



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

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

**June 10, 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 – 6:04 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; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Tyrell Staheli, Finance Department Director; Jim McRea, Public Services Department Director, Dennis Speer, Public Works Department Director; Jim Ponek, Parks, Recreation And Cultural Affairs Department Director; Ronald Strand, Chief of

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by

SPECIAL REGULAR SESSION 6:04

1. Budget Review

Administration - City Council and City Manager

City Manager Avery presented organization chart of city manager office – page 112 general fund

- Page 114 – operational portions of the office
- Page 115 – RACVB funds established by MOU and Chamber of Commerce – funded as last year
- Thinking of increasing the TOT – go to voters?? – would increase funds of RACVB and Chamber
- Page 126 – postage 12K – asked staff to check into bulk mailings – licenses, etc.
- Page 127 – old ISF now 101 funds – page starts the overhead funds
- 17K in council training

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- Page 128 – city manager – 2109 down 12 down some of it to pay for the lobbyist in D.C.
- Vehicle maintenance cut to 0 – will turn his vehicle back to use in PD by end of FY
- 5K Dues and pubs – dues he has to professional organizations
- 20K for contingencies

- ❖ Taylor stated Mr. Avery has done a great job cutting things to the bare essentials
- ❖ Morgan had question on RACVB – based on TOT – suggests we cut Chamber of Commerce by 5K also the RACVB down to 130K or 125K
- ❖ Carter concurs with what Morgan said in light of cutting positions in City employees
- ❖ Holloway agrees with the Chamber but times we tried to do it before found they do things that would cost us much more if we did them – also supports TOT increase
- ❖ Taylor said we need to ask Chamber to come in and make presentation

Public Comment

Jim Winegardner

- Addressed RACVB as an issue that came up several years ago and they came in with figures on how much revenue they brought in to the community
- Asked for definitive proof of their figures and they could not provide it
- Hotels and motels are reluctant to tell how much vacancies or rentals they have - impacts the TOT
- The money allocated in general funds would provide a significant amount for matches in Public Works projects, an employee, keeping city hall open on furlough days, etc.

- ❖ Taylor is income from TOT 1.2M
- ❖ Wiknich supports looking at these two areas to cut back on funding

Human Resources - City Clerk / Deputy Clerk

Ms. Ford showed a PowerPoint with duties and accomplishments

- Cut 1 FT and 1 PT position another will be gone by October 1

- ❖ Holloway is it possible to set specific times for face to face with employees
 - Could work with lots of advertising to employees
- ❖ Morgan is concerned that it may be overload with the employee cuts
 - Feels it can be coped with based on past experience

MIS

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Mr. Bradley presented a narrative PowerPoint (copy in Clerk's packet)

- A difficult subject to pinpoint and how everything is inter-related
- Notes all the services provided by 3 FT and 1 PT employees (at present)

- ❖ Holloway questioned the “backed up cases” on HelpStar of 40-50 per day average
- ❖ Asked what the number 1 case complaint is
 - Some software, some hardware, some operator error
- ❖ Wiknich in looking at numbers on page 125 sees a huge drop in numbers
- ❖ Taylor noted at one time we had YES person doing website – we lost that person
- ❖ Concerned is not knowing what the plan is like when the systems are going to die or contracts are to be renewed or what can be rolled back into budget if funds appear-none of this is reflected in this budget

Jim Winegardner

- Commented on Holloway comment
- Council can push city forward in technology the fastest is to replace the AS400 and Navaline
- The present system lacks flexibility and very frustrating
- Now have documents scanned into the Questys data base this is technology
- By having these things you created more demand for the system
- Would emphasize if funding comes available to replace AS400 and Navaline you should do it

Dave Matthews

- Had question about 3 year replacement cycle that is zeroed out now
 - Yes but there is a reserve
- What is the backup system
 - There are several
- Does not know of any software that won't fail sometime

- ❖ Wiknich page 133 141120 what is it
 - WIA and YES programs

Mayor Morgan recessed the meeting at 7:35 pm. To reconvene at 7:43 p.m.

Mr. Avery had two other thoughts under public safety 4270

- Street lighting – there is a potential to turn off every other light or some whole neighborhoods could be dark – maybe bring to Infrastructure – Prop 172
- Council salary – if you choose to reduce your salary 1% - if as a group needs an ordinance or you can individually waive the salary

- ❖ Taylor noted street lights owned by SCE and we have to pay for them

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- Yes \$176K
- ❖ Wiknich stated we need to look into energy savings on lights - many of the bulbs are old and inefficient - get SCE to replace them or we take over and do it - very expensive to pay for failing lights
- ❖ Holloway and Taylor support 20% reduction on council salary
- ❖ Carter stated you will get more out of him if on individual basis
- ❖ Wiknich supports 10%
- ❖ Morgan supports 25%

Have majority of council to do an ordinance for salary reduction

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Mr. Ponek had prepared a PowerPoint (copy in clerk's packet)

- Noted a few of IWV Youth Baseball Association people were in attendance
- Acknowledged his staff and all the things they do
- First budget was for City Hall – total cuts 58K – no capital improvements requested
- 200K is just for utilities
- Financial assistance fund – 15K
 - Carter does not have problem making cuts in this area
 - Morgan asked what fund 66 with 40K \ul style="list-style-type: none;"> - Avery noted it is part of the 40/60 TOT funded community partnership / signature event
- Carter wants to keep Sister City and Youth Advisory Council funded
- Taylor agrees there needs to be cuts – keep Sister City and Youth Advisory
- Wiknich take Sister City down to 1K
- Holloway take Sister City to 2.5K and Youth Advisory to 3K
- Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life funding 3K

Bill Folden

- Perplexed by cutting the quality of life program
- We have to spend money to make money
- You will limit getting things, activities into the city

Parks and Recreation

- Admin total 307,197
- Recreation 550,595
- Parks Maintenance 1,121,668

Revenue increases 38K

- Going to raise fees not more than 10%

Park Pre School – pays for itself

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Youth Sports – pays for itself

Adult Sports – pays for itself

Fitness – pays for itself

Aquatics – pays about 60%

- ❖ Morgan noted the figures do not take into consideration the maintenance of facilities
 - Ponek stated furloughs will be a big impact on parks - it will be huge and on facilities also and the difference will be apparent
- ❖ Morgan suggested exploring giving Kern County back the Senior Center building
- ❖ Check into why we cannot sell Hellmer's Park and thinks we should shut it down as a cost savings measure
- ❖ Wiknich would like to look at giving the Senior Center back to Kern County and agree with Hellmers Park
- ❖ Pearson Park has a well and we should look to running a line from that to medians for irrigation
- ❖ Morgan noted that Pinney Pool is a hard subject – should cut costs by closing some days of the week
- ❖ Don't know what to say or do about the youth ball fields
- ❖ Holloway 169 building rental – could move seniors to Kerr-McGee to save on Senior Center maintenance and utilities

Jim Winegardner

- If you are going to give up the Senior Center sell it but don't give it away
- Center is one of the few unencumbered properties owned by the City
- Giving it away does not make any sense
- Asked why the ISF was not in the expenses versus revenues
 - Council did not want them in there
- Is there a net program cost of revenues against expenses
 - Yes and it is on the web site

Jason Patin

- Are you saying you are confident that you can maintain these programs and facilities
 - Yes we are going to try to maintain the levels we have right now
- He finds that hard to believe that you can keep the facilities that are consistently used
- Think about the impact on quality of life in the community

Dave Matthews

- Closing the Senior Center bothers him
- Overlooking some of the features if moved to Kerr-McGee
- At the seniors they put up the tables and leave them up all week

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- Senior Center bingo is every Friday and other groups utilize that building
- There is more to look at than moving the nutrition program over to Kerr-McGee
- Hellmers park was the only one in town 45 years ago – the building may be a historic building
- Kerr-McGee utilization is mostly on the weekends

Bill Folden

- Not sure if all council members understand the dedication that all volunteers have
- In our society today we seem to take seniors for what they are and kind of move them over
- The kids are our future – leaders, scientists, teachers and sometimes criminals
- We are losing our ability to take care of youth and seniors
- Find it hard to understand how our city allowed us to get to this point
- We don't seem to want to step up
- Praised Mr. Ponek for what he has done for the Kerr-McGee Sports Center fields
- The volunteers have put in over \$80k into those fields
- Be opened minded and be understanding in your cuts

Wiknich stated he did recognize the efforts and said that the volunteers do a great job at the fields. His comments were about the soccer fields needing help. Looking for suggestions on things to do to make it better.

Folden

- Several years ago the city had a town hall get together to come up with something for a city signature event
 - It was then and is now my suggestion to make it Maturango Days
 - Let's get it into Hellmers Park or Freedom Park
 - He is willing to help
- ❖ Holloway asked about level of maintenance and what would it take to bring up the level and to generate more revenue
- If you give it the opportunity to let it grow it will be a prime facility
- ❖ Will it fulfill it with the 4.5M investment

JD Early

- President of IWV youth football
- Do volunteer out there
- Growing like mad and just trying to give them a place to play
- We do fund raising and donations, etc. to try to stay in that park

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Dave Matthews

- Mr. Taylor comment about the history of parks
- Know what you meant about radio stations
- Parks go back to Europe – hate to think of what it would be like without a park in the city

Mayor Morgan recessed the meeting at 9:50 p.m. to reconvene at 10:01 p.m.

Public Works

Dennis Speer presented answers to questions posed at the previous evenings meeting

Provided priority of unfunded equipment and materials

Backhoe

Priority software

Repair materials

Prop 42 gas tax loss – road maintenance

Highway user tax

Some property tax

Road patcher smokes only makes rectangular patches and takes 3-4 persons to operate

Morgan commented on PMS – believes the system needs updating – probable cost 50-60K

Question on transit – delete Saturday service – peak hour impact

49K savings

124.8K – 174K est. savings

❖ Holloway asked about 174 and where did 400K come from

- It is roll over from last year

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m. to reconvene at 5:00 p.m. Thursday June 11, 2009.



Rita Gable, City Clerk