander – until February 2nd it was the RRA and is now under the discretion of the Oversight Board.
Mike Flynn is here to represent California Broadband Cooperative. Route will serve municipalities, Indian reservations, and military facilities along the route. The route will serve additional anchor tenants throughout the community as well (i.e. hospitals, etc.). Water retention/grading issues are actually addressed and shown on the submitted work to the building department for approval. Site will be kept clean by the technicians that will access the site on occasion. Fence is proposed as chain link and will be lined with vinyl slating that has an extremely long shelf life. 6ft high fence with barbwire would be their preference. Lighting of the property is on the prefabricated building and is a manually operated switch. Project is Federal funded along with a small amount from the State of CA. It is a nonprofit cooperative that stays within the State line (except Reno, NV). This is 1 of 12 node sites proposed along the route.

S. Rajtora – concerned with the minimal information provided in photos that leaves it to chance as to possibly being an eye sore. He would like more info to keep the project with the standards of the Business Park. Agrees with the project idea, just wants Commission to keep in mind it should be complimentary to the rest of the business park.

*Motion to approve SPR 12-0, with conditions (add condition 24A to read ‘the propane tank, generator, fiber vault, and equipment shelter shall be enclosed on the north, east and south sides with a chain link with mylar slats fence and the west side with a solid masonry wall as approved by the City Planner.’ To condition #25 add the following ‘If the driveway exceeds 150’ applicant will put in a turnaround’) made by L. Beres, second by C. Pope.
4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, and 1 Absent.*

8. DISCUSSION ITEM

Ridgecrest General Plan Military sustainability element update - As the closest urban area to Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake, Ridgecrest enjoys a symbiotic relationship with the installation. The Navy is the largest employer in the Indian Wells Valley, providing a significant economic thrust and adding to the economic base of the City of Ridgecrest.

9. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

- a. Report from Committees
- b. Commissioner Contacts

10. STAFF ITEMS

11. ADJOURN

to OTAP Meeting, May 1, 2012