



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

**City Council Conference Room
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555**

**April 23, 2009
5:15 p.m.**

This meeting was not recorded.

CALL TO ORDER – 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vice Mayor Thomas Wiknich, and Council Members Marshall Holloway and Jerry Taylor

ABSENT: Mayor Steven Morgan and Council Member Ronald Carter

STAFF: Michael Avery, City Manager; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Jim McRea, Public Services Department Director, Dennis Speer, Public Works Department Director;; and other personnel

This meeting was for the purpose of selecting road projects to be submitted to KernCOG with regards to The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

City Manager Avery gave a brief rundown of the ARRA

- In March KernCOG announced City was getting increased funding for streets through ARRA
- Round 1 ARRA funds are approximately 515K and 520K for Round 2
- The ARRA was intended to create jobs rather than transportation projects
- Because of that projects have to be "shovel ready" to qualify for funding
- City had previously considered moving existing Prop 1B funds designated to N. Norma to a shovel ready project on S. Sunland
- Because of the ARRA restrictions it would have caused a 16-18 month delay in N. Norma project
- N. Norma project will retain the 1B funding
- The only projects that met the ARRA requirements were the College Heights projects
 - College Heights Phase I - China Lake to Dolphin
 - College Heights Phase II - Dolphin to Franklin
- ARRA funds round 1 were designated for College Heights Phase II and ARRA round 2 designated for College Heights Phase II
- Phase II is in the FTIP and the environmental is completed and it is bid ready

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- It is recommended Round 2 ARRA funds be designated for College Heights Phase I
- Project would be included in FTIP Amendment for approval by KernCOG in September.
- Environmental for the project is completed and is currently in FTIP but not funded
- Round 2 ARRA funds allocated to the City are recommended to be designated for College Heights I - China Lake to Dolphin
- Must be applied for by April 27, 2009
- RSTP funds of \$474K+/- for College Heights Phase I can be reprogrammed to another project to be identified by the City in the near future

This week Mr. Speer met with Helt Engineering. and discussed projects. College Heights seemed to fit. ARRA. Mr. Speer also met with KernCOG to discuss the issues - projects not already on FTIP would not make it on time. Also might lose 1B monies.

Council Member Holloway commented on College Heights Dolphin to Franklin Phase II project shifting to ARRA. Recommended to Council to do this.

Council Member Taylor also commented on the College Heights projects and how bad the road conditions are. He also stated that this project would not widen the road it would only fix the pavement. There have been discussions about a joint project with Kern County concerning College Heights.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin McDonald

- Asked about transferring funds to other street projects previous approved by Kern County under 1B
- Norma or Sunland was mentioned
 - Norma Street not being discussed here
- He's concerned with environmental study
 - Mr. Speer noted that both College Heights projects have EIRs but the E76 needs to be done
- Wants funds moved to areas that really need it instead of new roads

Vice Mayor Wiknich explained the Pavement Management System (PMS) and that we were trying to address the roads with the most traffic flow and close to the top of the priorities list. Most of those do not meet the shovel ready requirements and other criteria attached to the ARRA funding. And College Heights is in the PMS per Mr. Speer.

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Council Member Taylor also noted that City was not allowed to just take the money and do with it as they wished but we have to have qualified projects in order to receive it.

Stan (did not hear last name if given)

- Look at PMS - is College Heights the highest priority?
 - Mr. Avery stated W. Ridgecrest Boulevard was the top and S. Downs was next (they are 1 and 2 on the list)
 - Ridgecrest Boulevard is funded for 2011-2112
 - PMS is to get them "shovel ready - need to use the plan to use the funds

John Gorman

- Supports what Council is doing
- Asked what is going to be done on the roads
 - It will be a reconstruction of existing roadway - not new road

Dave Matthews

- Certain amount stated in funding
 - Mr. Speer replied that Helt Engineering sent in bid - it has local match
- Asked if we will lose any unused funds if all are not used on the project
 - Yes, but KernCOG will consider using unused as contingency for all cities to be able to submit projects to those funds

Mike Neel

- ARRA - called the act the American Robbery and Rip-off Act
- He does not like the program - it's a rip-off
- The money will be taken from future generations - they will be forced to work to pay off the debt
- We are putting our children, grandkids and great-grandkids into debt for their lifetimes
- They will all have to pay and pay and pay for these programs
-
- You have an opportunity to tell Fed to "shove it" between their ears to fill the empty space
- Can do this by just do not accepting the funds
- Intends to protest this and will write a letter to the editor saying so

Jason Patin

- There is a lot of truth in what Mr. Neel has said but if we don't take these funds someone else will and they will repair their streets
- And, whether we take it or not future generations will pay for it

Stan

- There are no curbs and gutters where this project is going

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- Asked if there were any tract maps along this area
 - Mr. McRea said there were some old ones
 - A lot of the area here is zoned commercial and has not been built
- Need curbs and gutters on that road
- Will someone be going to do this in next 10-15 years (built there?) and if not why are we not doing it?

Council comment

Council Member Taylor

- If we put in curbs and gutters could we get reimbursed

Staff noted that this funding would not cover curbs and gutters. And, if the City did receive funding to pay for curbs and gutters it would not be able to require future developers to reimburse the cost. Curbs and gutters will be required for all near term developments.

Council Member Holloway

- KernCOG contingency funding being discussed - will have to be shovel ready and have E76 issued by CalTRANS
 - There are 4 projects in Kern County - California City, Tehachapi, ours

Council Member Wiknich

- When Measure N failed we were asked what our backup plan was
- Our reply was that we would seek more Federal funds

Moved by Council Member Taylor, second Council Member Holloway TO SUBMIT THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS PHASE II PROJECT FOR THE ROUND 1 ARRA FUNDS. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 3 ayes, 2 absent; Mayor Morgan and Council Member Carter absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Wiknich adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.



Rita Gable, City Clerk

