



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

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

**June 4, 2008
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 – 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF: Harvey Rose, City Manager; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Jim McRea, Public Services Department Director, Dennis Speer, 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.

City Manager Rose requested addition of claim of Tiffany Mocholski, No. 08-05 to Closed Session as the need to take action arose subsequent to positing of the agenda.

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Clark. TO ADD CLAIM NO. 08-05 TO CLOSED SESSION. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Mayor Holloway absent.

Added item

GC54956.9 Conference With Legal Counsel - Liability Claim of Tiffany Mochulski, No. 08-05.

The following item postponed to next meeting due to absence of City Attorney

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GC54956.9 Conference With Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Matrix Motor Co v. City of Ridgecrest

REGULAR SESSION – 6:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Nathaniel Liedl reporter

INVOCATION Reverend Ed Snyder, Inyokern Baptist Church

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Rose reported Council discussed and rejected the liability claim of Tiffany Mocholski, No. 08-05.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Rose requested removal of item 12 as it was on the agenda of the City Organization and Services Committee for discussion

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ITEM 12 REMOVED. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Youth Advisory Council

None

2. Proclamation - Recognizing "Rogue Otters"

Council presented a proclamation to Brett Tanner, who with Jerry Sparks are the "Rogue Otters", in recognition of their efforts to promote awareness, research and early diagnosis of Wegener's Granulomatosis, a disease that took the life of their friend Jeremy "Miah" Johnson. Council will proclaim June 2008 as Jeremy "Miah" Johnson Month in Ridgecrest.

PUBLIC COMMENT 6:40

Dave Matthews

- Apologized to public works for contacting them directly about the traffic signals
- Norma and Las Flores needs to be fixed
- Wasting everyone's gas waiting for it to cycle

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David Hazelman

- Had wanted to comment on the Taft Corporation item
 - It has been removed from this agenda
 - Kern County Board of Supervisors will have it on their agenda next week June 10
 - It will give us time to respond to them

Jeannie Willey

- Owner of the batting cages on Ridgecrest Boulevard
- Wrote letter to the Council and others regarding new business moving in next door to her business
- Supposed to be a tobacco store but will sell adult merchandise, pipes and bongs
- Concerned for the kids that use the batting cages being exposed to this type of business
- Really concerned with the location – near James Monroe Middle School, Senior Center, USO Building

Council Member Morgan noted her letter was on Community Development Committee agenda and would be discussed

Diane Moon

- Here to address Issue of free speech
- Thanked whoever improved Church Avenue
- Doing good things for the city, state and country
- Police officers have been given her a "ration"
- She wants Ridgecrest kept small
- People here do not know about Ridgecrest or Trona or the road to Las Vegas
- Wonderful place to live, loves it and does not want to see it lobotomized by growth
- Police make her nervous – have guns and sticks
- Wants no growth for the community

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Resolution No. 08-40 , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Donating The Old Pre-School Playground Equipment To Our Sister City Tepatitlan Ponек
4. Resolution No. 08-41, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting A Sewer User Charge For The 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Pollock

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5. **Resolution No. 08- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Acknowledging Chief Of Police Michael D. Avery's Retirement** Rose

Chief Avery began his Law Enforcement career on March 5, 1980 as a Reserve Officer with the City of Ridgecrest and the Ridgecrest Police Department. Appointed full time on January 26, 1981, Chief Avery has served the Ridgecrest Police Department and the citizens of Ridgecrest with great distinction, professionalism and honor. He performed his professional duties in the most distinguished manner, earning the affection and admiration of colleagues at all levels of law enforcement and within our community. This resolution is being prepared to grant him the rights as a retired Chief of Police

6. **Resolution No. 08- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Appointing Michael D. Avery Alternate Risk Manager And Representative To Public Agency Risk Sharing Authority Of California (PARSAC) And The California State Association Of Counties Excess Insurance Authority (CSAC-EIA)** Rose

Through this resolution the City Council will appoint Michael D. Avery to replace Harvey M. Rose as Alternate Risk Manager and representative to PARSAC and CSAC-EIA.

7. **Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of May 21, 2008** Gable

8. **Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated May 23, 2008 In The Amount Of \$532,528.05** Winegardner

9. **Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated May 23, 2008 In The Amount Of \$16,109.03** Winegardner

Dave Matthews requested items 5 and 6 be removed

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR with ITEMS 5 AND 6 REMOVED. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

Mr. Matthews said he was confused as to what was happening with or by these two resolutions.

5. **Resolution No. 08-42, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Acknowledging Chief Of Police Michael D. Avery's Retirement** Rose

Mr. Rose stated that this is acknowledgement of Chief Michael Avery retiring as Chief of Police. He will assume the duties of City Manager after July 1, 2008.

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6. **Resolution No. 08-43, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Appointing Michael D. Avery Alternate Risk Manager And Representative To Public Agency Risk Sharing Authority Of California (PARSAC) And The California State Association Of Counties Excess Insurance Authority (CSAC-EIA)** Rose

Mr. Rose stated that this is the formality of notifying PARSAC AND CSAC-EIA that he is stepping down and that Mr. Avery is assuming the duties of Alternate Board Member to those two agencies.

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUITONS NOS. 08-42 AND 08-43. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

10. **Ordinance No. 08-05, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Increasing The Salary Of Council Members** Rose

This ordinance was approved on first reading, by title only, at the regular City Council meeting of May 7, 2008 and is returned here for second reading and adoption.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Clark TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-05, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST INCREASING THE SALARY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wiknich - City hurting for funds and he thinks we should put this off until things are more settled financially. In the 80's if a Council Member was not here for a meeting or on city business we would not get paid. Would like to discuss this at committee meeting and also apply to Planning Commission

Carter - it costs to be on Council - we use gas to represent the City and be here for meetings. He does not put in for reimbursement for meals or travel, etc.

Clark - supports the raise. It will not affect him as he is not running for Council again. It is meager for the time they put into committee meetings and Council meetings and representing the City.

Morgan - admits that over the last year he has started submitting some reimbursement claims for things done for the City. Has always tried to use just his Council salary for representing the Council and City but times have changed and prices have gone up on most things.

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Holloway – does not submit for local Council or City representation but does for out of town City business. Does believe in giving back as much as he can to the community. He estimates it costs him 3k a month to serve on the Council.

The motion had been made and seconded. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 3 ayes, 2 noes; Council Members Morgan and Wiknich voted no.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

11. **Resolution 08- 44, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Cooperate With The County Of Kern, Electing To Participate In The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) And Home Investment Partnership Programs For 2009-2010 Through 2011-2012** McRea

Public Services Director McRea

- The existing three year Agreement between the City of Ridgecrest and the County of Kern expires on June 30, 2009
- The Cooperation Agreement and Resolution are required as part of the Urban County Qualifications.
- If not approved we would have to request directly to HUD and if done on our own would most likely get less funds or none at all

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 08- 44, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL TO COOPERATE WITH THE COUNTY OF KERN, ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS FOR 2009-2010 THROUGH 2011-2012. No public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

This item removed

12. **Continuation Of Discussion Of Kern County Planning Commission GPA #2, Map #71; ZC #6, Map#71; Kern County Resolutions 86-08 And 87-08, (Taft Corporation) To The Kern County Board Of Supervisors And Conditional Will Service Letter For Waste Water Sewer Service** Rose

Mayor Chip Holloway asks that the City Council discuss the attached letter from the Ridgecrest Planning Commission to the Kern County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed Taft corporation development adjacent to the City of Ridgecrest. He also asks that the Council discuss use of the City's wastewater treatment "will-serve" letter in controlling the project.

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CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

none

Assistant City Manager Avery asked dispensation to delay budget for 60 days. ISF funds will not appear as they have in the past. Preparation may not take 60 days and if not he will bring it forth as soon as it is ready.

Council comments

Clark - regarding the budget he feels department heads should have more say in expending their budget funds. He is willing to grant the 60 days delay.

Morgan - has no problem with the extension.

Wiknich - disappointed with the delay but understands why. He assumes more info will come forth at committee meetings.

Carter - questioned just what Clark was referring to – Clark explained it involved more flexibility for department heads.

Holloway - commented about county balancing out and their problems

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Not present

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Development Committee

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

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.; Council Conference Room

Next meeting June 5

City Organization and Services Committee

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

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

Next meeting June 12

Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee

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

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Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Kerr-McGee Center
Met May 22

- Gave 1k to Boys and Girls Club
- Proud with how they have helped organizations in community
- Youth facilities were discussed
- Group sponsoring a softball tournament should be beneficial
- Maybe this could be a signature event concept

Next meeting to be announced – WILL BE DARK JUNE AND JULY

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

Next meeting June 10

Holloway - need to look at synchronization of traffic signals in City – 4 way stops could maybe be cut back in some areas for gas savings

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 to be announced - WILL GO DARK FOR SUMMER

RACVB

Council Member Holloway

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

Next meeting June 18 - location to be announced

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Arts Council will be dark through summer

Mayor Holloway attended League of California Cities Administrative Committee to represent the City – state has large budget problem

East kern educational research meeting on Monday re the High Desert University Foundation

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Morgan

- Thanked all citizens who went to vote yesterday
- On Friday bow your head and say a prayer for those who gave their lives on D-Day to keep our freedom for us

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- June 14 is Flag Day - fly your flag proudly
- Congratulated all the graduates – his daughter Nicole graduates from Burroughs on Friday
- 1.2 million dollars in scholarships were distributed to students this week
- Fireworks display on July 4 will be coordinated with music
- Fund raiser Bingo for the fireworks on June 28 at Kerr-McGee

Wiknich

- Will sponsor fireworks fund again
- Congratulated the Navy Museum for a successful auction
- Guns 4 Us is giving away 3x5 American flags - come by an get one

Carter

- Thanked all teachers and employees in the public and private schools
- Proud of the education we provide in this community
- Will work with parks and recreation
- Had wind check for 5th graders recently

Clark

- Congratulated Carter and staff and teachers for all their efforts
- DART golf tournament coming June 7 at 1 p.m. encouraged everyone participate
- Wished everyone a safe and happy summer

Holloway

- Missed the last meeting and will miss the next meeting
- Safe grad night is a huge wonderful event
- Read letter from Wesley Jones re National Veterans Cemetery in Tehachapi
- Saw presentation regarding energy savings
- We are in an ideal spot for solar energy plants/farms
- In past have talked about a utility district in this community
- Should consider a consultant to look into alternate

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk