



**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**

**September 3, 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 for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER – 6:3 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Mayor Marshall Holloway

**STAFF:** Michael Avery, City Manager; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Tess Sloan and Tyrell Staheli, Administrative Services Department; 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; Ronald Strand, Chief of Police; and other personnel

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:34 p.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by**

**INVOCATION – Silent Moment**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Youth Advisory Council**

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Council Member Clark announced the next meeting of the Youth Advisory Council would be September 9, at 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. if you want children involved call their school counselors.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT          6:37 p.m.**

Nellavan Jeglum

- Exchange Club reminder for parade of 1000 flags on September 6
- Anyone interested in carrying a flag please contact them
- 100 rows of 10 flags each
- Route is corner of Ridgecrest Boulevard and Norma down Ridgecrest Boulevard to China lake Boulevard; south on China Lake Boulevard to California Avenue and west on California Avenue to Freedom Park
- Will plant flags on back lawn of the Civic Center and sing God Bless America
- Flags will fly until Sept 12
- On Sept 11 candlelight vigil at dusk at Freedom Park

Craig Bradley

- Received notification from Mediacom they will be going digital on September 29
- Will need conversion box so go down to Mediacom to get the box

Mike Neel

- Did not like the mechanics of the budget hearing
- Holding the comments until the end did not work well with him
- Should present each department and then take the comments
- Thanked Council Member Wiknich and Mr. Speer for pointing out 128M to address the road maintenance
- If we do not cut to the bone to deal with this it is irresponsible
- Do the most important things first
- Cut out things like Shakespeare in the park

Jerry Taylor

- No way to address the streets - only way to do this is through measure N
- Over half of this budget is for the Police Department
- You can nickel and dime it to death and accomplish little

Al Huey

- Noted an article by Assembly Woman Jean Fuller in News Review tonight expressing concern over state sales tax
- The City is proposing a special tax
- If the state can raise the tax without the vote of the people it occurs to him that the City can raise theirs too
- Other item appeared on the City website regarding TRANE

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- RFP for peer review for the TRANE contract
- SCE was supposed to do it but isn't, so city had to go out with a RFP
- On page two is a signature block for City Manager but it is an unsigned source document
- It gives the appearance that the manager has signed off on it but learned differently
- Expect it to be a signed legal City document
- Also on page 2 was submission date of August 26 with document dated August 29 and is different than the one he downloaded earlier
- The date is now September 17
- City had contacted the Daily Independent for submission of a legal notice and the date was September 17
- Concerned with the fact that the City Manager did not sign the document and concerned with the conflicting dates

Jason Patin

- Sometimes we forget to commend people when they do good things
- Not happy with the budget but it's what we have to work with
- We all know that the big issue is the condition of the roads
- Measure N is one way to address the issue but is not the only way
- City needs to generate revenue

Walt Maurer

- Also want to say what went right last night
- Appreciated the City Manager being very open
- 5 very experienced Council Members and appreciate that
- Everyone has their point of view of how to run government
- Also is not totally happy with the budget
- Did a look at the on line budget – every department asked for an increase
- Do not like that and think they should cut back
- 128M for streets – have already heard that our fix might result in \$99 savings
- That would take 128 years to fix the streets
- Radical change would be to increase the tax 4.5 percent
- We have to decide what we really want to do financially
- Gave 40K to a nonprofit a week ago - what if we took that and put it into the pothole machine

Mark Millis

- Sat through the budget last night for the 5 ½ hours
- The City Manager and the Council get it
- The thing is to sell it to the citizens
- They found 500K to put into streets
- Some will think wow we have ½ M so we are good

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- Noted the comparisons to other cities
- Maybe we should pursue annexation to gain the taxes
- Maybe we should annex all the way to Highway 395
- Noted 358 traffic violations last month – perhaps put a surcharge on the fuel
- May be iffy – 50 percent of our budget is Police Department - how about contracting to Sherriff for police protection
- Medians are another thing – exciting about getting grants but now we need to have funds to maintain them

Closed at 7:04 p.m.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

2. Resolution No. 08-69, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Partial Payment One (1) To Hard Rock Construction And Engineering For Work Completed To Date On The Handicap Access Improvements – Various Locations (CD Activity No. 17.06.1) Pollock

Item 3 removed

3. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 14, 2008 In The Amount Of \$285,479.85 Sloan
4. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 22, 2008 In The Amount Of \$14,157.48 Sloan
5. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 14, 2008 In The Amount Of \$2,275.51 Sloan
6. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 22, 2008 In The Amount Of \$11.65 Sloan

Council Member Wiknich questioned item 2 – does that include the ramp at Denny’s – Mr. Avery said no, we will do it in house

Mike Neel requested removal of item 3

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ITEM 3 REMOVED. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent.

3. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 14, 2008 In The Amount Of \$285,479.85 Sloan

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Mr. Neel -

page 2 5xx for conference - to train reserve officer

page 7 roof repairs - it is payment on loan to Mojave bank

page 10 Stater Brothers Market - food for Pinney Pool for concession for swim party at the pool

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Wiknich TO APPROVE COUNCIL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST (DWR) DATED AUGUST 14, 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$285,479.85. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

7. **Ordinance No. 08-07, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter XXI As It Relates To Flood Control** Pollock

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Wiknich TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-07, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER XXI AS IT RELATES TO FLOOD CONTROL. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-07, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER XXI AS IT RELATES TO FLOOD CONTROL. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent

8. **Ordinance No. 08-08, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Adopting Zone Change No. ZC-08-01 Changing The Easterly 5.37± Acres Of APN 343-370-03 And 04 From General Commercial (CG) To Single Family Residential (R-1), Applicant: AMG Corporation** McRea

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Wiknich TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-08, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST ADOPTING ZONE CHANGE NO. ZC-08-01 CHANGING THE EASTERLY 5.37± ACRES OF APN 343-370-03 AND 04 FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) TO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-1), APPLICANT: AMG CORPORATION. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent.

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Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-08, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST ADOPTING ZONE CHANGE NO. ZC-08-01 CHANGING THE EASTERLY 5.37± ACRES OF APN 343-370-03 AND 04 FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) TO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-1), APPLICANT: AMG CORPORATION. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent.

9. **Ordinance No. 08-09, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Adopting Zone Change No. ZC-08-02 Changing The Westerly 6.20 Acres Of Parcel 4, Parcel Map 10073, A 11.38 Acre Parcel From Single Family Residential (R-1) To General Commercial (CG), Applicant: Tokay Development** **McRea**

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Wiknich TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-09, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST ADOPTING ZONE CHANGE NO. ZC-08-02 CHANGING THE WESTERLY 6.20 ACRES OF PARCEL 4, PARCEL MAP 10073, A 11.38 ACRE PARCEL FROM SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG), APPLICANT: TOKAY DEVELOPMENT. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent.

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 08-09, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST ADOPTING ZONE CHANGE NO. ZC-08-02 CHANGING THE WESTERLY 6.20 ACRES OF PARCEL 4, PARCEL MAP 10073, A 11.38 ACRE PARCEL FROM SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG), APPLICANT: TOKAY DEVELOPMENT. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent; Mayor Holloway absent.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

10. **Continuing Discussion Regarding The TRANE Energy Study** **Avery**

Not much to report – most was given in Public Comment. Admits he made a mistake in the dates, it has been corrected and has not slowed down the process. The proposals are due September 12.

Council Member Wiknich feels it should go to City Organization Committee to get small things taken care of and getting a plan worked out before having it in front of the full Council each meeting.

Consensus was to give it to City Organization to follow through the process

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Council Member Morgan cautioned that we need to look at documents we post to the web site to be sure that they are correct and carry signatures if required for legality.

Walt Maurer

- Asked for the 5 companies the RFP was sent to – Craig Bradley named them
  - Recommended by SCE - Acco Engineering Glendale
- Asked what page of the budget this was on – Mr. Avery stated there is no item in this budget as it will be reimbursed once a loan is secured – if approved it will be
- Who actually wrote the RFP and was any TRANE employee involved – Mr. Avery stated it was prepared by City staff but we used input from TRANE.

Mike Neel

- Is this going to City Organization and Services Committee or Infrastructure (City Org)
- Will City Org advertise this as well as the road measure
  - Mr. Neel will be added to the email list for all committees
- Noted the large windows in the front of the building are great heat sinks – need to insulate them

Jerry Taylor

- Spoke as Chairman of the Planning Commission
- This project does come as a capital improvement and RMC says they should go to PC

Walt Maurer

- Would it make a quick R value or evaluation
- White designer foam would cost about 2-3K
- Offered to do the study or Mr. Speer's group could
- Appreciate the fact that there are multiple companies being contacted thanks for that
- Again voiced his opposition to awarding a contract to a sole source company

Dave Matthews

- Been thinking of the window problem for 40 years - as long as he has lived in his home
- Single pane windows are not efficient
- Has wide windowsills but never had the money to replace or upgrade so still pulling the drapes to keep out the sun or cold
- Would like to have City do drapes on the windows and with automatic controls

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**CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS**

**None**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS**

**None**

**COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Community Development Committee**

Members: Chair Steve Morgan, Chip Holloway, Jerry Taylor, Eric Kauffman

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

Next meeting September 4

**City Organization and Services Committee**

Members: Chair Tom Wiknich, Chip Holloway, Eric Kauffman, Lois Beres

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

Next meeting September 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

Met

- Community orchestra got money
- Olde Town asked for \$1500 for Maturango Junction and if they generate that they will give it back
- 40K was budgeted last year to look at a signature event to generate economic development
- Was not spent so it was re-budgeted

Next meeting September 25

**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 September 9

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

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Ron Carter

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Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center  
Next meeting September 8

### **RACVB**

Council Member Holloway

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

Next meeting and location to be September 17

### **OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

September 24 Arts Council

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Morgan

- Saturday September 6 1000 flags parade dedication of the USO building and dance
- Urged everyone to attend the Council Committee meetings – good place to let you opinions and ideas come forth

Wiknich

- Numerous emails coming in about Measure N and the 128M costs
- Stated that if anyone had an idea or a solution to this issue please us know
- It will have to be a multifaceted approach to solve this
- Need to have some suggestions on how to raise money
- The road issue was his “platform” and concern when he ran two years ago
- Entire Council has made roads a priority
- We passed the budget and there is funding for the pothole patcher for materials
- Commended the staff for the great work on the budget
- It is a bare bones budget but it is balanced
- The expansion in the department was most because of costs not people

Carter

- Thanked staff - it is not easy to put a budget together
- When first on council had to make drastic cuts
- Especially hard now because of fuel prices
- Have a 2M reserve which is good
- Thanked those who made the sacrifices - made by the departments
- Great that we can have citizens come up to us out in town to talk or calling or emailing
- Thinks the communication is vital to the health of the City
- We have to pass the measure we have to help ourselves

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Clark

- Attributed this budget this year to leadership and that is Mr. Avery
- Never had a budget so easy to read and understand
- Smoothest budget fest ever
- Cerro Coso Community College on September 12 is having a job summit
- They are on the leading edge of green with their photovoltaic display
- On 19<sup>th</sup> is their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Acknowledged PVT Paul Sherwood (in the audience) who is in military service

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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Rita Gable, City Clerk