



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

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

**September 19, 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 – 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall Holloway, Mayor Pro Tem Steven Morgan, and Vice Mayor Thomas Wiknich

ABSENT: Council Members Carter and Clark
(Council Member Clark arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

STAFF: Harvey Rose, City Manager; Keith Lemieux, City Attorney; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Administrative Services Department Director/City Treasurer; Jim McRea, Public Services Department Director, Dennis Speers, Public Works Department Director; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; Jim Ponek, Parks, Recreation And Cultural Affairs Department Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police/Assistant City Manager; Ronald Strand, Deputy Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Matrix Motor Co. v. City Of Ridgecrest/Redevelopment Agency.

GC54956.8 Redevelopment Agency Real Property Negotiations - Agency Surplus Property, 227 S. Desert Candles Street, APN 080- 161-25-00. Agency Negotiators Harvey Rose, Michael Avery, and James McRea.

GC54956.8 Redevelopment Agency Real Property Negotiations - Agency Economic Development Business Retention Loan , 128 N. China Lake Boulevard, APN 396-020-190, Pet Integrity Community

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Animal Center Agency Negotiators Harvey Rose, Michael Avery, and James McRea.

GC54956.8 Redevelopment Agency Real Property Negotiations - Agency Economic Development Agreement and Loan, Globe Protect USA, Inc. Agency Negotiators Harvey Rose, Michael Avery, and James McRea.

This item will be discussed in a continued Closed Session at the end of the regular Open Session.

GC54956.8 Redevelopment Agency Real Property Negotiations - Agency Economic Development Agreement, Tentative Tract Maps 6775 and 6700, Tom Martin. Agency Negotiators Harvey Rose, Michael Avery, and James McRea

REGULAR SESSION – 6:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Planning Commissioner Jerry Taylor

INVOCATION – Reverend Ed Snyder, Inyokern Baptist Church

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

In Closed Session Council received information on - (1) Matrix litigation, no action taken; (2) RRA owned vacant house at 227 S. Desert Candles, no action taken; (3) agreement with Globe Protect, no action; TTR 6775 and 6700, no action taken. 128 N. China Lake Boulevard property negotiation will be taken in the continued Closed Session after the open meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Morgan TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 3 ayes, 2 absent; Council Members Carter and Clark absent.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Item 5 was moved to this point on the Agenda.

1. Youth Advisory Council

Casey Hoxsie, President

- Have had our first meeting of the year
- Officer have been elected

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- Already have lots of ideas for projects to work on this year
- Currently working on a special fund raiser for Mr. Rose
- Funds would be used to send Youth Advisory Council delegates to Washington D.C. to observe federal government close up

2. **Proclamation - 50th Anniversary of Desert Artists League**

Council Member Clark read and presented a proclamation to Dolores Hoffman, Edna Skeer, June Sayre, Donnie Woods, and Joan Welsh, representative of the Desert Artists League in recognition of the Leagues 50th Anniversary.

3. **Proclamation - Constitution Week**

Vice Mayor Wiknich read and presented a proclamation to Carolyn Riise, Regent, Panamint Springs Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in recognition of Constitution Week, September 17 - 23, 2007.

4. **Presentation - Youth Involvement in Ridgecrest Cares Program**

Starla Shaver, Coordinator of the WIA/YES Program, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Ridgecrest Cares Program test home completed in April 2007 and youth participation in the event. Thanks were given to volunteers and business who donated supplies and time to the April project. Preparations for the September 22-23, 2007 paint weekend were also announced. Citizens from the community are encouraged to volunteer to help with the project. The program will help beautify the City.

Item 6 was presented earlier in the meeting

5. **Presentation - Cerro Coso Community College Strategic Plan**

Dr. Mary Retterer, President of Cerro Coso Community College, gave a presentation of the 2007-2009 Strategic Plan of the College. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is in the Clerk's agenda packet)

PUBLIC COMMENT – 7:12 p.m.

Nellavan Jeglum

- Continually marvels at what a great city we have
- Complemented the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department for their help and professionalism during the week just passed
- She spent the week in her RV at Freedom Park standing watch over the Field of Flags
- Between September 8 through September 11 the Exchange Club celebrated their 1000 Flags Project in remembrance of the 9/11 attack 6 years ago

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- Everyone was very supportive

Dave Matthews

- Asked if the City had an opening for another Assistant City Manager
- Noted the 9/11 remembrance Field of Flags at Freedom Park
- There were so many that when he took pictures he couldn't get more than 50 flags in each frame
- Celebrating Constitution Week – encouraged everyone to read it and study it and see how it is being stabbed today
- Asked for clarification of the 1000 flags that those on California Avenue were City flags and not part of the display. Correct

CONSENT CALENDAR

6. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of September 5, 2007 Gable
7. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 31, 2007 In The Amount Of \$286,757.49 Winegardner
8. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 31, 2007 In The Amount Of \$595.00 Winegardner

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Morgan TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent;

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Discussion of City Survey – Bond Program Morgan

The Infrastructure Committee has discussed the possibility of presenting a Tax/Bond Measure to the public for infrastructure improvement, specifically streets. Throughout this process it has been recommended by members of the Council that the City should contract with a consultant to conduct a survey of citizens and determine the best manner in which to present a measure and that same consultant manage the measure campaign. At the City Infrastructure Committee meeting of September 11, 2007, CFW's proposal was presented and the committee voted not to move forward with a survey. (CFW helped the school district with a measure and was successful.)

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Vice Mayor Wiknich (Infrastructure Committee Chair)

- Infrastructure Committee has discussed the bond issue from the point infrastructure repairs and maintenance
- Discussed hiring an outside consultant to do a survey of the citizens
- It was suggested we use the same one as the school district
- Heard that they charge only if it measure is passed
- But, actually, the survey is a separate item and would cost \$8-12K
- Committee discussed bond to raise a tax but uncomfortable spending dollars
- Lengthily discussion regarding the criteria to use in the measure
- Have received input from citizens that wanted a sunset clause – to definite projects in the measure – and no discretionary spending

Morgan (Infrastructure Committee member)

- This is a referral report from the Infrastructure Committee alone
- They feel it is not necessary to go out and survey the public as it would not be cost effective
- Will have public meetings and forums for discussions and public input, etc.
- It will be a sales tax measure of whatever percentage seem most feasible
- Looking for Council concurrence that the infrastructure will not go to an outside marketing group

Clark

- Disappointed that only one consultant gave an estimate
- We need a 2/3 vote to pass this
- Concerned we will fail again without professional help
- Heard at League of California Cities in the past that to be successful it has to be a grass roots movement

Rose

- Stated cost would be about 7K on a consolidated election and about 40K for a stand alone
- There are 5 dates for elections, some only once every 4 years some odd years and some even years

Avery

- The proposal discussed was the same company that did the school district
- He had reviewed the school district agreement and it was the same as offered to us

Holloway

- While at LCC head about Tramatola Company (?) who have been very successful on bond measures
- Need at lease 50K to run an effective campaign
- He has looked at them on the net and has as a way to contact this company

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- We have a very serious problem and no easy way to solve it
- There may be a perception with some people of “bait and switch” with a consultant or a high powered sales campaign
- Would like to talk to some more people before we abandon the consultant idea

Public comment

Dave Matthews

- He is disappointed that Mr. Clark has taken the attitude of a loser
- Are you talking about a sales tax or a bond issue
- Prefers the tax as outsiders come to shop and use the streets
- With a sales tax everyone pays
- To get the attention of the citizens all you need to do is to get Mr. Speer and the street department to give you a street map and put up temp signs pointing to the pot holes stating "if you don't like it then vote for the measure"

Dave Glazer

- Perception is reality
- When they see frivolous spending such as the art in medians and trips to Tepatitlan using taxpayer money they don't like it
- That sends a message that they don't trust you with their money
- So, stop and think before decisions and don't spend the taxpayers money on frivolous things

Jerry Taylor

- Think we are going in the right direction in terms of trust concerning this measure
- You are earmarking it for a specific thing and with a sunset clause there is a definite ending
- Really need a consultant to do the marketing rather than a survey

Council concurred to use a consultant for marketing but not a survey and will come back with the project list

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

None

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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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

Next meeting October 4 – time change to 3:00 p.m.

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Chair Tom Wiknich, Chip Holloway, Nellavan Jeglum, Lois Beres

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

Met September 13

- Received an overview on the IWV Information Desk volunteers
- Received an overview on P.A.C.T. (Police And Citizens Together) volunteer program
- Chairman suggested maybe one of the groups could help the Code Enforcement Officer with research and records as he is "swamped"
- Discussed lobbying efforts on the tax measure
- Received info on budget issues pertaining to the ISF funds

Next meeting October 11

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 – September 27

Infrastructure Committee

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

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

Met September 11

- Bowman corridor plan
- Roundabout at that intersection
- Committee is not taking a position on the roundabout
- Concern with the traffic flow
- Will the area and land mass support it
- Traffic light update – Church, Upjohn, Rader
- Trash recycling discussed – mandatory pickup
- The California Integrated Waste Management with the city will have a plan working together in place by January 2010
- Street repairs capping roads mostly in Ridgecrest Heights

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Next meeting October 9 and possibly October 23

Council Member Clark has had a few calls regarding the Animal Shelter regarding if it is meeting the needs of the community and is the size inadequate for the near future

Chief Avery replied that the shelter is almost up to full staff and still growing. They have several dedicated volunteers who keep it clean every day. Occupancy rate is about 90% every day. He has been discussing expansion plans with the Shelter Supervisor and have contractors looking at possible work to be done out there.

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 October 15 (2nd Monday is holiday for some folks)

RACVB

Council Member Holloway

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

Meeting of September 19 was canceled

Next meeting to be announced

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Clark - Arts Council September 26, Kerr-McGee Center, 5:30 - Proceeds from the Shakespeare in the House was \$1,170

Morgan - Quad State meeting September 28 will mostly be about litigation issues
KernCOG on Thursday - transportation development – congestion management - mitigation air quality

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Wiknich

- Read a proclamation tonight for Constitution Week
- The Constitution is near and dear to his heart

Morgan

- Bakersfield Safe Roads Committee Measure I people will be doing it again
- Welcomed aboard Rear Admiral Select Dunaway
- In 2003 WalMart EIRs in Bakersfield were rejected and dragged into court
- They came up with new ones in 2007
- Concerning the WalMart project here in town he would like to hear from more of those who have concerns with the EIR
- Boys and Girls Roadside Rally coming up

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- On the 29th will be Family Fun Fair
- Cancer Society Relay for Life is on October 6 and 7 at the Burroughs High School track
- Viewfinders Motorcycle Grand Prix is also on October 6 and 7 at the fairgrounds
- Desert Empire Fair is October 11 through 14 at the fairground and will have a destruction derby this year
- Kiwanis Walkathon will be in September 29
- Speaking at Republican Women's Luncheon at noon September 21 at Victoria's – will have open mike to receive info and answer questions

Clark

- He and Mayor Holloway and Council Member Morgan were at the Immanuel football field opening
- It is a private school with private funding
- Youth Advisory Council first meeting and they chose the new officers
- If your youth wish to get involved with Youth Advisory Council have them talk to school counselors
- It is truly a great and worthwhile experience for the youth

Holloway

- Attended League of California Cities two weeks ago
- Global warming debate is over in Sacramento – they feel it is real
- At the awards ceremony 5 cities had youth advisory council honored
- As to those citizens/voters we cannot reach are those who don't attend our meetings or watch on TV or read about it in the media or contact us and ask questions

Meeting was recessed to continued Closed Session at 8:22 p.m. to reconvene at 9:13 p.m.

In the continued Closed Session Council received information regarding Agency Economic Development Business Retention Loan 128 N. China Lake Boulevard, APN 396-020-190, Pet Integrity Community Animal Center and gave direction to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk