



CITY OF RIDGECREST

100 West California Avenue, Ridgecrest, California 93555-4054

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST COUNCIL / REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**Fossil Falls/Ballarad Room, Kerr-McGee Center
Saturday, January 10, 2009 9:30am**

MINUTES

PURPOSE: Discussion of City Council Committees makeup, discussion of City Council Policies, and City Manager direction

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members: Mayor Steven P. Morgan, Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter, Vice Mayor Tom R. Wiknich, Council Member Marshall "Chip" Holloway and Council Member Jerry D. Taylor

STAFF: Michael D. Avery, City Manager; James E. McRea, Public Services Director; Dennis Speer, Public Works Director; Eva Peterson, Executive Assistant

OTHER ATTENDEES: Nathan Ahle, DI Reporter; Daniel Peterson, Community Member

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 9:37a.m. by Mayor Morgan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - A motion was raised by Mayor Morgan to approve the agenda and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter. The Agenda was approved as submitted and carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – No public comments at this time.

1. DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES MAKEUP

- City Manager Avery stated during his tenure as Assistant City Manager and now as City Manager he has viewed the process of how the committees work. Someone would take an item to committee to discuss, bring it to Council, the Council would reject it, go back to committee to work on some more, bring back to the Council and vice versa. He has also researched how other cities and how the Board of Supervisors run their meetings and noticed that they do everything at the board level not committee level (these meeting are on Tuesday and are an

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all day event.) City Manager Avery presented this information to Mayor Morgan who in turn requested additional information be sent. The question today is whether we should keep or eliminate Council Committees? Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Planning Commission Lois Beres are not in favor of eliminating committees. Basically, that is the question for discussion today, whether we should keep or eliminate Council Committees; whether or not the Council would like to go in that direction.

- Mayor Morgan opened the floor for 3 minute introductory remarks per Council member. Mayor Morgan began by stating he is not in favor of eliminating committees. He stated he sent City Manager Avery an e-mail questioning how we would incorporate/structure a new process into City Council meetings. Currently he reads Committee meeting minutes when he wants information on what is happening on other Committees vs. calling staff. Lack of Committees, it appears, would obliterate the time savings for City staff.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter asked what do we do with the Youth Advisory Committee:
 - it is great public relations for City Council and for the youth in the community; as this Committee makes the youth feel like part of government
 - Committees provide the average citizen the opportunity, in an informal manner, to work with city staff and City Council members
 - Committee's give City Council input from Ridgecrest citizens.
 - In the past, it was a Committee endeavor that enabled Mayor Pro Tem Carter to bring a crossing guard issue before City Council
- Vice Mayor Wiknich commented that 2 years ago he had inclinations towards getting rid of Committees, however, after having the opportunity to be with the public, face-to-face at the table in an informal setting, he is now, not in favor of getting rid of Committees. He suggested:
 - we could televise the meetings or bring in phone lines into Committee meetings to make the meetings more accessible to the public
 - the public is willing to talk one-on-one at a Committee meeting vs. at the podium during City Council meetings. The public is more candid with fellow Committee members
- Council Member Holloway stated that all he knows is the Committee structure:
 - However, there is a lack of education and lack of participation by the public.
 - The media follows City Council meetings closer than Committee meetings
 - The Town Hall concept will filter out the concerns of the public. Perhaps have a Town Hall meeting before City Council meeting
 - The last 2 years that he has been on the City Organization and Community Development Committees the public participation tends to be same people.
 - We need to look at trying something new. We would have to put in more work and time and it may require having special ad hoc committees (i.e. TRANE, Universal Trash Pick-up)
 - We would keep Youth Advisory since we need to keep our youth engaged.
- Council Member Jerry Taylor stated, not considering Youth Advisory, it is very frustrating being limited to 2 Committees.
 - He favors experimenting with changing the Committee structure for one year

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- Feels we failed at getting tax initiatives passed through due to lack of trust by the public
- Mayor Morgan asked, "What are we up against the next 2 years?"
- City Manager Avery responded that projects will be harder to complete due to lack of staff; we will have to prioritize projects. He stated that our Public Works Director Dennis Speer attends 2-3 meetings per week which takes from his time and that he as the City Manager attends all Committee meetings. In addition, each Committee needs to have a recording secretary present and they are hourly employees who are paid overtime. He stated City Council could have the City Clerk and City Manager take notes at Committee meetings vs. an hourly employee. Every Wednesday night City Council pays for the attorney to be present at City Council meetings. You could extend City Council meeting hours or keep the current City Council hours.
- Dennis Speer commented that he sees the pros and cons to having Committees and to bringing everything to City Council.
Positives on Committees noted by D. Speer:
 - He agrees that the public is more open to going to Committee's vs. Council podium
 - 2 City Council meetings and 2 Planning Commission meetings keep items moving
 - Committee's are a good tool for blending policies and practicesNegatives of Committees noted by D. Speer:
 - Prep time to inform and educate the public especially on technical issues
 - Micro-management – questions need to return to Committee to provide additional information
 - Delays based on Committee approvalDennis Speer stated he is not opposed to Committees and he is adaptable to either format. He is open to the wishes of the Council.
- Public Services Director Jim McRea commented that he can see the delays of the Committee process.
 - He is open to discussion on Town Hall sessions before City Council meetings however, it may stall the City Council process
 - A study session concept could handle some items for City Council
 - He agrees most people do not want to come to the podium.
- Mayor Morgan asked if we should discuss what is in the code. The 4 Committees meet at the will of the City Council and the staff. We do not have a mandate to meet. Department Heads could report at Council meetings – during section where reports on Committees are given. Have Committee meetings only if there is a need to meet. Create that process change, is that worth a look? Would that eliminate some meetings and staff time?
- Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter stated that the Committees he is on, they do just that. The Economic Development cancelled their meeting for this Friday since there was no need to meet. At Quality of Life meetings they discuss items with Department Heads and they don't bring it to City Council if they know it won't

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- pass at City Council so they save time. Mayor Pro Tem Carter liked the idea of a Department Head report.
- Jerry Taylor views the tutorial process as a negative. He feels you are only educating only a couple of people. He stated:
 - Numerous things go to Committee and have to wait
 - Hiring a consultant was getting buried in Committee
 - Look at structure of Town Hall meeting
 - Lack of trust by the public – need to improve trust level
 - He is frustrated at not being able to participate in TRANE discussions
 - Not having Committees may be a radical idea, however, sometimes you cannot accommodate all the people
 - Vice Mayor Wiknich stated that if his Committee is not in agreement, they let City Council know. On Committees that he does not sit on, he has asked what is happening. Regarding what Dennis Speer and Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated regarding Quality of Life, Vice Mayor Wiknich stated he depends on his City Council and Planning Commissioners recommendations. He has received a lot of information from Dennis Speer on Infrastructure. The Committee level is a good time to get that education.
 - Councilman Holloway stated he keeps hearing “I think.” “Change is difficult.” We don’t know if this (not having Committees) is a good idea until Council tries it.
 - Workshop is a fantastic idea.
 - Look at a dollar clock during a meeting to see how much money meetings are costing us
 - The City Manager could provide us with the information we need before City Council meetings (if no Committees)
 - Change delivery mechanism to the public. Public does not know about the Committee structure and we need to get them engaged. We will be more efficient and more effective
 - Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated he remembers City Council meetings that ran until 2:00am. Then the council meetings got re-structured by City Council. If Council starts having longer meetings again it would be difficult for him.
 - Council Member Holloway stated 95% of consent calendar should be City Council – why can’t we have more City Council at Town Hall? The whole idea is to execute better.
 - City Manager Avery stated we could. He would just have to agendize it.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that we are talking about a different process and delivery system.
 - Council Member Taylor commented that you could use Town Halls as a filtering system to see what goes to City Council. You don’t want to be at City Council meetings until midnight, you want to do the City’s business.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated by eliminating Committees he doesn’t believe it will save the Council time.
 - Mayor Morgan asked if there are any comments from the public.
 - Daniel Peterson (Ridgecrest area educator) summarized some of goals mentioned by the City Council members. He felt that a way for the City Council

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members to have access to the public was by embracing technology. Creating a City blog page. Comments could be kept to 100 words or less. Those comments could then be made available to City Council members so Council is aware what constituents concerns are. Public can think out responses at a keyboard easier than the podium and this medium could encapsulate young high school students. Raising people up to get involved in government. He likes the idea of the public getting involved, but currently he doesn't see that in action.

- Mayor Morgan asked if there are any points that have not been made.
- Council Member Taylor stated we need to solidify what we really talked about.
- Council Member Holloway stated we have discussed nothing new. We can do nothing or make change; he is opposed to doing nothing.
- Vice Mayor Wiknich reiterated:
 - We have taken care of complaint from citizens at Committee meetings where they would not have come to the podium at a City Council meeting. They like the low profile. At Mammoth they publicize their agenda and minutes in their newspapers.
 - You lose your audience during prime time. We could televise the Committee meetings. We could also make Town Hall meetings topic related.
 - We have talked about there is a cost related to staff – what about the cost of Department Heads? City Manager Avery answered they are salaried.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter noted:
 - Not having Committee meetings if there is no need
 - Agreed that agendas and meetings can be placed in the newspapers
 - Step-up technology. Go to the website. Improve re-televising City Council meetings
 - He would also like to see responsibility on the shoulders of the citizens as well
 - He is in favor of continuing Committee meetings
- City Manager Avery stated this has been a good discussion. One last point not discussed – each City Council member tagged with old Committee. A work session focused with Quality of Life, City Org, Community Development and Infrastructure – this is where City Council needs to go to Mr. Public.
- Mayor Morgan outlined items discussed regarding this topic:
 - Additional communication
 - Staff report on Council Agenda
 - No Committee meetings if there is nothing to report
 - Council Committee report tied to Department Report
 - Tutorials – so all City Council member receive some information (real time)
 - Better Town Hall meetings
 - Town Hall meetings act as filtering of topic and Planning Commissioners should be asked to attend
 - Televising Committee meetings
 - Cost effectiveness of printing agendas and minutes in newspapers
 - Immediately posting DRAFT minutes

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- Mayor Morgan commented that he also remembers City Council meetings that ran until 2:00am and prefers not to go back to that timeframe. He stated, looking at the above list, if we try to hybrid this approach – what have we saved or created?
- Council Member Holloway stated the Mayor encapsulated the conversation well.
 - Implementing some of the above would free up staff time
 - Create a central point of information
 - Bringing up Daniel Peterson's idea of incorporating technology
 - Going to extra Council meeting defeats the purpose
 - Future Council meeting will focus on what we don't have
 - Agree with not having Committee meetings unless they are needed
- Vice Mayor Wiknich wants to do something to increase public participation, input/comments. He stated at the Committee level we can do things to move items along.
- Council Member Taylor suggested:
 - Starting City Council meeting 1 hour earlier
 - Having Town Hall meeting twice a month
 - Agrees with staff report at City Council meeting
 - First part of agenda, look at mundane
 - Include technology more using, e-mails, blogs (i.e. DI blogging article was popular)
 - Does not suggest getting rid of Youth Advisory
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented:
 - Agrees with Department Heads giving report at Council meeting. Feels it will help streamline process
 - Agrees that we need to get into technology age
 - Send minutes to the newspaper. Newspaper does a good job on their editorials
- Mayor Morgan asked if everyone is OK with a Department Head report at City Council meeting.
- City Manager Avery pointed out that a Department Head report will create a revised agenda. If we have a discussion item report – it's open for discussion with public input. Do we want to have ½ hour per department? How do we want to go about this?
- Council Member Taylor commented we could start City Council meetings earlier. Go in close session, have a discussion 5 or 15 minutes and go back to full session.
- Council Member Holloway stated this opens up a window for people to vent such as in Town Hall meeting.
- Council Member Taylor commented it is the public's opportunity to have a voice - say for, 2 minutes on a topic.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated we need to watch how many comments someone can make – they need to go to Town Hall meetings for that.
- City Manager Avery asked so would the Department Head report be the last item on the report?

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- Mayor Morgan questioned if the City Council could ask questions and City Manager Avery answered, yes.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented that Department Heads will have to be concise and clear.
- Public comment from Dan Peterson – he questioned if this may be putting Department Heads on the spot – to have to answer questions from the public?
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented that Department Heads could answer questions at Town Hall meetings. All City Council members nodded in agreement.
- Mayor Morgan stated he will not allow comments by Department Heads, he will send to Town Hall meetings or Committee meetings if necessary.
- City Manager Avery stated we have now morphed from Department Head report to Public Comment. He would like input on Department Head report (staff report).
- Council Member Taylor provided an example – what if during a staff report on Transit a member of the public asks a simple question on the paving machine that can be answered quickly right then and there? Mayor Morgan answered the question would be addressed at a Town Hall meeting or Committee meeting. Council Member Taylor asked even if the question can be answered in one sentence or less? City Manager Avery commented the Mayor as the Chair can answer the question (if he so chooses). Mayor Pro Tem Carter added that you can remind the public that they can call City Hall with questions. This is an opportunity for Department Heads to give their report on what is happening in their area.
- City Manager Avery asked about the timing of the agenda?
- Mayor Morgan answered that an interactive Public Comment should be at the front and Council Member Taylor agreed. Vice Mayor Wiknich agreed, stating the Council Comment should be moved up.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated,
 - he is not interested in having an earlier starting time
 - suggested having closed session at the end of City Council meetings
 - Public Comment is for the people to say what they want to say however, not to get into a discussion with the public
- Council Member Holloway suggested having closed session in the middle of City Council meetings. Council Member Taylor asked what the cost would be for that and City Manager Avery answered \$175 per hour. However, he added in the past they have moved closed session to the end and they were tired to reporting to an empty audience. City Manager Avery suggested releasing the attorney (as we do now); it is ½ hour only and get City Council work done.
- Council Member Taylor stated the public can have their say however, not on lengthy federal or state issues
- City Manager Avery added that according to Robert's Rules of Order, if the Council comments, the public can respond.

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ACTION: Public Comment at the End of City Council meeting – Agreed

ACTION: Closed Session at the Beginning of City Council meeting (6:00p.m.)
Then attorney report, and City Manager Report – Agreed

- Council Member Taylor stated there appeared to be an inconsistency on starting time and an earlier time would be beneficial
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated due to his taking insulin, a 5:00p.m. starting time would not work for him. Currently, he can go home, eat dinner and take his insulin shot. Mayor Morgan agreed – he also has to take medication. If closed session is in the middle of City Council meetings he could do his meds and bring a bag lunch.
- Mayor Morgan brought up another topic – eliminating public presentation of Proclamations at City Council meetings.
 - Nathan Ahle with the Daily Independent agreed with this proposal and stated the City Council could set a certain time every month to issue out Proclamations
 - Vice Mayor Wiknich also agreed stating that City Council is for city business
 - Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that right now, any individual can get a Proclamation
 - City Manager Avery suggested having the individuals/organizations pay for a proclamation
 - Council Member Holloway suggested writing out a policy regarding Proclamations (i.e. we cannot issue to abortion organizations, or for Prop 8, Citizens for the Constitution, etc). Presentations would be for City related business only.
- City Manager Avery reviewed the suggested City Council agenda as follows:
 - Presentations – City Business – only
 - Beginning of Agenda – remove Youth (unless needed)
 - Consent Calendar – near the end
 - Items Not on Consent – (before Consent)
 - Committee Reports
 - a. Split Committee with Department Head reports
 - b. Council Member reports
 - c. Department Head reports
 - Other committees Boards or Commissions
 - a. A.C.T.I.O.N. (move to PD)
 - b. R.A.C.V.B. (move to McRea)
 - c. Youth
 - d. Arts
 - e. KernCog
 - f. IWV
 - g. DMD
 - Mayor and City Council Comment
- Council Member Taylor asked when they would have full packets live and City Manager Avery replied soon. Soon as done, only 6 packets will be printed.

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Council Member Taylor stated the public needs to know that Council is trying this in order to save money and Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that the newspapers have been doing a good job. City Manager Avery stated they can forward to Chamber website.

2. DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL POLICIES

- Item #1 City Manager Avery brought forth item regarding **Public Comment with pictures/presentations. Question: PowerPoint presentations, can only city staff use the equipment and what is the timeline for when items need to be in?
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that presentations that are City Council business can be directed by the City Council or the City Manager. Equipment should be used for city business only. Council Member Taylor added that the PowerPoint presentations should be scanned for viruses and political correctness. City Manager Avery asked what is city business, i.e. what if a gentleman wants to show a blighted house? Mayor Pro Tem Carter answered that is what Committees and Town Hall meetings are for. Council Member Taylor questioned, what is the appeal process? Mayor Pro Tem Carter replied that is what Public Comment is for. Council Member Taylor commented that is what Presentation is for – the standard has to be set high. City Manager Avery asked when he could shut the process down and Council Member Holloway replied, by Thursday before a City Council meeting. Friday by 2:00pm
 - ** - Public Comment is at 3 minutes by resolution
 - ** - Cannot filibuster an issue like the School Board
 - ** - Public Comment can be extended
 - ** - Public Hearing can be called
- Item #2 City Manager Avery brought forth item regarding City Council meals.
 - Vice Mayor Wiknich stated the City should not pay for meals. Taxpayers should not pay for meals if not on travel. The City should not have to pay for coffee or water. We can add all these little things up and possible save a job position.
 - Mayor Pro Tem stated most cities provide food. When he is on travel he does not charge the City, he pays for these things himself.
 - Council Member Taylor is willing to pay for his food
 - Council Member Holloway enjoys the luxury however, he is willing to have the deduction taken out of his check (due to public perception)
- Comment from Daniel Peterson – his perception is that the City paying for Council food is a way to honor the City Council for their time
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated when the City began Council meetings at 7:00pm they didn't have the City meal because they had time to eat at home. Council Member Taylor asked what was the cost of the Council food and City Manager Avery stated it averages about \$10 per person. Mayor Morgan stated he is happy to pay for his meal when he receives one. He continued saying that if you want a meal as a Council member you should get one or eat at home and if the

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City Manager wants to feed the staff that is OK with him. Council members voted as follows:

	Staff-Free	Council-Free	Council-Pay
Mayor	X		X
Mayor Pro Tem	X	X	
Vice Mayor	X		X
Council Member	X		X
Council Member	X		X

- The City will continue to provide the meal. Those Council members who would like to pay for their meal are welcomed and will be issued receipts.
- Item #3 City Manager Avery stated that in the 1980's if you attended City Council meetings, you got paid – if you didn't you did not get paid. That is the topic for discussion.
- Vice Mayor Wiknich commented when you run for City Council you run to provide service to the community. There are only two meetings per month and should only get paid if you are there. Give an accounting to the people. If you go on vacation that is a voluntary thing. If you are away on city business or if the City Council says there is only 1 meeting month then that is excusable.
- Council Member Taylor stated if you are sick that is not fair. He also commented that while he is on travel he has dialed in to meetings and he has put in more hours in as Planning Commissioner. Cannot only base it on being present at City Council meetings.
- Council Member Holloway did not agree with Vice Mayor Wiknich.
- Mayor Morgan stated he plans his vacation the 2nd and 4th week of the month in order not to miss City Council meetings. If there is an abuser, how do we deal with it?
- City Manager Avery answered per the Municipal Code. If someone is absent for 60 days the City Council can remove them from office. Per the Fair Labor Act if someone put in their time and did not appear on a Wednesday night and we docked their pay and they filed a complaint, we would probably have to pay them back.
- Mayor Morgan asked then do we need to put a fee for missing Council meetings?
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter answered, no. We will have to start counting all the hours Council Members put in.
- Council Member Holloway added that all the traveling he did for BRAC off-set his missing Council meetings. If someone is not pulling their weight or if someone is abusing the system they will know.
- Item #4 Vice Mayor Wiknich stated he would like to discuss having an elected Mayor. Per his survey, 86% of the people wanted a full-time elected Mayor. Consider every 2 years the incumbents running for re-election. They can declare they want to run for Mayor. Let the people decide. Comments made were:
 - Council Member Holloway had no had problem with the idea
 - City Manager Avery stated it would violate election code
 - J.McRea stated could do on advisory motion – open yourself up to criticism
 - Mayor Morgan commented we need first to decide if we want to look into it

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- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated every 2 years this issue comes up for discussion among City Council members not with the public. The public says keep it as it is
- Council Member Taylor is not in favor of the idea; it adds confusion and dollars are being spent. He likes the current form of government that we have – it is what it is
- Council Member Holloway stated there is a lot of buzz in the community about it, but they feel they can't do anything about it. Limit it to incumbents; willing to go down that path
- City Manager Avery posed a hypothetical scenario saying if he wanted to run for City Council and the Council would not allow him to – what would happen?
- Daniel Peterson asked does the City Council consider the Mayor to be the point-man for the City Council or is the Mayor for the community? Council Member Holloway replied, both.
- Mayor Pro Tem answered the Mayor is ceremonial. Runs meetings, is the media contact and is the communication person for the City Council. City Manager Avery added you may elect a Mayor but he has no more power
- Mayor Morgan stated he was talked out of elected Mayor by the people vs. the City Council. There are pros and cons
- Council Member Holloway asked what is the Cal-City model J. McRea stated in LA County you could be the Mayor for 1 year. Focus is on the fact that they are honorary spokesperson.
- City Manager Avery asked shall the City of Ridgecrest have an elected Mayor. Shall it be a 2 or 4 year term?
- Vice Mayor Wiknich asked what is the fear. Mayor Morgan replied it is not fear – it is not needed.
- J. McRea commented that in larger cities where everyone is looking out for their district – they needed someone to be the Mayor.
- Daniel Peterson stated this issue is a big deal here in Ridgecrest. Other City Council members are giving you their approval to be the Mayor – approval of your peers.
- City Member Holloway commented that Howard Auld never was given the opportunity to be Mayor – we did that later. He did an outstanding job for the community.
- Vice Mayor Wiknich is in favor of a ballot and in favor of polling the people.
- Council Member Taylor is in favor of polling the people via website.
- Council Member Holloway is in favor of seeing the question asked in some form.
- Mayor Morgan would be in favor of asking question of people who are voters only.
- City Manager Avery stated we could limit IP addresses
- Council Member Taylor would like to include county residents as part of the process, however is this really an issue? He is fine with status quo.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated our community knows its Council appoints their Mayor. This is an issue with 1 or 2 people on the City Council.

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- Council members voted as follows:

	Ballot	Status Quo
• Mayor		X
• Mayor Pro Tem		X
• Vice Mayor	X	
• Council Member Holloway	X	
• Council Member Taylor		X

Item #5 Customer Satisfaction Form – per Mayor Morgan, City Council members would like a customer satisfaction form.

- Business licenses – how can we improve?
- Parks & Rec Department could ask – do you like our hours? Is the front desk personnel cordial?
- Council Member Holloway stated after the floods he got chewed out with comments such as, “how dare you promise...,” “why not try to find a way...”. He met with four members from the county and 3 members from the city and documented that they had to wait for assistance. We need to step it up a notch.
- Mayor Morgan concluded that the City Council wants a Customer Satisfaction Form.

3. CITY MANAGER DIRECTION

- City Manager Avery asked City Council members what areas they want him to focus on. This is their time to give him direction on what areas they want him to focus his attention on. What has he been doing right/wrong. Opened the floor up to Council requests/comments:
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter
 - Continue to focus on seniors and senior housing
 - More for our youth – a teen club, gym or cafeteria. No positive activities. They need a place to play music, talk play their games; want positive structured activities
 - Y.E.S. Program expansion – expand mentorship. Resume, dress code, letter from leader in the community tie into mentorship.
 - City, school district, college and base – what can we do to save each other money? Council Member Holloway – coordinate resources.
- Council Member Holloway
 - 53 acres on Las Flores- Economic Stimulus Package- Searle’s Wastewater Fund- Project Ready to go in 180 days
 - Look at restructuring staffing such as more people in Finance and less people in Streets
 - Health incentives for City employees – no smoking program
 - Flex day from Monday to Friday
 - Reduce copying cost with Legistream
 - Charge fee for proclamations

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- Designations to G-PAC. Overlay and legally codify for future development. City Manager stated he has spoken with J. McRea about special overlay districts. Mayor Morgan asked do you want official plan lines and Council Member Holloway replied, yes.
 - Vice Mayor Wiknich
 - Would like to continue with Code Enforcement, applied to all equally to all citizens of Ridgecrest. This is part of making Ridgecrest a nice community.
 - Grand Jury report – prepare an organization chart for the City of Ridgecrest by position. Council Member Taylor added to update items on the City website
 - Create an Award Program for City employees for cost saving ideas
 - Renewal on animal licenses. City Manager stated the City is currently working on that. Mayor Morgan stated the City should be working on renewal of all licenses
 - Council Member Taylor
 - PowerPoint anything brought to City Council, present more information (i.e. what is the total cost, the cost effectiveness) with slides and attachments. Mayor Pro Tem Carter stated that will be good for Council in Chambers – sharing information
 - Look at landscape lighting in district parks
 - Land – where are we at? Is this the time to get rid of some land?
 - Look at a 4 day work week
 - Mayor Morgan
 - Saving what we can. He stated he doesn't know what the next few years will do to us. He had nothing further to add.
 - Council Member Holloway
 - Marketing/simplify budget process
- City Manager Avery prioritized his list as follows:
- Cost of new projects
 - Code enforcement
 - Cit licenses renewals
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Sr. Housing
 - Youth night club
 - Y.E.S. – only what grants allow
 - Working with Cal City's City Manager
 - Corp Yard design
 - Wastewater – still need money
 - Health – look at
 - Flex Day off – look at changing day
 - Copy – working
 - Proclamations – will research
 - Savings – doing that
 - 4-day work week – will look at 4 tens or furloughs

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Mayor Morgan asked are there any items that are a higher priority to Council members or should that be left to the City Manager's discretion? Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented it should be left to the City Manager to decide. Council Member Taylor stated it should be left to the City Manager with a report to City Council and Council members agreed. City Manager Avery stated he would come back to the list in June 2009 and review the list with Council members.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 2:45p.m.


Eva Peterson, Executive Assistant

