

**RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL  
SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
FINANCING AUTHORITY  
HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**Closed Session – 5:30 p.m.  
Regular Session – 6:00 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL – 5:33 p.m.**

Council Present: Mayor Eric A. Bruen; Mayor Pro-Tem Solomon P. Rajaratnam; Council Member Skip Gorman; Council Member L. Scott Hayman

Absent: Vice Mayor Kyle Blades

Staff Present: City Attorney M. Koczanowicz (WebEx); City Manager Strand; City Clerk Charlon; PW Director Reed; Finance Director Freese

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion To Approve – Rajaratnam - Hayman: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*

**NOTE:** The vote is displayed in bold below each item. For example, **Blades-Rajaratnam** denotes Council Member Blades made the motion and Council Member Rajaratnam seconded the motion. Ayes, Noes, Absents, Abstentions follow.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION**

**CLOSED SESSION**

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL LITIGATION - Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9 Subparts (a), (d)(2) and (e)(3). One case

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:05 p.m.**

**ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION –** No reportable action

**PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA –** J. David; M. Sinnott

**COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/DIRECTION**

Gorman – US 395 Safety Program launch

Bruen – Plea to parents - new shade structures were tagged, something new and nice it is sad to see damaged; thanked all who attended Pinney Pool Townhall #3 last night; would like more info regarding the abandoned RV comments from J. David and asked what we may be able to help with.

Rajaratnam – Thanked young citizen, Maverick, for coming

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Proposed Action To Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council Regular Meetings Dated June 7, 2023 **Charlon**
2. A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest To Cooperate With The County Of Kern, Electing To Participate In The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) And Home Investment Partnership Programs For Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, And 2026 And Authorizing The City Manager, Ronald Strand, To Sign The Cooperative Agreement **Charlon**

3. Proposed Action To Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council And The Successor Redevelopment Agency Adopting The Annual Budget For Fiscal Year 2023-24, Establishing Appropriations, Estimating Revenues, And Establishing The Policies By Which The Budget May Be And Shall Be Amended **Freese**
4. Authorization For The City Manager, Ron Strand, To Sign The Notice Of Completion For The FY22 Measure V Chip Seal Project; Authorize The City Clerk To File The Notice Of Completion; And Authorize City Staff To Release The Retained Amount Of Sixty-One Thousand Three Hundred And Forty-Four Dollars And Fifty-Two Cents (\$61,344.52), To The Contractor, Pavement Coatings Co., Within Thirty (30) Days Of Recordation Of The Notice Of Completion **Reed**
5. A Resolution Of The City Of Ridgecrest City Council To Adopt A Road Project List For Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Partially Funded By SB1: The Road Repair And Accountability Act Of 2017 **Reed**

**Hayman** – pulled Item 3

*Motion To Approve Consent Calendar items 1, 2, 4, & 5- Rajaratnam - Gorman 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*

Item 3 – Hayman would like License Plate Reader and Placer AI funds/line items pulled and brought back for further discussion prior to approval of the budget. Attorney explained these are just line items and that contracts will come back to full Council for approval at a later date. These funds are not automatic approval of the services.

Public comment – M. Sinnott; S. Connally

*Motion To Approve Consent Calendar item 3 with the amendment/understanding made by Council Member Hayman that the two items (license plate readers & Placer AI) come back to the full council for approval - Hayman - Gorman 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*

## DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

6. Request From Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB) For Council's Adoption Of A Resolution Of Intention To Renew The Ridgecrest Tourism Improvement District (TBID) For 2023-2033 And Set Public Hearings For Renewal Of The TBID And Sunsetting Of The Existing One **Strand**  
Public Comment – K. Benson; M. Sinnott; H. Lopez; C. Weeks; M. Boyd  
*Motion To Approve - Rajaratnam - Gorman: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*
7. A Resolution to Approve the FY23-24 Rate Adjustment Request for Solid Waste Services **McKenzie**  
Public Comment – K. Benson; M. Sinnott; T. Wiknich; Unknown caller; S. Berry; Pam; Unknown caller  
Council desires continuing the item and bringing the item back till a full council is present at the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. *Motion To Approve - Hayman - Gorman: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*

8. Discussion Regarding The Board Of The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) **Hayman**  
Public Comment – M. Sinnott; R. Merrill; Unknown caller; M. Neel
9. A Resolution Regarding The Annual Assessments For The Consolidated Landscaping And Lighting District No. 2012-1 (The “District”); And Adoption Of The Resolution (1) Approving The Annual Engineer’s Report And (2) Ordering The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For Fiscal Year 2023/2024 **Reed**  
*Motion To Approve - Rajaratnam - Hayman: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*
10. A Resolution Regarding The Annual Assessments For The Drainage Benefit Assessment District No. 2016-1 (The “District”); And Adoption Of The Resolution (1) Approving The Annual Engineer’s Report And (2) Ordering The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For Fiscal Year 2023/2024 **Reed**  
*Motion To Approve - Hayman - Rajaratnam: 4 Ayes; 1 Absent (Blades)*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** - *Committee Meeting dates are subject to change and will be announced on the City website*

Finance Committee

Members: Mayor Eric A. Bruen and Scott Hayman  
Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 5:30 p.m.  
Location: City Hall Council Chambers  
➤ **Report from 6/13/23 - Canceled**

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Solomon Rajaratnam and Kyle Blades  
Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 5:00 p.m.  
Location: City Hall Council Chambers  
➤ **Next meeting 6/22/23**

Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitor Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Solomon Rajaratnam and Megan McKenzie (staff)  
Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month at 9:00 a.m.  
Location: California Welcome Center  
➤ **Next meeting 6/28/23**

Economic Development Committee

Members: Kyle Blades and Solomon Rajaratnam  
Meeting: 1st Monday of the month @ 5:15 p.m.  
Location: City Hall Council Chambers  
➤ **Next meeting 7/3/23**

Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee

Members: Mayor Eric A. Bruen and Skip Gorman

Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Kerr McGee Center Meeting Rooms

➤ **Next meeting 7/4/23**

City Organization and Services Committee ('City Org')

Members: Mayor Eric A. Bruen and Skip Gorman

Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall Council Chambers

➤ **Next meeting 7/6/23**

**OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Reminder July 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting is canceled

**ADJOURNMENT – 9:30 p.m.**