



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

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

**December 15, 2004  
6:00 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded  
Tape 04-26**

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 – 5:37 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Marshall Holloway, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Martin, and Council Member Steven Morgan

**ABSENT:** Vice Mayor Daniel Clark and Council Member Carter

**STAFF:** Harvey Rose, City Manager; Keith Lemieux City Attorney; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Deputy City Manager Administrative Services/City Treasurer; Jim McRea, Deputy City Manager, Public Services; Gary Parsons, Community and Economic Development Department Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Department Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

The briefing session was not tape recorded

**BRIEFING SESSION – 5:30 p.m.**

Diane Grattaroti and Karen Stone, Women's Center, High Desert, will presented a virtual tour of the building and site of the proposed new Women's Center in Ridgecrest.

Vice Mayor Clark and Council Member Carter arrived at approximately 5:45 p.m., before the briefing ended at 6:00 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 2**

GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiation – Lot 235 of Tract 1619 - APN Numbers include 343-042-01 through 343-041-071. Lot 235 is owned by the City of Ridgecrest - Negotiators Harvey Rose, James McRea, and Gary Parsons

Meeting was tape recorded from this point forward

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:3 p.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Council Member Morgan**

**INVOCATION – Silent Moment**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Council received information but took no action on the Closed Session item.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Rose requested addition of a proclamation recognizing the Work of Hospice. Moved by Council Member Carter, seconded by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE PROCLAMATION ADDED. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Presentation - Certificate of Completions**

Mayor Holloway and the Council, assisted by Transit Manager Dwain Cook, recognized and presented Certificates of Completion for a 10 hour course on Customer Relations to Transit Operator Employees in the Transit Department. The Certificate is issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Transportation Safety Institute. The five employees are –

Linda Radcliff-Benson  
Teresa Knollenberg  
Sandra Aichlmayr  
Ruth Baker  
Gregg Brandt.

**Added item**

**Proclamation – Hospice**

## MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR

December 17, 2004

Page 3

Vice Mayor Clark presented a proclamation to Annette Pike, Optimal Hospice, Inc., in recognition of The Work of Hospice.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Lenhart, District 9 CalTrans, Bishop

- 15% of the annual Federal 5311 is kept by State
- 25% kept for administration
- 5% for discretion of state who asks counties and district how it should be used
- \$3M available this year for that purpose
- Email your desires to KernCog
- Or Council can log onto website and vote how to spend
- If evenly divided for 58 counties it would be about \$50K to KernCog (actually if evenly divided it would be about \$50k to all counties)
- Decision would be made by mid January
- <http://dot.ca.gov/hq/masstrans>

Rick McCarthy, 1467 W. Felspar Avenue

- Noted a new housing development near his home
- Proposed a new park on 1/4 quarter of Bertrand land there
- Proposing this area/land be annexed by the City
- It is a quality of life issue and to preserve some of the desert
- Noted he had talked to Mr. Ponak just prior to the meeting

Information directed to Quality of Life Committee

Richard Senn, 133 S. Lumill Street

- Pleased with responses he got with his proposal at the City Organization Committee
- Many things were controversial
- Believe citizens want better management of funds and spending habits
- Quoted some of the items he had in his presentation to City Organization
- This was his backup plan to failure of Measure Q
- Meant it to be a learning experience and for the community to move forward
- Public is waiting for City's backup plan to Measure Q – does the City have one

Council Member Martin said a lot of citizens have responded with their suggestions which are being reviewed by staff

Bud Klamt, 221 S. Gold Canyon Drive

- People have made their voice heard
- He feels the budget crunch will pass

**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 4**

- Don't be too hasty to cut services or people

Al Huey, 1128 Windy Lynn

- Would like to see the Solid Waste ad hoc Committee and the Cable TV Committee reinstated
- Really need to have these revitalized
- Would like some response to this or put on an agenda

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite Avenue

- Noted that hardly anyone has cable anymore
- Talk gets back to moving police to sheriff

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

2. Resolution No. 04-72, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Application For And Acceptance of the State of California, Office of Traffic Safety Mini Grant Avery
3. Resolution No. 04- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving The Purchase And Equipping Of Police Patrol Vehicles Avery
4. Resolution No. 04- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing City Staff To Purchase Two Maintenance Trucks Totaling \$28,355.36 Poniek
5. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of December 1, 2004 Gable
6. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated November 26, 2004 In The Amount Of \$146,832.31 Winegardner

Council Member Morgan - remove #3

Jerry Taylor - remove \$4

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Carter TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ITEMS 3 AND 4 REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

**Item removed from Consent Calendar for more information**

3. Resolution No. 04-73, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving The Purchase And Equipping Of Police Patrol Vehicles Avery

Chief Avery

**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 5**

- First asked locals to provide under state specifications – said they could not
- Contacted Wondries Ford who supply to many law enforcement agencies under state specifications
- We were going to use the Los Angeles Police Department bid list to purchase the vehicles
- Charlon Ford recalculated and said they could get the vehicles for less than what Wondries quoted
- It is a budgeted item
- Has in writing from the dealership that the vehicles conform to all our and the state specifications

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Clark TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 04-73, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE PURCHASE AND EQUIPPING OF POLICE PATROL VEHICLES. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

**4. Resolution No. 04-74, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing City Staff To Purchase Two Maintenance Trucks Totaling \$28,355.36 Ponек**

Mr. Ponек

- Have put off purchasing new vehicles for several years now need to do so
- This is a budgeted item for 2004/05
- Have been paying a lot in maintenance and repair costs
- CMAS program costs allowed 2 trucks for \$30,000
- Older vehicles will be declared surplus and taken out of service
- 

Mr. Taylor noted this was not a local buy and Mr. Ponек explained that for \$30,000 he could only buy one vehicle locally.

Moved by Council Member Martin, seconded by Council Member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 04-74, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO PURCHASE TWO MAINTENANCE TRUCKS TOTALING \$28,355.36. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.  
voice vote 5 ayes

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**7. Resolution No. 04-75, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The City Manager And Or City Engineer To File And Executed Applications For Federal Funding Under FTA Section 5311 (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) With California Department Of Transportation Helt**

## MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR

December 17, 2004

Page 6

Juan Pantoja, Helt Engineering

- Public Hearing to discuss and receive public input on a grant request is required
- Grant is to the State of California Department of Transportation for Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program funding in the amount of \$40,000
- Grant is for the purchase of one (1) 8 to 10-passenger gas powered van with wheelchair accessibility
- Resolution is authorizing the City to make application for the federal funding under FTA Section 5311 (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) with California Department of Transportation

Public Hearing opened at 7:27 p.m.

Gregg Ricketts, 742 Wildrose Avenue

- Asked why we do not use diesel vehicles for transit

Hurley Vanderpool, Mechanic, Public Works Garage

- Stated there were many reasons why no
- Price of diesel does not pay us to run them
- Trident motor in our buses is highly efficient and puts out less emissions
- Time is now to replace a 7 year old bus with over 200,000 miles
- Need to keep recycling and bringing new vehicles into system to keep it vital

Carol Erickson, 1212 Las Posas Street

- She is here protesting against purchasing more "torture vans"
- Listed the numerous things wrong with the van we current have
- Steps are too small and too steep
- Nothing to hold on to on the seats or roof to assist moving to the front
- Seat too low to sit on and if you have your own cushion you cannot put on the seat belt
- No where to store walkers
- It is an extremely dangerous bus
- Driver has to get out and manually open the door from the outside and put steps down
- Rails are too short/small and you have to jump off the lowest one
- Nothing economical about it and very unsafe
- Nobody wants to ride on it and transit drivers do not want to drive it (none of the transit drivers present wanted to drive this van)

Florence Leibert, 405 N. Alvord Street

- Has concern for safety of drivers who have to get out of van in traffic

## MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR

December 17, 2004

Page 7

Jerry Taylor

- Stated he has never seen more than 3 people at any time in any transit vehicle

Closed Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Holloway asked Dwain Cook, Transit Manager to discuss this issue

- Earlier had failed to acknowledge Melissa Gallaher as the training officer for transit
- Transit Van, #301, is an 8-10 passenger van not designed for transit system such as ours
- Would be great for intercity transit say to Mojave or Bakersfield
- The Van is not totally ADA equipped
- Persons in wheelchairs do like it
- As Transit Manager he really does not want another van
- As to only 2-3 riders on bus runs it depends on times of day
- It took 3 buses for the Youth Advisory Committee meeting earlier this month
- Convenience factor far outweighs the cost factor

Suggested that Mr. Cook talk to Mr. Lenhart

Mayor Holloway stated he really learned a lot from transit seminar he attended in Long Beach. Heard the cry from all over the state that no one rides the buses. But the transit reports indicate good rider ship. He was one who harped on running 16 passenger buses as opposed to smaller vans. Discovered cut away buses cost 3-4 thousand less than the vans

Mr. Pantoja said we can ask CalTrans to amend the application for a 16 passenger cut away bus once we submit the application.

Jim McRea said we have to submit as written but can amend it and that we also have another van in the 2003/04 budget and we can amend that also.

Consensus was that a van not in the best interest of transit users or City of Ridgecrest

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 04-75, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND OR CITY ENGINEER TO FILE AND EXECUTED APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL FUNDING UNDER FTA SECTION 5311 (49 U.S.C. SECTION 5311) WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION with pending amendments. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**8. Introduction And First Reading, By Title Only, Of An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Relates To Abandon Vehicles. Avery**

Chief Avery

- California Vehicle Code Section 22651(k) authorizes local authorities to remove vehicles from public highways, when the vehicle is left parked for more than 72 consecutive hours
- There is a City ordinance authorizing the removal
- This amendment would change the Municipal Code to allow for the removal of abandon vehicles and reduce the time requirement of 10 consecutive days to 72 consecutive hours
- Infrastructure Committee has reviewed and recommended it to Council and city attorney has also reviewed

Michael Hogan, 1127 Robert Avenue

- Where he resides he shares a small driveway with neighbor
- It has caused several calls to police when neighbor had his car towed
- Is concerned about maybe being on vacation with car parked in street – towed away

Chief will respond to calls for service but will not go out and seek offenders for parking violation

Moved By Council Member Martin, Seconded By Council Member Morgan TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO INTRODUCE, BY TITLE ONLY, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE AS IT RELATES TO ABANDON VEHICLES. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

**9. Resolution No. 04- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Setting Policy For The Use Of Kerr-McGee Center Rose**

Mr. Rose

- This is a resolution setting policy for use of space within the Kerr-McGee Center
- This is one of a series of policy changes that will be proposed to reduce costs or increase revenues of the City.

Discussion

## MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR

December 17, 2004

Page 9

Council Member Carter

- ❖ Against this as these are community facilities paid for by taxpayers and for their use
- ❖ Not sure this is needed as the Quality of Life Committee waives fees or the fee waiver request is brought to Council

Council Member Morgan

- ❖ Questioned if government entities such as Social Security should be free or exempt
  - Mr. Rose noted the resolution stated all but Recreation Department will be charged
  - Also if use is by a Council Committee the Council budget will be billed

Council Member Clark

- ❖ Also against this – says it is all there for community use
- ❖ We have a responsibility to provide things for the community and offer them a place to meet
- ❖ Does not support this

Council Member Martin

- ❖ Asked if we are at this point with the budget where this is needed
  - Rose repeated what is said above in the blurb
  - Reminded them we were approaching mid year review of the budget
- ❖ Wants to see it go back for more research
- ❖ Feels we need to address things like what organizations to exempt such as Social Security

Mayor Holloway

- ❖ Admitted he brought it forward
- ❖ We have a situation with the budget
- ❖ We are continually bombarded by individuals and organizations to waive fees
- ❖ Brought forward to address outside agencies
- ❖ Quality of Life Committee is always trying to get more for Parks and Recreation yet they want to waive fees that help keep P&R viable

Mr. Ponek wants it to go back into Quality of Life Committee for discussion

Council Member Morgan

- ❖ Recognized committees and governmental agencies could be exempt
- ❖ Fees should pay for the upkeep and maintenance of that building
- ❖ Everyone who is an outside agency pays fees
- ❖ Revise the resolution to reflect this

Public comment

**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 10**

John Ciani

- Need to do a cost for service study
- Last one was done in 1994

Jerry Taylor

- Should use the financial people to look at this
- Surprised the Quality of Life Committee is making budget decisions

Consensus was to send to Quality of Life Committee

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

**10. Discussion Of A Proposed Community Forum Suggested By Council Member Clark At The December 1, 2004 Council Meeting To Discuss The Following Issues: Parsons**

- 1.) Short term solutions for the lack of funding
- 2.) City sponsored "signature events"
- 3.) Long term solutions for the lack of funding
- 4.) Prioritize solutions based on citizen's actions and issues

Gary Parsons

- This was suggested as a Community forum/town hall meeting of up to 4 hours
- Four basic issues were to be brought forth for community input and discussion
  - Short term – items not affecting budget or financial impact – things that might be done with or by volunteers, service groups, etc
- Signature events – some unique or obviously descriptive to the local event to ID the city such as the jazz festival, Balsam Street Fair, etc
- Long term – community input on how to generate revenues for the City of Ridgecrest
- Prioritize ideas, etc. obviously to put into a list of items in order of importance or do ability

A date for the community forum would be identified so that Council Members who wished could attend

Council Member Clark

- ❖ Wanted to create a venue for citizens to brainstorm ideas for the next two years to assist the City and how to generate revenue

Mayor Holloway

- ❖ Asked how many Council Members would want to be there – all 5 ayes
- ❖ Date of January 15, 9-noon was original idea

Council Member Morgan

## **MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 11**

- ❖ was not asked for any input and read about the community forum it in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter
- ❖ A lot of these issue involve money
- ❖ Voiced distress about not knowing about it until Council Member Clark mentioned it at December 1 meeting
- ❖ January 15 not good for him
- ❖ Let's make sure in future that we all know about things like this before they are "set in concrete"

Mayor Holloway suggested a flex Friday afternoon or Saturday

Council Member Clark

- ❖ Don't know how else to do this other than throw it out
- ❖ Felt he could do this because Council Members Morgan and Holloway held an information town meeting on Measure Q without asking any of the other Council Members

(during Measure Q discussion he said at Council meting that he talked to some groups also so what's this double talk)

Gregg Ricketts

- On flex Fridays you loose a lot of business people so that would not be ideal time to have a community forum

Michael Hogan

- You will want as much input as possible so maybe holding it over several days would yield more input

Bud Klamt, KLOA

- Radio station received the information for the community forum as a press/news release so doesn't know why Mr. Morgan did not know of it

Council to send Mr. Rose dates when they are available for the forum

### **CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Cities are going to get paid back on vehicle licensing fees and the State has graciously offered to give us a loan now against what we will be getting later on

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS**

None

### **COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

(new memberships will begin 1 January 2005)

**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 12**

Holloway asked Carter to help him by switching his slot on the Quality of Life Committee and he also replaced Council Member Martin with Council Member Morgan on the City Organization Committee

**Council may make appointments to Committee, Boards, and Commissions for any vacant seats**

Planning Commission      Council Member Clark appointed Matt Feemster  
Mayor Holloway confirmed Mike Biddlingmeier could serve

Personnel Board              Council Member Clark appointed Margaret Holm  
Council Member Carter still needs to appoint

Redevelopment Advisory    Council Member Morgan appointed Lois Beres  
Council Member Carter appointed Bob Peoples  
Council Member Clark appointed Mike Hogan

Requested that the Solid Waste Committee and the Cable TV Committee be revitalized and re-established. Place on a future agenda for further discussion

**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 to be announced

**Legislative Committee**

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: as needed

Next meeting to be announced

**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

Met on December 14

- Discussed speed survey results for Dolphin Avenue
- Stop sign on Dolphin and S Sierra View
- Discussed establishment of speed zones – staff has come up with some suggestions regarding Mahan
- Discussed plan to create a \$250,000 chip sealing fund for next two years
- Council look at unmet transit funding
- Signal repair for 5 lights with electrical deteriorating rapidly \$35,000 to fix
- Discussion skateboarders – sent to Quality of Life Committee

## **MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 13**

- Discussed the citizen suggested adopt a streetlight program idea  
Next meeting January 11 500 p.m.

### **City Organization Committee**

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM; Council Conference Room

Met December 9

- Richard Senn presented his plan on how to increase the City's reserve funds – biggest clog was eliminating police department – see his plan for items
- Agenda packet, including all backup materials, cost study was done by Finance Director and came out at \$243/year
- Fee will be charged to all persons requesting packet including the media
- Received transit report – Dwain Cook wants to redraw service area
- Because we dispatch every ride on transit we have record of how many riders we actually serve as well as trips made
- At meeting Chair, through Lt Fowler, asked Chief Avery to take recommendation to write a resolution or ordinance regarding noise and barking dogs  
Next meeting to be announced

Finance Director Winegardner took this opportunity to "set the record straight" regarding the 70% figure that has been bantered about for months - in high end it is high 40's and low end is low 40's. Mr. Senn overstated it about 30% over the facts.

### **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 January 27 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Carter mentioned the Forty Developmental Assets and that Chief Avery has shown interest also that local churches and the school district is working on this

### **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 December 21 5L00 p.m.

**RACVB**

## MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR

December 17, 2004

Page 14

Council Member Duke Martin  
Council Member Dan Clark - Alternate  
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8:00 a.m., RACVB Office  
Met today – check ray's memo  
Next meeting January 19

### OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Council Member Martin attended the LAFCO meeting December 14 – the Executive Director's contract was discussed as was MSR's and sphere of influences in the Bakersfield area.

Mayor Holloway and Council Member Martin attended the December 3 meeting of the League of California Cities Desert-Mountain Division held in Adelanto. It was a reorganization meeting and to set meetings for 2005. Ridgecrest did not get a meeting date.

Council Member Morgan reported that Quad State has had several phone meetings and he will distribute info into your mail boxes by tomorrow.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

#### Morgan

- + Read a delightful story about "An Adventure with Grandma" and the true spirit of Christmas
- + Wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the Council, audience and the community

#### Carter

- + Spirit of Christmas is here
- + Cringe when the students loose focus on academics and onto Santa Claus
- + Looking forward to Santa coming to his house, his children's and his grandchildren
- + Good time to reach out to those in our community
- + Students at his school say we all must go see the holiday move "The Polar Express"

#### Clark

- + Had a blessed event in his life recently – a granddaughter Kayleen Paige who was born on December 7
- + There will be performances of a Jazz ensemble and buffet at Victoria's at the Heritage on December 17th and also the 18th
- + Extended get well wishes to Harley Baker, who is our representative on the Kern County Committee On Aging – Harley had knee surgery recently
- + Community person found some grants re drugs abatement and rehab

**MINUTES – CITY COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – REGULAR**

**December 17, 2004**

**Page 15**

- ✚ Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to our armed forces overseas

**Martin**

- ✚ Received an invitation to the retirement of the oldest flying B-52 B
- ✚ Supervisor McQuiston had nice reception today at his Ridgecrest office
- ✚ The lobby and hallway leading into the Chamber are beautiful
- ✚ Sends Seasons Greetings to all

**Holloway**

- ✚ Wished Seasons Greetings to all
- ✚ Next time we meet it will be 2005
- ✚ Appreciated Council Member Carter's reign as Mayor – now realize how much it entails
- ✚ Presented the "Council Team" with cookie baskets
- ✚ Truly excited with being Mayor even at this time and place in the City's history
- ✚ We have had all the negative we can have and now need to move forward
- ✚ Lets look forward to what we can accomplish in the upcoming new year

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

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Rita Gable, City Clerk