



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

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

**March 3, 2004  
6:30 p.m.**

Tape Recorded  
Tape 04-04

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 –**

**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; Wayne Lemieux, City Attorney; Gale Vanderpool, Deputy City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Finance Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director; Jerry Helt, Public Works Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Council Member Daniel O. Clark

**INVOCATION** by Pastor Jim Weston, Desert Christian Center

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Manager Rose requested addition to the Agenda of an item received Tuesday March 2, 2004 after the Agenda was posted – Presentation of Thanks to Jim Ponek for his work on the Sidewinder 50th Anniversary Celebration last fall.

Moved by Mayor Ronald H. Carter, 2nd by Council Member Steven P. Morgan

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Proclamation – Inhalants And Poisons Awareness Month And Week**

Mayor Carter and the City Council presented a proclamation to Cyndi Cavanaugh, Clinica Sierra Vista's Family Resource Center in Ridgecrest, in recognition of Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Month and Week, March 21 – 27, 2004.

2. **Proclamation – Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

Mayor Carter and the City Council presented a proclamation to Mike Edgar, Chief Executive Officer, Desert Area Resources and Training (DART), Nancy Dragovich, parent, and Mark Lemson, DART Client, in recognition of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, March 2004.

2a. **Presentation by NAWS Sidewinder Program Manager Steven Farmer** to Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director for his work on the on the 50th anniversary celebration held at Kerr McGee Center

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dorothy Brown 221 North Gold Canyon, Ridgecrest, CA

Gave to all Council members a letter from an Attorney. The Willows organization is trying to find the owners of La Mirage because of a fencing issue. She is requesting the City of Ridgecrest pay closer attention to the people they do business with.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

3. **Resolution No. 04-15, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Accepting Certain Infrastructure Improvements For EDA Project 40BP, Ridgecrest Business Park Infrastructure Improvements, Constructed By W. M. Lyles Co., Approving The Release Of Retained Funds** Pollock

4. **Resolution No. 04-16, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Accepting A Proposal From Econolite Traffic Engineering And Maintenance To Maintain Seven Traffic Signals Within The City Of Ridgecrest For A Period Of Five Years** Pollock

5. **Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting 02/21/04** Gable

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6. **Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated 2/20/04 In The Amount Of \$209,551.30** Winegardner
7. **Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated 2/20/04 In The Amount Of \$511,248.30** Winegardner

Motion Made By Council Member Steven P. Morgan 2nd by Council Member Richard “Duke” Martin to accept consent calendar. Motion carried with 5 ayes 0 noes.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

8. **Resolution No. 04-17, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving A Negative Declaration And General Plan Amendment 04-01, A Request For Amendments To The City Of Ridgecrest General Plan And Zoning Ordinance To Ensure Consistency Between The Newly Adopted Housing Element And The General Plan Chapters And Specific General Plan Amendments And Related Zoning Ordinance Map Changes** McRea

Community and Economic Development Director McRea gave staff report

- General Plan Amendment (GPA 04-01) and Zoning Ordinance Amendment which includes modifications to the City Zoning Ordinance to ensure Consistency between the newly adopted Housing Element, other General Plan Elements, pending reclassifications, and the City Zoning Maps

Motion to pass resolution made by Council Member Daniel O. Clark 2nd by Mayor Pro Tem Marshall “Chip” Holloway. Motion carried with 4 ayes 1 abstain by Vice Mayor Richard “Duke” Martin

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

9. **Resolution No. 04- 18 , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Urging Support Of The Local Taxpayers And Public Safety Protection Act** Rose

A resolution urging support of the Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act.

Comment posed by Matt Femster that the deadline should be made known to the public. Mr. Holloway announced deadline as April 15, 2004.

Comments by Mr. Martin that this a league proposal, it is not a vote but simply an issue of getting it to the ballot for a vote of the people..

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Motion made for acceptance by Steven P. Morgan, 2nd by Marshall “Chip” Holloway. Motion carried by 5 ayes 0 noes

**CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS** City Manager met with Chip Holloway and BRAC representatives and requested that Mr. Parson talk about the issues at hand. BRAC is not as much a concern as the Navy itself. Rumors are out there that cuts of about 10% are on the table to reduce the base expenses. Alliance with Pax River base in the East Coast may be more than just a rumor. Basically Mr. Parson says that it appears the Navy is no longer as interested in research and development. They have indicated a possible closure of two of the ranges. It should be noted that the information has been coming strictly from the press. The issues are also that there has been a request for looking at Navy personnel cuts. These are structural changes within the Navy. Council needs to address this to the politicians involved in the BRAC process. We need now to deal with the Navy to stay within the BRAC process. Another concern is the decision making process coming from the East at PAX River. The City needs to be more aggressive in influencing these processes. Another issue is the China Lake Business Alliance will be coming to the City for some funding. Mayor Carter says the Council is ready to be aggressive. Chip Holloway addressed the public with a letter that had been received anonymously at the Daily Independent with the changes happening on the base. Mr. Smith from DI called Chip for comments. The people doing this have no interest in Ridgecrest. China Lake can not compete with Pax River. Chip is requesting help from the base employees. We have feared the wrong enemy he says. The Navy is also saying no one other than Navy work is to be done at the ranges even from the other military venues. Mayor Carter says we will move forward and do what ever it takes.

**10. Mid-Year Financial Report**

**Rose / Winegardner**

The City Council received the Fiscal Year 2003-4 Mid-Year Financial Report.

Questions from Council: Council Member Morgan stated it appears that the expenditures still out weigh the revenues. In the final snapshot what is the major issue. Mr. Winegardner says there is no immediate concern; Gas Tax Fund and Transit fund keep growing expenditures so they are being watched more closely. Morgan does not want to borrow from the Wastewater Fund. VLF is also being watched closely. Mr. Rose wants to mention cuts will be recommended accordingly. Short Term borrowing will need to be discussed further for cash management purposes. Mr. Martin says thank you for the presentation and wants to point out that there are savings from the street light project like Kinetics, not so much in the buildings but the street lights have been costing much less.

Lois Beres 637 N. Sunland

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Questioning the gas tax numbers, where do they come from. Mr. Winegardner explained.

Matt Femster questioning the Kinetics project. He also wants to know specifically where the Gas Tax comes from. Mr. Winegardner explained to his satisfaction.

Jerry Taylor 315 Mesquite what is the projection for lack of funding and employee cutbacks. Mr. Winegardner said he was not sure at this point

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS No Reports**

**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 to be announced

**Legislative Committee**

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting Postponed

**Infrastructure Committee**

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

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m., Council Conference Room

Next meeting March 9 At 5:00pm

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE TIME IS 5:00 pm

Will be discussing the passed Propositions and moving forward with the CFID

**City Organization Committee**

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

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

Next meeting March 11 – 5:00 p.m. \*\*\*\*

Requested by Mr. Holloway that we discuss the dog barking ordinance, Chief Avery says he will be ready to discuss.

**Quality of Life Committee**

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

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Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Kerr-McGee Center  
Next meeting March 25

**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 March 16

**RACVB**

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Dan Clark - Alternate

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

Next meeting March 17

**Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions**

Mr. Morgan will be attending the Quad State Meeting in Bullhead City.

Kern Cog Regional Meeting was held in Council Chambers last week with regards to projects for roads. Poor turnout of citizens. We need to at least make a presence on these.

Transportation issues on the East side of Kern County have become an issue and Mr. Morgan requests City Organization look into a Transportation District.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Carter discussed the Kern Cog Regional Meeting with regards to the discussion of the issues of Transportation and all the projects within the surrounding areas. Very informative meeting. Mr. Carter feels that as a community we need to be united. It is in this connection that we can go forward together. Let go of barriers, make a commitment and support each other. Look around you, lets become united, we have battles to face and issues to discuss

Council Member Clark – Youth Advisory Committee is working on a Ridgecrest Pledge. Youth is concerned about civil liberties violations. Mr. Clark wishes families would show some discretion on their opinions to the youth. 100 Voices for Women Conference is in 2 weeks, please come and enjoy the day.

Council Member Morgan – Interesting information can be found on the California Elections Web Site. The Propositions show some very interesting statistics. We need to

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watch where the money goes especially the rural areas. Mr. Rose explained that one issue is the match required to the grant may make it difficult for the rural areas. Mr. Morgan stated that when the City of Ridgecrest is discussing second hand information with the base, they should be extremely careful. Stay in contact with Public Affairs. The city should not ostracize the Base. Mr. Morgan further stated that he can not and will not put his signatures on anything with the base issues. Lots going on the weekend of March 13, please enjoy this community go out and participate. It was disappointing that hardly any citizens came to the Kern Cog Transportation meeting.

Vice Mayor Duke Martin says that education on the laws and propositions are critical. This is the beginning, we need to watch legislatures. We need to be involved in issues that effect our rights and spending. We are surrounded with excellent assembly people and Senators. We need fiscally minded individuals running this State. There may be issues this summer with brown and black outs. Bill introduced to State assembly establishing new electrical services in California. Be aware citizens of what's going on

Mayor Pro Temp Holloway attended the Rally for the propositions. Workers Compensation proposals were to be on the Governors desk by March 1, they did not make it so now the Governor has requested petitions for Workers Compensation reform. Citizens need to get out and sign the petitions for reform. We need to create accountability. China Lake issue is of major concern, the stakeholders are not military personnel, and they are not Ridgecrest residents. Mr. Holloway states that he answers to the community not the military. Please be aware. BRAC playing field is not fair. Economic Outlook conference shows strong issues on base support. The China Lake spending surely supports this City of Ridgecrest. Mr. Holloway will not be at next City Council meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 8:39 pm      Motion made by Mr. Marshall "Chip" Holloway 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Richard "Duke" Martin.

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Gale Vanderpool, Deputy City Clerk