



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AND
RIDGECREST REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555**

**April 7, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

Tape Recorded
Tape 04-06

This meeting was tape recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period of time from date of approval by City Council/Redevelopment Agency. Meetings are recorded solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:02

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Ronald Carter, Mayor Pro Tem Marshall Holloway, Vice Mayor Richard Martin, Council Members Steven Morgan and Daniel Clark

STAFF Harvey Rose, City Manager; W. Keith Lemieux, Deputy City Attorney; Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Finance Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel – Liability Claim of Eunice Rainbolt, Claim # 04-01
- GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations - Globe Protect USA, Inc. – Real Property Lease, 1126 W. Ward Ave. and Pending Agreement – Negotiators Harvey Rose and James McRea
- GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations - Parcel Map 10819, Amendments and Modifications, and Pending Negotiations of Lots 14 through Lot 26 and Lots 34 through Lot 36. - Negotiators Harvey Rose and James McRea.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:35 p.m.

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Vice Mayor Martin

INVOCATION by Reverend Doug Hearn, Union Baptist Church

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Lemieux reported that Council rejected the Tort Claim of Eunice Rainbolt in part and on merit; the two items of Real Property Negotiations were not completed and will be addressed in a continued Closed Session at end of the regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose requested removal of Agenda item 8 - AltaOne representatives could not be present. Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ITEM 8 REMOVED. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lois Beres, 637 N Sunland Street

- Commended Marylyn Rajaratnam for her recent first place in the Lions Club district speakers contest
- She is one step away from winning the Lions Club state speakers contest

Rick Scott, Liberty Ambulance Manager, and Tom Martin, Emergency Medical Services Supervisor

- Liberty Ambulance has provided 24 years of service to the local area
- Noted the many contributions they have made over the years
- Donated ambulances and medical supplies to Tepetitlan
- Recently held an Emergency Services Dispatcher class locally on how to get proper info from 911 calls and to dispatch services
- Three Police Department personnel participated as well as many others
- Presented a \$295 check from Priority Dispatch to the Chief Avery to defray costs for the third person to attend class

Al Huey, 1128 Windy Lynn

- Made note of recent increase in cable bills
- Asked about the franchise agreement with Mediacom
 - There is no updated franchise agreement at this point
 - Committee has not been meeting but City intends to bring it back
- Asked about a recent CalTrans/City meeting regarding Ridgecrest Boulevard and Sunland Street – where does the issue stand

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- Tentative agreement reached but discussions still ongoing

Mayor Carter recognized members of Boy Scout Troop 825 in the audience and presented them with City lapel pins.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. California Department Of Conservation, Division of Recycling Funding Request for FY 2004-2005 McRea
2. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of March 17, 2004 Gable
3. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 12, 2004 In The Amount Of \$33,655.58 Winegardner
4. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 19, 2004 In The Amount Of \$213,801.35 Winegardner
5. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 12, 2004 In The Amount Of \$4,500.00 Winegardner
6. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 19, 2004 In The Amount Of \$1,088.14 Winegardner

Al Huey requested removal of item 1 for questions

Motion by Council Member Martin, seconded by Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ITEM 1 REMOVED. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

1. California Department Of Conservation, Division of Recycling Funding Request for FY 2004-2005 McRea

Community and Economic Development Director McRea

- Explained that in the past the City's role has been mainly educational
- Abatement projects will be included in program this coming year
- We are Iso asking if we could include funding in 02-03
- No matching funds required of the City

Al Huey stated

- He is generally opposed to any grant funds
- City needs to reestablish Solid Waste Committee
- Committee could meet once a quarter or when necessary
- Requested discussion of reestablishing this committee on next agenda

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Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE STAFF SUBMITTING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF RECYCLING FUNDING REQUEST FOR FY 2004-2005. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

7. Introduction And First Reading Of An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Relates To Flood Control Pollock

Assistant Public Works Director Pollock gave the staff report

- Periodically the State of California Water Resource audits the flood damage activities and ordinances of local agencies
- Audits are to insure that they are in compliance with existing state law
- The City of Ridgecrest was recently audited
- A few minor changes were thought necessary to bring Chapter XXI of the Municipal Code "Flood Damage Prevention" into compliance with state law.
- This is the first reading of the amended ordinance with the second reading set for the meeting of 21 April 2004.

Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin , TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO INTRODUCE, BY TITLE ONLY, AN ORDINANCE OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE AS IT RELATES TO CHAPTER XXI FLOOD CONTROL.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

Postponed to future meeting

8. Acceptance Of AltaOne Federal Credit Union's Donation Of A Historical Pictures Collection Of Ridgecrest For Appropriate Display – "A Photographic Retrospective Of Ridgecrest" McRea

Community and Economic Development Director McRea gave the staff report

- AltaOne Federal Credit Union has extended an offer to donate a Historical Pictures Collection of Ridgecrest for appropriate public display
- The collection is a photographic retrospective of Ridgecrest
- The photographs document the physical changes within the community from 1939 to 1988

9. Resolution RRA No. 04-4, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Agency Authorizing The Executive Director To Loan Funds To The

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau In Order That DMV Funds Grant Agreement Number 04-006-2004 With The Kern County Air Pollution Control District May Be Consummated **Rose**

City Manager Rose gave the staff report

- This loan will enable DMV funds from Grant Agreement Number 04-066-2004 with the Kern County Air Pollution Control District to be consummated
- The funds will be used for an environmentally friendly vehicle
- Bureau will reimburse the loan once the grant funds are received

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO ADOPT RESOLUTION RRA NO. 04-4, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO LOAN FUNDS TO THE RIDGECREST AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU IN ORDER THAT DMV FUNDS GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 04-006-2004 WITH THE KERN COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT MAY BE CONSUMMATED. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

10. Resolution No. 04-20, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adding The Position Of Assistant City Manager To The Ridgecrest Classification Plan For Full-Time Employees **Rose**

City Manager Rose gave the staff report

- With drastic fund cuts all management personnel have taken on extra tasks
- This resolution adds the position of Assistant City Manager to the Ridgecrest Classification Plan for Full-Time Employees
- The position will be an "understudy" to the City Manager and may serve as a line department head if necessary

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- What is pay scale
 - It will be between \$68,100 to \$101,00

Motion by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Martin TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 04-20, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL ADDING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER TO THE RIDGECREST CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

City Manager Rose announced the award of a Certificate Of Outstanding Financial Reporting by California Society of Municipal Finance Officers to Finance Director/City Treasurer Jim. Winegardner and his staff. Hopefully the

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award will be duplicated by the national organization. Mayor Carter presented the certificate to Mr. Winegardner noting that the Finance Department achieved this honor with a reduced staff.

11. Presentation Of Infrastructure Financing

Rose/Winegardner

Finance Director Winegardner gave the staff report as a PowerPoint presentation

- City Council received a presentation on infrastructure financing as recommended by Infrastructure Committee (copy in agenda packet)
- The Infrastructure Committee in conjunction with Quality of Life Committee has been identifying projects over the past two years
- Presentation discussed major issues involved and methods of funding

City Manager Rose stated

- We are proposing a ballot issue, hopefully for the November 2004 election cycle, involving a 3/4 cent tax
- Initial ordinance will state money collected goes into general fund
- Tandem ordinance will stipulate how to spend the funds
 - Infrastructure, public safety, recreation, etc., or by specific projects
- 3/4 cent would raise the sales tax in city to 8%
- Ballot issue must be to county by end of July

Dave Matthews

- Wanted clarification on just how much money is in the infrastructure
 - Community Facilities Improvement District projects were 120M
 - Quality of Life Committee came up with approximately 40M
 - Staff added other items (e.g., maintenance center for all city vehicles)
 - Came to total of 190M
 - Once tax is established we can go to the bond brokers to get the 200M bond
 - Tax will guarantee bond repayment
 - Will result in \$552,562 in 1st year per 1/4 cent
 - Then take the 1/4 cent per year times 3 = \$1,657,686
 - With anticipated 3% population growth \$640,571 in year 5 and \$742,597 in year 10
 - Total collected in 10 years = \$16.5 million
- Is concerned that this may not be enough to meet our needs

Al Huey

- Also a bit confused with the explanation
- Someone from City needs to sit with the news media and the pie chart and give some explicit explanations
- 12.6M over 10 years compared to 190M in projects is not enough

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- Actually we are looking at a projects list of 20M from the Community Facilities Improvement District list

Lois Beres, 637 N Sunland

- Does the money collected go directly to the City or to the State
 - State Board of Equalization will administer the funds

Mayor Carter thanked the Infrastructure Committee and Quality of Life Committee and staff for all the work they have done on this issue

Council Member Morgan would like a public hearing at next Council meeting to go over this again.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

None

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Dan Clark, Mike Biddlingmeier, Howard Laire

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting probably after the 21st

Legislative Committee

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 AM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting April 21

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Chair Steve Morgan, Duke Martin, Chuck Roulund, Jim Smith

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

Next meeting April 13

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting April 8, 2004

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Quality of Life Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Ron Carter, Mike Biddlingmeier, Howard Laire

Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting April 22

Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Members: Chair Ron Ketcham, Vice Chair Lois Beres, Harley Baker, Bob Peoples, Gary Charlon. Ex-officio Members Council Members Steve Morgan and Duke Martin, Planning Commissioner Shelia Torkelson

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM, Council Conference Room

Next meeting April 20

RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Holloway is now on the Board

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8:00 a.m., RACVB Office

Next meeting April 21

Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions

Council Member Clark

- Reported the 100 voices for Women Steering Committee will meet May 3 at Kerr McGee Center
- Also Senior ad hoc will meet 1/2 hour before Quality of Life Committee on April 22

Council Member Martin

- Noted League of California Cities Desert-Mountain Division is meeting in Riverside April 16-17 and he will attend

Council Member Morgan

- Attended the Kern Council of Cities meeting in Arvin in March
- Very interesting to learn what other cities in the County are doing
- Next dinner meeting will be in Bakersfield – feels we need to go

Council Member Holloway

- Was in San Jose March 17-18 for the League of California Cities Administrative Committee

Council Member Morgan

- Reported on the recent meeting with CalTrans
- They need our help in several areas

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- Both staffs are working on details of traffic control at Ridgecrest Boulevard and Sunland Street
- Traffic study does not warrant traffic control at that area
- Traffic control could cause more accidents
- A larger study may have to be done

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clark –

- 100 Voices for Women document has been completed and copies will be available at Lobby Information Desk and at Council and Quality of Life Committee meetings
- 100 Voices for Women steering committee met Monday with the top need being a women's health center
- Mr. Rose brought funding sources info to the group
- Looking at trying to find a grant writer
- Went to Senior Center and was asked about retirement village
- Gary Parsons, he and Jon McQuiston talked about that – is it an encroachment issue with the base - will talk with them
- Did not go to Tepatitlan – his father was ill – he's old and because of chemo etc., not in great health and is depressed
- Motorcycle proclamation will be upcoming on a future agenda
- Recently did school duty at Mesquite
- Drummond Avenue fronts Mesquite at the school crossing
- Speed limit is 35 and would like to see it lowered as cars fly by with no heed to the crosswalk
- Take a hike into the Rademacher Hills - desert is in bloom and critters are about

Morgan -

- Thanked Lois Beres and Matt Feemster who wrote letters to Senator Feinstein regarding no tax on internet sales
- Received info from SB 2006 from SCE – Debra Hess suggested a formal presentation to Council
- SB 1462 new state commission to study impact of development on military bases – Legislative Committee needs to look at this bill
- 4/5 B California group of environmental bond funds redirecting to look at an oceanic version of WEMO
- Apologized to DARE classes because he cannot attend graduations due to work schedule
- Captain Storch took over as NAWS commander
- As we go over budget this year he asked we go over our committee structures – committees seem to be proliferating

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- Regarding the proposed TUT he and several Council committees have been steadfast in trying to fix the infrastructure since elected in 1996 and feels this is the best chance we have to do this
- We can fix this if we work together to make it happen

Martin -

- Apologized to the Chief for not making DARE graduations
- Apologized to Captain Hnarakis and Joette and welcomed Captain Storch
- SCE meeting in Lancaster – not out of woods on power crisis in California
- Saturday he and June were judges at California Little Miss pageant contest in California City
- It was an honor to be at Monroe assembly and to help hand out awards
- Last week was in schools in Tepatitlan where the students speak fluent Spanish and English there at 8th grade level
- Reminded Lois that petitions for propositions need to be returned and sent in to protect our local funds
- A number of petitions being circulated for ballot measures –workman's comp – redistricting legislative districts to be done by retired judges not legislators – gambling casinos

Holloway -

- Thanked Mr. Winegardner for the great job by him and his staff and congratulated them on the award
- Thanked Captain Hnarakis for all he did and welcomed Captain Storch
- Has attended three DARE graduations
- Thanked Amy Covert and Dr. Milligan for being there today and thanked Police Department for all they do
- Received a hand written letter expressing concern about letter in Daily Independent on March 23 regarding number of parolees in Ridgecrest – have passed on to Chief Avery to come up with some figures
- As to petitions most will be done in a few days
- Is hoping Ridgecrest is number one city in getting signatures into Desert-Mountain Division of League of California Cities
- Went to Tepatitlan and had a wonderful trip – it was a great experience
- Learned things he never expected
- City needs to take the relationship more seriously
- Created somewhat of a firestorm with his remarks about the base downsizing at his last Council meeting and a great meeting came about because of it
- Has had a private meeting with RADM Venlet
- About the proposed sales tax issue – what you saw in the presentation is reality
- Budget is not conducive to capital projects

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Carter -

- Noted this was the beginning of his 8th year on Council
- During that time Council has worked hard on economic development and infrastructure
- We have heard from citizens for all this time that you want us to do more in infrastructure
- You now have an opportunity to help us bring this about
- We are going to work hard and support this tax increase for infrastructure
- In last 2 weeks have had many meetings with community and base that the Navy is important to us
- Communications between City and base is at higher level than before
- Tepatitlan trip was wonderful and so happy that Council went and worked with them
- Visited everywhere and were touched by community and citizens
- They want the same for their community as we do for ours
- Learned about the early years of California, learned about the Catholic Church
- Had opportunity this week to show the positive things we have in our community to persons visiting here who might want to move here
- Read that we only have 50 homes for sale in the community
- Great potential for economic development between Tepatitlan and us
- Appreciate all the comments on the tax

Meeting was recessed at 9:14 p.m. to reconvene in Closed Session at 9:30 p.m. and to reconvene in Open Session at 9:58 p.m.

In Closed Session Council received information on the two items of Real Property Negotiations. Council gave direction to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carter adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk