



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

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

**May 19, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

Tape Recorded
Tape 04-12

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; Wayne Lemieux, City Attorney; Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Finance Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:03 p.m.

GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations - APN 419-073-16, 1521 N. China Lake Boulevard, Matrix Motor Co. Inc. - Agency negotiators Harvey Rose and James McRea

REGULAR SESSION – 6:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Carter

INVOCATION by Reverend Adolphus Cleveland, New Beginnings Baptist Church

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Council discussed APN 419-073-16 with Agency Negotiators - no action taken.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose requested addition of a proclamation for Municipal Financial Officers Month. Moved by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Morgan TO ADD THE PROCLAMATION AND TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDED ITEM. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – Mental Health Month

Mayor Carter on behalf of the City Council presented a proclamation to Robert Millsop, President, Depression Bipolar Support Alliance and Janet Mulivhill, National Association For mental Illness, in recognition of Mental Health Month, May 2004.

2. Proclamation – Honoring Carol Beecroft

The Mayor presented this proclamation to Carol Beecroft, Executive Director Women's Center High Desert, at a ceremony on May 17 honoring her for pioneering the high-quality, client-oriented service programs now available at the Women's Center. Mayor Pro Tem Holloway read the proclamation that was previously presented.

3. Proclamation – Police Memorial Month

Council Member Clark on behalf of the City Council presented a proclamation to Chief Michael Avery, Ridgecrest Police Department, in recognition of Police Memorial Month, May 2004.

Added item

Proclamation – Municipal Finance Officers Month

Council Member Morgan on behalf of the City Council presented a proclamation to Jim Winegardner, Finance Director/City Treasurer in recognition of Municipal Finance Officer Month, June 2004.

4. Presentation – Sister City Tepatitlan

The Ridgecrest Sister City Tepatitlan presented a plaque from the Mayor of Tepatitlan to Mayor Carter.

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5. Presentation – City's Web Site

The City Council received a presentation by Finance Director Jim Winegardner and Information Systems Specialist Craig Bradley with the assistance of Information Systems Technician Phillip Braem on the City's Web Site.

All Council Members expressed their appreciation to Craig Bradley and Phillip Braem for all the work they have done on the new concept and new look for the City's web site.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- Saw the agenda yesterday and downloaded from web
- Saw some technical problems on old web site – committee agendas and meetings are not there
- Phone directory not easy to find – hope it will be easier to locate on new one
- Impressed with special meeting recognizing Armed Forces Day on Saturday May 15

Matt Feemster, 724 Sydnor Avenue

- Noted ballot initiative of League of California Cities and Governor's having offered a counter proposal
- Would like to have a presentation of what it means at a future meeting
- Seems like we are no longer negotiating in terms of maximizing good but are instead minimizing the bad
- We need to try to drum up some support of going for good and not for the bad

Todd Martin, Liberty Ambulance

- On May 5 Council presented a proclamation recognizing Emergency Medical Service personnel
- He announced the Kern County Board of Supervisors recently named David Grogh as outstanding EMS in Kern County
- Presented him to the Council

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite Avenue

- Thanked the Finance Department and the Information Services staff for the presentation of web site
- As he mentioned before he wants to see the whole agenda including all back up materials on web so that citizens can study it before meetings
- Council often makes reference to something that is in the budget so the budget should be on the web page too
- Check out the web site at Californiagasprices.com and help drive prices down

CONSENT CALENDAR

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6. Resolution No. 04-29, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Out-Of-State Travel For The City Treasurer To Attend The Association Of Public Treasurers Annual Conference In Las Vegas Nevada
Winegardner
7. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of May 5, 2004
Gable
8. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated April 30, 2004 In The Amount Of \$209,284.13
Winegardner
9. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated April 30, 2004 In The Amount Of \$122,571.09
Winegardner

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment.. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Resolution No. 04- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending Community Development Block Grant Activity 17.99.2 - Ridgecrest After School Program
Avery

Chief Avery gave the staff report

- One of the projects the City participates in is activity #17.99.2 - Ridgecrest After School Program
- The Southern Sierra Boys and Girls Club conducted an After School Program during the 2003-2004 academic year
- The fee structure was such that, a modest annual and weekly program fee, reduced the “need” for scholarship funding that the original grant was expected to address
- The CDBG Activity 17.99.2 project funds were not expended
- In order for the Southern Sierra Boys and Girls Club to access these funds for a Summer Program, the MOU between the City and County needs to be amended to reflect the Summer Program as the use for the funds

Chief Avery stated he received a phone call from Kern County and they want the City to back out of the agreement so they can negotiate directly with the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club have become more self reliant. We need Council to authorize the City Manager to write a letter to Kern County informing them we will not renegotiate the agreement and they can approach the Boys and Girls Club directly.

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No action taken by the Council on the above suggested resolution.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Clark TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THE CITY MANAGER TO INFORM KERN COUNTY WE WILL NOT RENEGOTIATE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB. Public comment heard. Motion carried with voice vote of 5 ayes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

11. **Introduction And First Reading Of An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter XX Zoning**
McRea

McRea gave the staff report

- This ordinance adopts General Plan Amendment (GPA 04-01) and clarifies modifications to the City Zoning Ordinance to ensure consistency between the newly adopted Housing Element, other General Plan Elements

Moved by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Morgan TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO INTRODUCE, BY TITLE ONLY, THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER XX ZONING. No public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 abstention. Council Member Martin abstained.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

12. **Request For Authorization To Co-Host Special Events At The Civic Center, Kerr-McGee Center And Freedom Park**
McRea

McRea gave staff report

- The Community and Economic Development Department is requesting authorization from the Council to co-host and co-sponsor two community events;
 - a. Concert Under the Stars, June 12, 2004; Coyote Productions and City CEDD
 - b. Business Expo, July 17, 2004; Swap Sheet , Chamber of Commerce and City CEDD
- Asking for partial fee waiver for both events

Dave Mathews asked about the event taking place on Balsam Street the afternoon of June 12 and if the City was involved in that too.

Mr. McRea stated that the afternoon event was strictly a Balsam Street Merchants Association happening – the City is not involved.

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Moved by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Morgan TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONCERT UNDER THE STARS AND THE BUSINESS EXPO. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote 5 ayes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. Discussion Of Local Option Sales Tax Proposal

Rose

City Manager Rose said this item will be placed on the Council agenda up until the election on November 2. This agendaized discussion is one opportunity for citizens to ask questions and make recommendations. Send questions or suggestions by mail, email or come to the Council meetings in person.

Mayor Carter stated he talked to AP Honors Government Class recently. They were very enthusiastic and very interested in discussing our roads and that they saw need for improvement.

Council Member Martin asked Mr. Rose for a PowerPoint presentation on this option sales tax proposal to take to the clubs and citizen groups and out into the community.

Council Member Morgan spoke to community service organization but had only the printed paper version of the Finance presentation of a few weeks ago. He will be speaking to the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers group on the 28th. Asked Mr. Winegardner to answer a question he messed up trying to explain what a 3/4 cent increase on sales tax would be. Mr. Winegardner read the May 5 memo from Mr. Rose to Council which explained the formula. (copy in Clerk's agenda packet)

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite

- Addressed the sunset clause he talked about before
- Still believe we need to have a stop date
- Council seems to feel the tax should go on forever
- Commented on high cost of gasoline here as he had been out of state and had been paying a lot less
- All taxes and fees have increased constantly over the last few years

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- Realizes we have enough taxes
- Has tried for years to get government to tax locally and keep the funds locally
- Would like to see us get more of our money from the state

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Council Member Morgan said he butchered how much per 1/4 cent is generated and asked Mr. Winegardner to explain.

Mr. Winegardner stated that in estimated funding for each 2/4 cent is \$552,562 of first year funding. Assuming 3% growth rate, as stated by KernCOG in their County-wide proposal, this climbs to \$640,571 in year 5 and \$742,497 in year 10. Total collected in 10 years would equal \$6.3 million. 2000-2001 California general sales tax revenue amounted to \$22.08 per annum per \$1,000 of personal income - \$3.05 of that was paid to cities. An increase in local transaction taxes of 3/4 cent would yield \$2.28 per annum per \$1,000 of personal income.

Transactional Use Tax would be enforced by the Board of Equalization. Taxpayers living outside the jurisdiction of the City who have large capital purchases are not taxed. Said he would take 15% right off the top 580K with cogs growth factor 3% 580K at 3% for 20 years approx 800K per year

Council Member Morgan stated assuming this criteria over 20 years it would raise just enough money to repave Ridgecrest Boulevard.

Council Member Morgan asked Chief Avery if average cost of police officer is 100K per year – yes. Could possibly mean 4 more officers and police vehicles purchase could possibly be reestablished.

Council Member Martin commented on sunset clause and sees it would be a negative impact on this proposal and goal we are trying to get to. . We are trying to get the low interest bonds to come in and do the infrastructure the first 3 years. Sunset clauses have negative impact on getting things done the first 3 to 5 years

Mr. Rose that a sunset clause would bow to political necessity but have to remind Council and public original list was over \$190M. Initial improvements is \$20M but it is dynamic and projects list will grow over time. Only way to ignore that potential would be if economy became so very hot it could pick up all costs of the City but don't see it doing it for the size of the list we have. Another thing to look at would be clause on general fund not the capital projects.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

- Presented candidate and measure election calendars to Council
- Easiest to follow is candidates dates for various actions
- Another list is for the ballot measure on local option sales tax with dates staff recommends for actions
- Staff will bring the required paperwork for each action required o the measure to the Council

Council summer vacation schedule

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- Before discussion started Mayor Carter stated that he would be out of town for the regular July 21 meeting. Council Member Martin stated he too would be out of town on that date.
- Council consensus was to cancel the July 21 Council meeting
- It was suggested July 21 could be used for public forum regarding the local option sales tax measure
- Suggested other Council to think about days and times of days and other places to have public forums
- Council Member Morgan suggested contacting Gregg Gracey of Hitters ho has dinners at fairgrounds that are opened to the public and maybe coordinate with him to have discussion

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

Met May 6

- Discussion on BRAC
 - Headline in newspaper about extension of BRAC – came up while he and Duke were in Sacramento
 - City doing well
 - International Council of Shopping Centers preview in Las Vegas – will be going next week
 - Discussed senior living facilities and where it fits into the business park area
 - Serious concern per McQuiston
 - Farmers market issue consensus of committee – apply one permit staff to set fee
- 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

Met today May 19

LCC board meeting presented a proposal compromise between governor budget and league proposal

Winegardner explained graph

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Martin explained the Governor's compromise
Passed out several items to council – none to clerk
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 May 11

- Lighted crosswalks at Sunland Street and E. Ridgecrest Boulevard – consensus was not to go ahead with this
- Also at Church Avenue and Warner Street need to look at also stop sign at Hood Avenue and Ranger Street – forwarded to Chief Avery - maybe a yield sign will do
- At Mayor's request staff looked at the area Ward Avenue and China Lake Boulevard – tree is in the way – no additional dots or traffic patterns will be added on Ward Avenue
- Discussed right of way abandonment at Valley Street and Ridgecrest Boulevard
- Preliminary discussion on Public Works budget – will be brought back
- Discussion of traffic flow and pattern on CalTrans Highway 178 going through town
- Next meeting June 8

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM; Council Conference Room
Next meeting June 10

Mayor Carter requested addition of ad hoc vs. sub committees to the agenda

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 May 27

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

Met May 18

- Primary discussion was CC&RS for the business park and DDA

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- Will be looking at other conditions and issues in the park because of things concerning the NAWS
 - One change made
- Next meeting June 15

RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Dan Clark - Alternate

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

Met May 19

- Executive Director reported on participation in the POW WOW
- The International tourism convention increased greatly with the Bureau holding 38 appointments with tour professionals from 18 countries
- Updated the board on Assembly Bill AB 2651 sponsored by Speaker McCarthy – cleared the Assembly and is headed for the Senate
- If passed bill will clear way for a new RACVB billboard to be located north of Brady's Mobile on Highway 395.
- New Ridgecrest Area visitors Guide is in final edit and should be published within two weeks
- Area film production has been brisk including small independent feature film, a student film, commercials for Barclay's Bank, Acura and Chevy Trucks
- Also still photography for Lexus, Firetrap Jeans, and a Japanese fashion magazine

Next meeting June 16

Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions

Council Member Morgan will be attending KernCOG for Mayor Carter tomorrow. LAFCO has an opening and Council Member Martin has volunteered for this committee. If possible Council Member Morgan will ask to be alternate for LAFCO. Mr. Rose has agreed to serve on the Service Committee. The Kern County Associations of Cities will have a dinner meeting on May 27 several city official will go. There will be a Quad State meeting June 11 in Bakersfield.

Council Member Martin noted the League of California Cities has several policy committee meeting June 17-18. in Sacramento. Mayor Carter is on the Environmental and Council Member Holloway is on the Administrative committee. September 17-19 is annual League of California Cities conference in Long Beach - all are invited

Council Member Clark noted the ad hoc senior advisory committee will meet June 27. The 100 Voices for Women Steering committee will meet June 7 at 6 p.m. at Kerr-McGee

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COUNCIL COMMENTS

Morgan –

- Pete Knight passed away earlier this month
- Spoke to him quite often and to his representative Sharon Girod too
- Got model of X15 signed by Senator for his dad
- May 20 and 21 City is going to be putting sealant on streets in College Heights area
- Keep off the streets that are treated for several hours
- Received an email from Joe Pollock saying contractor is moving again on Allen Street project
- Got information on Mental Health May 18
- Thanked the Leaches for letter of support on tax initiative
- Senator John Edwards may be vice president candidate – he's picking on taxes
- Noted John Kerry's wife and her taxes – her tax rate figures out to be 11%

Martin –

- Offered condolences to Pete Knight's family – visited with him two weeks before his passing
- We will all miss him
- Had other papers for distribution on meetings he and Chip had with legislators
- Commented on visits with Assemblyman McCarthy and Senator Ashburn also that Bill Maize joined them
- Also visited with other colleagues from other cities
- J.C. Watts is talking about the 500 years of oil still in the ground in this country

Holloway –

- Offered comments on Senator Knight – has framed picture of him and the X-15 and also a signed model
- Attended Ridgecrest Regional Hospital board meeting – has been asked to serve on the board – was elected
- 2/3 of hospitals in state are in bankruptcy or in process – RRH has been in the black 22 out of 25 years
- Spent over 1M trying to adhere to mandate of nurse patient ratio
- Has heard Cerro Coso Community College is going to scale back nursing program
- Ability to recruit doctors is a real problem
- Only 10% of revenue came from private insurance
- Thanked Tepatitlan for a wonderful time and noted trip was enriching and enlightening and educational and enjoyable
- Letter concerning CSPAN in paper today – talked to Pete Purvis about it

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- On local level Mediacom chose to put two new channels on instead of CSPAN and CSPAN 2
- No oil problem in world – US has refinery problem because of the environmental laws
- Spoke about trip to Sacramento
- Personally likes fairness of the League of California Cities initiative
- Getting better news on the VLF
- Noted we need to get busy on the local option sales tax
- Redistricting and holding elected officials accountable does not seem to be going anywhere - nothing is going to change

Carter-

- Mentioned Pete Knight did a lot of good things for our communities
- Good listener and very focused
- We all will miss him
- AP Government class students impressed him – wished adults in community were as focused as they were
- They are keeping up with issues in the state and our community
- They were very interested in economic development
- Have a business in town selling air pistols, knives and swords to our kids – package says purchaser has to be 18 – they are selling to elementary school students
- Going to funeral for Francis Garlan in Los Angeles on Friday – he was his Godfather and also his sisters
- Have talked about one person can make a difference – we have people here in the community doing that – need to recognize these persons
- Thanked Howard Auld for the wonderful program on Armed Forces Day – was very well received

Clark –

- Sends condolences to the Knight family
- June 12 Daniel Ho and Faith will have a concert at Freedom Park and the Gazebo
- Special guest Alex and company featuring Alex Tsubota from Trona
- Cost is free
- There will be a motorcycle ride May 23 to benefit Southern Sierra Boys And Girls Club - met at 12 at City Hall and at 4 dinner at Mickey's
- Senior housing – working on location and if lucky will get \$2M from County for this project
- Looking at alternate area if business park area is not acceptable
- Always open to receive ideas of public – write, email, come to meetings

Holloway –

- Last week during Mother's Day got complaints about vendors selling flowers

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- They have photo ID's and licenses – this is a great accomplishment of the Finance Department

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carter adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk