



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

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

**August 1, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

This meeting was 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 – p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF: Harvey Rose, City Manager; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Administrative Services Department Director/City Treasurer; Jim McRea, Public Services Department Director, Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police/Assistant City Manager; Ronald Strand, Deputy Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:02 p.m.

GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel – Liability Claim of Brandon Foy, #07-09

REGULAR SESSION – 6:32p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Deputy Chief Ron Strand

INVOCATION – Father J. P. Wadlin, St Michael's Episcopal Church

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

In Closed Session received information and rejected Claim No. 07-09.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Wiknich TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Youth Advisory Council

None

PUBLIC COMMENT 6:34

Judy Hollins

- After reading an article/letter to the Editor last week in the Daily Independent has written a letter to the editor regarding a Minuteman Project
- Mr. Glazer minuteman had asked the Council to establish such a group in Ridgecrest under the auspices of Homeland Security
- Read her letter in response to his letter (a copy of the August 1 2007 Letters to the Editor of the DI is in Clerk's Agenda packet)
- Apparently Mr. Glazer was upset that his tax dollars might be used for health care for illegal immigrants
- She does not agree with him as the health care he cited is to increase health care to those underserved including many senior citizens
- In her experience the immigrant families are here because of the safer environment than in large cities
- Would rather Ridgecrest be a sanctuary city than a minuteman community
- Quoted and read from the Ridgecrest Pledge adopted by city council several years ago

Mayor Holloway noted that this subject would be discussed at the August 23rd City Organization and Services Committee meeting

Harold Hocket

- Spoke to the issue of City installing "red light cameras"
- Highly in favor of the cameras – it might slow some people down to what the posted speed limit is
- However urged City to look at the time that the yellow is projected – is its as short as 2 seconds
- Specifically noted the signal at China Lake Boulevard and California Avenue
- Needs to be professionally established based on street conditions, usage patterns, etc.
- Also need to look at the issue of through traffic being able to proceed if no traffic is in the left turn lanes.

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Mayor Pro Tem Morgan said that the cameras recently installed were not red light cameras for "speeders". The cameras are for traffic control because signal loops in the pavement have gone bad and are just about beyond repairing. The cameras are motion sensitive not a timed cycle. Hopefully they will be operational by this Friday (August 3)

Dave Matthews

- Still a lot of people think they are red light cameras
- The asphalt recap on 178 through Ridgecrest gave extra height to the dip at China Lake and Drummond
- Big gouges in that area because the bumpers are scraping the pavement
- City needs to look at some kind of leverage to get CalTRANS to do what they say they will do
- Maybe a legal action would get their attention

Darrell Eddins

- Concerned citizen of 32 years
- Has raised his children and now his grandchildren in this community
- He loves this community
- Concerned with direction our elected representatives are going and taking the community
- Appears we have lost our directions and focus
- Our ideals and motives seem to have changed
- Have intelligent men sitting here on the council
- This is not an official notice of intention but he has begun the process of recall of one of our officials
- He repeated that this is not an official notice of intention to recall

Closed 6:46 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Resolution No. 07-40, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Authorize The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Hall And Foreman, Incorporated For The Preparation Of Plans And Specifications For The Traffic Signal At The Intersection Of South China Lake Boulevard And Church Avenue In The Amount Of \$16,000** Pollock

Mayor Holloway requested some background on this item before the Council voted on the Consent Calendar

Joe Pollock, City Engineer

- Noted this signal would be at a major school crossing at the corner of china Lake Boulevard and Church Avenue

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- Children have to cross the four lanes of traffic of China Lake Boulevard
- City applied for the grant a five years ago and now have the matching funds
- Project needs to go ahead

Dave Matthews - reemphasized the fact that this started 5 years ago

3. **Minutes Of The Special City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of June 18, 2007** Gable
4. **Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of June 20, 2007** Gable
5. **Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated July 20, 2007 In The Amount Of \$389,936.99** Winegardner
6. **Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated July 20, 2007 In The Amount Of \$7,670.34** Winegardner

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Morgan TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. **33433 Joint Public Hearing Of The Ridgecrest City Council And The Redevelopment Agency, Notice Of Real Property Sale, And Disposition Development Agreement (DDA) To Construct And Develop A Commercial Use On Lot 4, Parcel Map 10819, APN 33-070-04, Ridgecrest Business Park, Developer Boster Properties, LLC** McRea

A joint Public Hearing relating to the development of a DDA for the sale and development of Lot 4 of the Business Park by Boster Properties, LLC. The 33343 Summary Information Report and Resolution RRA No. 07-01 is presented for adoption. The site will be developed as a professional office and business service commercial use.

Title of resolution inadvertently omitted – draft text of resolution was included in all Agenda packets

Resolution RRA No. 07-01, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Agency Approving Disposition And Development Agreement And Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Thereof (Boster Properties, LLC Lot 4 Pm 10819 APN 33-070-04)

Public Services Director McRea gave the staff report

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Public Hearing opened at 6:55 p.m.

Steve Boster requested approval and was here for questions if any

Public Hearing closed at 6:56 p.m.

Moved by Agency Member Morgan, second Agency member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUTION RRA NO. 07-01, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY APPROVING DISPOSITION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY THEREOF (BOSTER PROPERTIES, LLC LOT 4 PM 10819 APN 33-070-04). Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. Discussion of City-County Relations

Wiknich

Vice mayor Wiknich read a prepared statement

- On June 6 brought forth a proposal to Council about a number of issues
- We have been talking since last December about bringing a roads initiative to the people for a 3rd time
- A proposed sales tax increase earmarked for roads repair in Ridgecrest
- Community told us to investigate and fight for funding from higher sources maybe even suing those higher sources
- After all avenues were exhausted then they might be willing to pass a bond measure
- I proposed we enter into discussions with the County to try to renegotiate some agreements we have with them to better our financial position
- Further suggested we ask County to provide us with numbers concerning our financial positions with each other
- What the County provides in services for what they receive from us
- Also suggested we compare that with what we might get if annexed into Inyo County
- I NEVER proposed we actually move into Inyo County
- There was never a motion of this Council nor a vote of this Council to move to Inyo County
- Council did give a unanimous head not for these items to go to the City Organization and Services Committee for analysis and discussion
- The Committee has met, discussed the issues and has made no real conclusions
- Happy, tonight, to report the status of this multifaceted proposal

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- At the July 18 City Council meeting Supervisor McQuiston and County Staff provided the numbers of the financial relationship between the City and the County
- It showed that we receive \$2.73 for every dollar we put into the system through population and business here
- Council decided to have staff look at the numbers for a "sanity check" – that sanity check has not as yet been completed
- Council did not direct staff to hurry this numbers checking – the main business was to continue with the City's business and do the checking as time allowed
- Also happy to report on a meeting with Supervisor McQuiston, his local rep Craig Peterson, City Manager Harvey Rose, Mayor Pro Tem Steven Morgan, and myself at 6:00 a.m. last Wednesday June 15th – it lasted almost 3 hours
- We started discussions on a couple of agreements I proposed we renegotiate
- First was the Redevelopment Agency Agreement – we presented City's first cut on what we would like to see in a new agreement
- Second we discussed the City's position on a new agreement pertaining to annexations of County land into the City
- We also discussed some additional items
- Discussed the possibility of the City and County joining together on some JOINT roads projects that benefit the residents of both entities
- Supervisor McQuiston requested the City put our positions and recommendations into writing
- He agreed to submit them to county official for further discussion
- As a result of these preliminary discussion we decided that meetings such as this should be done on a regular basis
- On July 21st Assembly Woman Jean Fuller came and met with Mr. Morgan and me to discuss issues important to the City to see if she could help us
- Discussion focused on our severe problem with paying for infrastructure repairs and improvements – mostly roads
- We don't have the money we need and have extreme difficulties getting down to our level from the State
- Came up with a couple of ideas and she said she would try to help us and some possible new legislation she would be willing to try on our behalf
- The ideas are new and only in the brainstorming phase now – have a long route to follow
- There are no guarantees but she is very willing to try to help us do something
- This effort will continue in the future
- I believe the numbers we got from the county are very complete and favorable
- I believe the meeting to begin renegotiations on certain agreements was in a very positive and open light – the discussion were sincere, polite, professional, respectful and candid
- Having Assembly Woman Fuller offer to help us on the State level is exciting

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- As a result of these positive steps I would like to make a motion the we take discussion of annexing into Inyo County off the table

City Clerk cautioned the Council that this was a discussion only item and an action motion would not be appropriate.

The feeling was that Council was in favor

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

9. Request for Council to Designate Voting Delegates and Alternates for League of California Cities Annual Conference – September 5-8, 2007, Sacramento CA

Voting Delegate Mayor Holloway
Alternate none No one else is attending the conference

Chief Avery noted there would be no youth advisory segment so no youth will be going

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

None

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Development Committee

Members: Chair Steve Morgan, Chip Holloway, Jerry Taylor, Nellavan Jeglum

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

Special meeting July 26

- Discussed sign ordinance
- Signs on walls, sign heights, etc.
- General area requirements
- Recommendations given to staff to work on revamping of ordinance

Next meeting August 2

Mayor Holloway noted that this will affect business owners and have seen no Chamber of Commerce members at the meetings and they need to be

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Chair Tom Wiknich, Chip Holloway, Mike Biddlingmeier, Lois Beres

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

Next meeting August 23

Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee

Members: Chair Ron Carter, Dan Clark, Jerry Taylor, Howard Laire

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

Next meeting August 23

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Chair Tom Wiknich, Steve Morgan, Lois Beres, Nellavan Jeglum

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Council Conference Room

Next meeting August 21

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan suggested the proposed bond issue be placed on the agenda of the Infrastructure Committee

Council Member Clark noted we had planned on a company coming in to the community for a survey of or citizens on this subject and that we should not do anything until we find out the concerns and wishes of the citizens

City Manager Rose said he has contacted several companies including the one that did the school survey and they were going to send in proposals but he has not as yet received any

Activate Community Talents and Interventions For Optimal Neighborhoods Task Force (ACTION)

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Ron Carter

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting September 10

RACVB

Council Member Holloway

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

Next meeting August 15

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clark

- Complimented the folks renovating the USO Building
- They are doing an amazing job

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- Complimented the law enforcement agencies within the community for their reaction and actions in the emergency on Monday
- They did a great job under very tragic circumstances
- Our police officers had just gone through training at Cero Coso Community College this past weekend on responding to and handling this type of incident
- Please send prayers to the people of Minneapolis involved in the bridge collapse tragedy
- Child Spree assisted 73 youngster get ready for school

Carter

- Echoed the praise for our local law enforcement agencies
- A tragedy that affected both sides
- They responded in record time and waded in putting their lives in danger
- Noted all the agencies that responded Ridgecrest Police Department, Kern County Sheriffs Department, California Highway Patrol, China Lake Police Department, Kern County Fire Department, Liberty Ambulance
- Thanked them all for dedication and bravery

Wiknich

- Cannot add much more to the foregoing accolades
- Truly amazing that you had just completed training for just such an incident
- Everything was so fresh in your minds

Morgan

- Agreed with all the previous remarks
- Assembly Woman Fuller will be back August 14 for a Chamber luncheon
- She is trying to get into the communities to find out what is needed
- Coming up at the August 15 council meeting we will have joint land use
- He was chosen to sit on the JLUS a Advisory Board as was Jim McRea
- Umbrella issue that is going on in the community it is real
- October 3 KernCOG will make presentation on the transportation funding
- Commented again - don't like to take heat when it is unfounded
- Thanked Tom for bringing issue forward
- We represent the entire community and need input from everyone
- We have to bring issues to committees and discuss them and in Council too
- Disagrees that Mayor should step down as she said he would
- He should stay the course – do the full two years
- Until there is a vote on an issue all you have is discussion

Holloway

- Fund raiser August 25 for the USO building fund at Burroughs with the Farris Players
- Monday events brought out that it was a tragic occurrence

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- Thanked the police department for their great reaction
- All the agencies deserve a great deal of appreciation
- Pray for the family of Mr. Stone and keep them in mind
- It was an unfortunate event
- Looking forward with the Council to keeping things moving and getting things done
- Hasn't changed his statements regarding stepping down from the Mayo position
- BRAC is still in progress and it seem more positive than it has been
- There will be an important person in the community on August 13 and 14 but cannot say who – it is up to the Base to make the announcement
- Let's put our best foot forward to obtaining the best future we can for Ridgecrest

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting a 7:30 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk