



**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**

**February 18, 2009
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 – 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF: Michael Avery, City Manager; Keith Lemieux, City Attorney; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Tyrell Staheli, Budget Officer, Administrative Services Department; Jim McRea, Public Services Department; Dennis Speer, Public Works Director, Jim Ponek, Parks, Recreation And Cultural Affairs Department Director; Ronald Strand, Chief of Police; and other personnel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Avery suggested that items 3 and 4 be reversed on the agenda.

Moved by Council Member Holloway, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Morgan

INVOCATION – Silent Moment

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- ❖ Closed Session - none
- ❖ Other - none

PRESENTATIONS

Due to technical difficulties with audio-video equipment this presentation was delayed until after the budget presentation.

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1. TRANE Peer Review

Bradley

Mr. Thomas E Spence, P.E., owner of Project Build organization gave the presentation using \ detailed PowerPoint slides.

The City of Ridgecrest has engaged in engineering and project development of the Civic Center Complex for development of a design build Energy Modernization and Efficiency Improvement Project. This has been completed by the Trane organization.

The City has also contracted with Project Build to perform a separate feasibility audit and peer review of this project design and engineering. This review is now complete and ready for presentation to City Council.

Mayor opened floor to public questions

Dave Matthews

- Previous PV had output but haven't see anything on usage
 - They are there
- Can we or can we not put electricity back to SCE
 - We are and we do receive energy credits – a lot of our savings will come with rebates for the project
- Why can we not store energy
 - It requires a low balancing storage (batteries) and is not cost effective unless it were an emergency

Robert Eireman

- When was the energy efficiency audit done to size the PV
- Cannot build unit any larger than last year's unit
- Noting info from California Solar Initiative Handbook
- Appalled at the total lack of knowledge of the people involved in this project
- Have to pay application fee, has it been done
 - Craig Bradley and Mr. Eireman will meet at 8 am tomorrow

Mike Neel

- What about a change of street lighting in town
- He hasn't seen this in the project
 - There have been discussions on the street lighting
 - City Organization Committee made decision not to fold into this project
 - 95 % of street lights are owned by Southern California Edison
- Questioning what were additional man hours to run the system going to be and are they included here
- How are you going to clean the solar panels and are those costs included
- What is the life expectancy of the solar panels

Al Huey

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- On rebate - what was the time frame on applying for that
 - Rebate or incentive – rebate 1.5M on PV applied for approximately 9 months ago no cut off but a milestone to reach mid March
- CEC credit a form that says you can use energy savings to get credit but nothing said about rebates
 - This has to do with the loan with CED
- Questions on design - talked about a tower, is it air or water
- If water you are talking about chemicals and treatment
 - The towers are water and the chillers are air cooled and located near the central plant

Robert Eierman

- CEC website says it is not a rebate but a reimbursement but project has to be economically viable
- Cost of project divided by annual energy saving and resulting number must be less than 10

2. Mid-Year Budget Report

Staheli

Tyrell Staheli gave the report using a PowerPoint presentation. (A copy is in the Clerk's agenda packet.). The report covers July 1 through December 31, 2008. The report includes a financial overview, containing conventional summaries of actual to budget and rudimentary year end estimates based on current expenditure rates. It highlights budgetary hot-spots and areas of concern. Review shows that we are OK for this FY.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

First Council Meeting (1st Wednesday of the month)

Public Services Department Director's Report

Community Development Committee

Members: Steve Morgan, Ron Carter, Eric Kauffman, Jason Patin

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

Next meeting March 5

RACVB

Council Members Chip Holloway, Jerry Taylor

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

Next meeting and location to be announced

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department Director's Report

Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee

Members: Ron Carter, Chip Holloway, Craig Porter, Jason Patin

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

Next meeting February 26

Youth Advisory Council

Second Council Meeting (3rd Wednesday of the month)

Public Works Department Director's Report - Dennis Speer

- The department has five operational divisions - Engineering, Wastewater, Streets, Fleet Maintenance and Transit
- Engineering has released an RFP for design of W. Ridgecrest Boulevard that went out to 44 firms and one to Kern County
- The Norma Street project will be funded 70% with Prop 1B - Church Avenue to W. Ridgecrest Boulevard - is 90% complete with bid in April
- Per CalTRANS the signal at Ward avenue will be operational by September this year - need cooperative funding agreement with our cost at 255K KernCog concerned about the
- Streets – pavement is in construction almost complete
- Norma Street- Felspar Avenue sump has problem with drainage created dry wells
- No U-turn on Ridgecrest Boulevard at Balsam Street - have installed new sign – sign has been placed in conformance with NSTDC
- The pothole patcher activity going strong
- The Street Superintendent has delineated 30 areas of concern
- Have filled a number of 1 1/2 diameter 6 inches deep holes - 245 pot holes a month since August
- Transit – RFP on transition study for consideration of deviated fixed route
- Two firms replied and a panel will review the submissions
- Wastewater – have purchased a sewer camera and it is being utilized in older assessment districts
- Slides of its "discoveries" will be made for next presentation
- Purchased sewer flow meter to use in various areas of town
- Working out RFP for second wastewater treatment facility

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Tom Wiknich, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Nellavan Jeglum

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

Met February 10

- Mr. Speer covered most of the topics from that meeting
- Looking at projects for redevelopment and we need to review the list used for Measure N

Next meeting March 10

Dave Matthews

- Norma Street to W. Ridgecrest Boulevard needs to be restriped

Finance Department Director's Report

Budget presentation

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Given in the

Police Department Chief's Report - Ron Strand

- Youth Advisory Council has a community project working with Kern County to get basketball courts in Jackson Park resurfaced and other rehab
- First District Supervisor McQuiston said he would match 3-1 the funds kids raise.
- BBQ at the Snack Shack had good turnout that realized about \$200
- Thanked Council Member Holloway for donation of box of hot dogs and buns
- Tomorrow night is open house at the Police Department beginning at 6 p.m.
- Will have demonstrations with K9 and taster and child ID and PACT and CERT
- A lot of staff and traffic officers will be present to answer questions
- Also recognition of officers and employees of the year at 5 pm
- Nathan Lloyd is the Officer Of The Year and will be honored at the Elks Lodge Law Enforcement dinner
- Working with Kern County on inter dept communications - ours does not work with them in the field
- Kern County donated UHF radios to put in the cars
- Would like to have radios on hips of all officers
- Touched on the traffic collisions increase over the past year
- Traffic citations are up over last year
- Traffic flow has increase
- Street motorcycle has aided in enforcement

Mayor Morgan and Vice Mayor Wiknich will each donate \$200 to Youth Advisory Council kids

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Tom Wiknich, Jerry Taylor, Nellavan Jeglum, Lois Beres

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

Met February 12

- TRANE was the main topic and discussion
- Code Enforcement

Next meeting February 26 special – next regular March 12

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

Members: Co-Chairs Ron Carter, Chip Holloway

Meetings: 2nd Monday of odd numbered months at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting March 9

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Council Member Holloway should be at Board of Directors at League of California Cities and will be heading up in the morning. AB32 asking to suspend

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Town Hall scheduled for next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday - consensus was to keep it on track

Mayor unavailable for March 4 meeting – should we move or cancel to March 3 feels the items on the agenda require all Council Members to attend – move to March 2

Mayor Morgan recessed the meeting at 9:15 p.m. to reconvene at 9:30 p.m.

Items 3 and 4 were taken in reverse order

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

On advice of City Attorney item 3 removed

3. **Introduction And First Reading, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Deleting Chapter XIII And Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Relates To Chapter XIII, Sanitation, Sections 13-1 To 13-6.2; Community Wide Universal (Mandatory) Curbside Solid Waste And Recycling Residential Service** **McRea**

The provisions of this chapter are adopted to preserve, protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of the public with respect to sanitation and provide a community wide universal (mandatory) curbside solid waste and recycling residential service. A Resolution for the Rate Schedule and sanitation solid waste, yard waste and household hazardous waste management program of service will be reviewed and discussed as part of the Public Hearing to be set for March 4, 2009

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. **Status Report On The Compliance Order IWMA BR0707 And A Local Assistance Plan Required By The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)** **McRea**

This staff report is a follow on status report on the interaction of the City and CIWMB. As previously indicated, the City of Ridgecrest is under a Compliance Order IWMA BR0707 and a Local Assistance Plan required by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The City has been noticed for a Public Hearing; for Consideration of Administrative Civil Penalties, February 24, 2009 in Sacramento, before the CIWMB.

Mr. McRea

- Went to Sacramento with Nancy Ewert, Kern County Waste Management, yesterday – four items of concern to be taken on February 24 - asked if they could be taken rescheduled to March

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- Team meeting of CIWMB to consider rescheduling – called today and they continued hearing to March 24
- Studies in 1990 were flawed – still want new characterization study
- Still want a MVERP feasibility study –
- Quarterly reports inadequate, delay in major program integration ordinance going to be adopted re diversion and recycling
- They will not waiver on most of their curbside recycling for residences – recycling at commercial establishing – they are unhappy with our reports – blue bins
- 28,038 population per California Department of Finance
- Compliance order was issued in 2007 and we should have a base from 2006
- MVERP study cost approximately 5-15K
- Transfer station was discussed
- If we are going to get out of this with a minimal fine we will have to do a material feasibility study

Council

- ❖ Issue is that this local assistance plan was presented to us and we (council) voted on it
- ❖ We thought they would assist us
- ❖ He personally thanked Assembly Member Jean Fuller for calling the Director of the Board and asked what is going on
- ❖ We got a stay and got pushed back a month to March
- ❖ Need to have our legal team to be in this with us
- ❖ We are the only city in Kern County not in compliance
- ❖ California City uses the dirty MVERP in Tehachapi
- ❖ We have a serious issue and we need to work on this
- ❖ Expect we will have a lot of public comment on this.

Public comment

Al Huey

- Spoke with Mr. McRea earlier today considering present economic environment and now they are adding another cost on the residents
- Single can, two or three needed
- Those who haven't had trash pickup as well as those who have
- Dirty MERVP here or in Tehachapi has concern for the commercial recyclers in the community
 - Will have to educate the public to separate and take to recyclers
- We have been down this road before probably too late to bring back the Solid Waste Committee
- Benz told committee 87 or so percent of residents have curbside pickup
- Now it is only 50% - that seems like a large difference

Dave Matthews

- Two acronyms - IWA what does that mean
 - No one knows

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- How did the Board come into existence
 - There are five appointed members, 2 being from the public sector
- Section 428145 of the Public Resource Code
- Feels those on the Board do not know what they are doing
- Feels we should complain to the Governor

Mike Neel

- At City Organization heard that 20% did not have pick up
- A lot of people will be paying twice as much
- Write letters in opposition and they will drop it
- 10k of letters on his desk and they will drop
- Cost to the community is about 1M
- This has really ticked him off

Arnold Porter

- Under the California Constitution no executive branch administrative agency has the right to issue a fine
- The purpose is to recycle materials and there are several recyclers in town that this seems to be to their detriment
- These authorities were set up to help us not to hurt us

City Attorney Lemieux noted that the proposed ordinance did a bit of damage to the current Municipal Code and suggested we remove from agenda and put on next meeting for first reading.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Minutes Of The Special City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of January 10, 2009 Gable
6. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency And Special Joint Meeting With the Planning Commission Of February 4, 2009 Gable
7. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated January 30, 2009 In The Amount Of \$467,236.44 Sloan
8. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated January 30, 2009 In The Amount Of \$89,064.52 Sloan

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

PUBLIC COMMENT 10:28 p.m.

Daniel Romero

- Came this evening to talk about the Census taking place in 2010

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- 2M dollars will be distributed over the next ten years
- It will be based on population
- We need to encourage 100% participation in the Census
- Need a proclamation and resolution for Census 2010
- Campaign will be starting in March
- 10 question form to start with and some will be selected for more questions
- We will be trying to count each and every person as each person means money to the community

Al Huey

- The new agenda does not seem to be working as advertised
- Addressed Mr. Romero - You can send me your form but you will only get one answer from me and that is how many people are living in that residence
- Not your business how many toilets there are or how much money I make

Dave Matthews

- Agree with Al and that is his answer as well
- Thanks for good work repaving west bound lanes on W. Drummond Avenue

Mike Neel

- Regarding minutes for January 10 one item on agenda was issue of City Council meals
- Decision was to continue it which is not in favor of many on the street
- He agrees with the elected mayor idea
- With the form we have now it would not make a lot of difference
- If it was like the Governor he would be more accountable to the people

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Carter

- Putting appointment to Personnel Board on next agenda

Holloway

- Council concurred to pay for meals/reimburse the city but staff would be fed
- Thanked Neel for letter to editor
- It is worth the try to write letter
- Rose Garden Inn has become a problem in the city and is not being used as a hotel
- Asked if they are paying TOT occupied 7/24 365 days a year
- Would like council and staff to

Taylor

- Relative to request would like to have whatever in his mailbox

Wiknich

- Email from Avery for putting in requests for funding under stimulus package
- Like to have staff consideration to look at fee for street vendors

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- There are more and more of them coming into town
- How do we get sales tax when they sell
- Code Enforcement boarded up house on S. China Lake Boulevard - what can we do about the eyesore when you first come in town
- Florida has a law that says vacant building/house has to be kept clean and tidy
- City/County Interactive Committee needs to be set up

Morgan

- Had interesting items on this agenda and yes it is close to 11 p.m.
- Many more of these items will be coming forth
- Open use of BLM land - he has Inyo and Sequoia management plan discs
- Public meetings in the last couple of weeks on these plans with poor attendance
- Need to be cognizant of the open space around the Trona plants as the plant and people are an asset to our city
- Will be taking letters to the CIWMB when he goes
- Thanked Mr. McRea for going to Sacramento
- Thanked Craig Bradley for assisting with the technical difficulties
- The staff reports out in the open are good
- We will make adjustments as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 10:50 p.m.



Rita Gable, City Clerk

