



**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 16, 2005
6:00 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded
Tape 05-08**

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 – 6:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Richard Martin (City business)

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; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; Gerald Helt, City Engineer, Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Department Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m. None

REGULAR SESSION – 6:3 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by

INVOCATION Reverend Doug Hearn, Union Baptist Church – silent moment

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose requested addition of items to the Agenda that arose subsequent to posting of the Agenda which are of some urgency – 2) Reestablishment of the Ad hoc Solid Waste Committee, 1) Recommendations to

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the Kern County Board of Supervisors re Bakersfield Board of Trade, 3) SB 926 Biosolids Management.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Clark TO ADD ITEMS 1 AND 2 TO CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Council Member Martin absent (City business).

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month

Mayor Holloway and the City Council will present a proclamation to Deborah Lessany-Abdi, Executive Director, Mike Edgar, Board President, Paul Maddox, Vice President, Wendy Meyer, Treasurer, and Christina Ricketts, Secretary, High Desert Child Abuse Prevention Council., Inc., in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2005.

2. Presentation – Recognition of Kern Council of Government Ridgecrest Recipients of 2004 Regional Awards Program McRea

Donna Thomas, Mojave Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council – Ken Volpe Regional Award of Merit for Environmental Resources and Conservation is presented to an individual or organization taking a leadership role in promoting conservation of resources.

Margarita Chapman, Creating Healthy Lives Program – Regional Award of Merit for Community Involvement honor volunteer services of citizens taking a leadership role in improving or enhancing visual quality, service availability or public-private partnership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Morris, 840 Moran

- Here about the BMX bike park – he believes they have the land to build it on
- Noted discussion held in Youth Advisory Committee
- Has talked with Jim Ledbetter about fund raising and they will be starting soon
- Skateway Co. can be used for the ramps and they are cheaper than they thought
- Wants to know if the City is still with them in this endeavor
- Would be a freestyle BMX park behind skate park

Mr. Ponek noted that two years ago the City put aside land for a trick park now the concern is the specific size

Marcus Chu

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- Is involved with Habitat For Humanity having joined a few years ago
- Announced a banquet on May 21 to celebrate 5 years of Habitat in the valley

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Set Date Of April 20 for Public Hearing To Receive Input And Comments From The Public Regarding Transit Unmet Needs
McRea
4. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of February 16, 2005 Gable
5. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of March 2, 2004 Gable
6. Investment Report For December 2004 Winegardner
7. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 4, 2005 In The Amount Of \$260,810.02 Winegardner
8. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 4, 2005 In The Amount Of \$520.98 Winegardner

Added items

Council Member Morgan noted Committee requested staff get with City Attorney regarding opening of evergreen clause in contract with Benz Sanitation for refuse collection

Resolution No. 05-16, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Supporting Recommendations For Future Operations Of The Kern County Board Of Trade Rose

Resolution No. 05-17, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Reestablishing An Ad Hoc Solid Waste Advisory Committee Rose

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Council Member Martin absent (City business).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. Public Hearing To Discuss The Project Scope And Potential Impacts Presented In The Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment And Resolution To Adopt A Negative Declaration For The West Ridgecrest Blvd Widening Project Helt

City Engineer Gerald Helt

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- The West Ridgecrest Blvd Widening Project proposes the widening and reconstruction of a segment of West Ridgecrest Boulevard from Mahan Street to China Lake Boulevard (State Route 178)
- The objectives of the proposed project are to address the need for reducing existing and forecasted congestion levels along West Ridgecrest Boulevard
- By enhancing the capacity, level of service, and mobility along West Ridgecrest Boulevard, the proposed project will in turn improve safety by reducing congestion-related accident rates
- if improvements are not made to W. Ridgecrest Boulevard accident rates are anticipated to increase in the future

Public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m.

Council Member Morgan commented that option 1 is the optimal alternative due to funding concerns

Mayor Holloway asked what the timeline is

anticipated construction start is 2008 but could slide due to funding issues

With this we are getting ourselves in the position to be ready when the funds are available

Mr. Rose originally construction was set for 2006 but state keeps holding it back

Jim Foster, Brown Road in Inyokern

- Inquired if anyone has discussed widening College Heights Boulevard
- With all the construction going on up there it will be more congested on the road

Mr. Pollock stated we have applied for grants for 2 projects – China Lake Boulevard to Dolphin Avenue and Dolphin Avenue to Franklin Avenue – this is a three year program and should know if we get it in about 6 months

Mr. Rose asked Mr. Helt what is the estimated costs of the Ridgecrest Boulevard project

Project was estimated at \$13M in 2001 and will probably be up to 15M by the time the project breaks ground

Public hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

Resolution No. 05-18, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting A Negative Declaration For The West Ridgecrest Boulevard Widening Project

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 05-18, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WEST RIDGECREST BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Council Member Martin absent (City business).

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OTHER ACTION ITEMS None

DISCUSSION ITEMS None

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS None

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Chip Holloway, Mike Biddlingmeier, Chuck Roulund

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting April 7

Legislative Committee

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: probably quarterly - at 8:00 AM; Council Conference Room

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 March 8

- Received presentation re parking at St Michaels
- Benz contract – awaiting legal answers
- 4 way stop at Tamarisk and James – not passed
- Housing tract at that same area
- Funds for street patching projects 250K
- Corp yard expansion and discussions with Sierra Sands Unified School District
- May be able to get funds with a joint project
- Discussed local option sales tax with League of California Cities group

Next meeting April 12

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Ron Carter, Steve Morgan

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

Next meeting to be announced April 14

Quality of Life Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Chip Holloway, Howard Laire, Matt Feemster

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Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Kerr-McGee Center
Next meeting March 31

Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Members: Chair Ron Ketcham, Vice Chair Lois Beres, Mike Hogan, Bob Peoples, Gary Charlon. Ex-officio Members Council Members Steve Morgan and Ron Carter, Planning Commissioner Mike Biddlingmeier
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM, Council Conference Room

March 15

- Discussed business park construction
- Have people showing interest in 8 lots
- Committee held true to what should and should not be in the business park
- "Turned down" a 200+ room hotel in the park – vote was 2 advising against, 1 for the project, and 1 abstention (amended upon minutes approval at April 6, 2005 City Council meeting)

Next meeting April 19

RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Steve Morgan- Alternate

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

Met March 15

- Elected board directors for upcoming year
 - Reelected Victoria Moore Chair
 - Dough Lueck Vice Chair
 - Janis Bottorff Secretary/Treasurer
- Mr. Arthur announced BIKER BUILD-OFF shot at Cuddeback Lake last December will air on Discover Channel March 22
- The Region Film Commission will go to Santa Monica April 15-17 to participate in the LOCATIONS film Industry Trade Show
- The new tourism billboard and the 178 corridor kiosk should be completed by March 30
- Kiosk was finalized with a \$2,000 donation from Indian Wells Valley 2000
- 2004 was a slow filming year but is now picking up with 4 commercials, 2 music videos and a Volkswagen still shoot being completed in past month

Next meeting April 19

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Council Member Clark announced

Ad Hoc Senior Advisory Committee would meet at 4:00 p.m. March 31 at Kerr-McGee Center

100 Voices for Women Steering Committee will meet April 7

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

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Morgan

- It is getting very busy in the community – keep attuned to what's happening
- March 19 Trona Spring Fling
- March 19 Bluejacket Awards dinner
- March 19 and 20 Coco Dog Fanciers show at the Fairgrounds
- About 150 people of the Lions Club District 401 will be in town on March 19
- Wished everyone a happy and safe spring break
- Happy St. Patrick's Day
- April 2 is the April Fool Car Show on Balsam Street
- April 2 there will be a plant sale
- April 2 1 p.m. will be 3rd in series of talks by students in the Lions Club Student Speaker Competition

Carter

- Los Angeles times article coming out in April about our high school team and their community services mentoring in the elementary and middle schools and their other community projects
- Las Flores School encourages teachers to think out of the box
- Council received article on how to be creative - creating jobs through City getting into private businesses and services, etc.
- Have a lot of needs in our community – police and roads and other issues
- Have a week off to celebrate Easter and spring break
- Be alert to more pedestrian as well as vehicle traffic around the community during spring break

Clark

- Special recognition for City with Assemblyman McCarthy honoring Trudy Brown as his Woman Of the Year and Senator Ashburn honoring Dianne Grattaroti as his Woman of the Year
- Academia has recognized Burroughs High School as a Distinguished School
- Gateway and Las Flores Schools scored over the target of 800 – part of the No Child Left Behind program
- Mr. Carter has been recognized as one of the better school principals in California
- Mesquite High School is an alternative school so is not part of the programs
- He and Gary Parsons participated in the "Ridgecrest Star Follies"
- It was great fun and is a community spirit builder
- Town Hall Meeting is March 30 6-9 p.m. at Kerr-McGee Center
- Agenda subject are
 - Short term strategies for the City
 - Long term strategies for the City
 - Developing a "Signature Event" for Ridgecrest
- Would like nothing better than having a full house so please come
- Share your visions with the Council

Holloway

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- Inyokern Airport April 9 – warbirds, jets and reciprocating engine planes, barbecue, classic car show and Harley Davidson motorcycle gathering
- DI contacted him regarding pot holes – City started addressing them on Monday
- Half our street effort is being dedicated to this project - 342 have been done – have a maintenance issue using desert mix
- Cost 250K to do a hot mix and machine
- Spent last week relaxing in Hawaii
- Newspapers there were filled with the same problems we face
- They too are having problems with potholes
- Off roaders hurting the environment
- Politicians – Democrats and Republicans are feuding

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk