



**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 9, 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 – 6:00 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

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro Tem Ronald Carter (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

**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 Police; and other personnel

**CLOSED SESSION 6:00 p.m.**

GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations - United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1036 (UFCW), Police Employees Association of Ridgecrest (P.E.A.R.), Management, Mid-management, and Confidential - Negotiator Michael Avery

Council received a report on status of current labor negotiations – City Manager was given direction.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Morgan**

**SPECIAL REGULAR SESSION**

**1. Budget Review**

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City Manager Avery noted the Council will be reviewing the draft budget over the next three nights. Tonight will review Public Services and Public Works. Tuesday will be MIS, Admin, Human Resources, Risk Management, City Clerk. Thursday will be Police Department and Parks, Recreation and Culture Affairs.

Effective July 6 City Hall will be closed every Friday – two flex days and two furlough days a month will be taken by all employees on alternate Fridays. Doors will be closed and locked on all Fridays and no one will be at the information desk. Business hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Finance Director Staheli gave a brief overview of the City's revenues.

### Public comment

Jim Winegardner

- Property tax chart – goes back to 2006
- What was the big jump between that and 2007
  - Housing sales prices went up and the license fees were given back
- Sales tax chart was questioned – this is not exclusively retail sales
  - It includes property tax in lieu of
- TOT chart estimate at 1.2M – yes

### Public Services Department – Director McRea

Brief PowerPoint presentation - copy in Clerks packet

- 3 divisions with 2 segments each – hit on major points in each

Building Branch budget was reviewed

- Council questioned Kern County getting all the funds from permitting fees in Building Division – need to re-look at agreement with county and turn it into a revenue stream for the City

Mr. Winegardner said there was a tool that finance had that would give them the comparisons on various fees and check on agreements, etc.

Code Enforcement Branch was reviewed

- 70% of salary is from the RRA

Economic Development Branch was reviewed

- Salary is also split with general funds and RRA
- Travel and training at 12K
- Advertising 8K

Planning Branch

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- Travel and training at 3.8K
- Planning Commission allocated 2.5K for training, etc.

CIWMB will extract fees up to 55K this coming year

Department will be working on water ordinance, sign ordinance, general plan - they are all pending and needing to be done

Finance Director briefed on the potential revenues for PW from gas tax page 172.  
Transfers on the next page 173

### **Public Work Department Director Speer – copy of presentation in packet**

5 operational divisions – engineering, streets, waste water, transit and fleet maintenance

- City engineer position is vacant but actively seeking
  - ❖ Taylor wants prioritized list of wants for all departments
  - ❖ Wiknich asked about transit fare box rate of 6.4% and fares charged
    - county reimburses us our full costs to go to the county
  - ❖ Who is the administrative analyst shown
    - Dewain's boss (Starla Shaver)
- The quickest way to get costs down is to eliminate transit service on Saturdays
- Have consultant that is preparing us to go to a fixed route system
- Would like to run 8 hour days and do it during peak hours
  - ❖ Wiknich saw an increase of 38K in salaries
    - Workers Comp cases that are now filled PT to FT
  - ❖ Small tools jumped up
    - Believe it is some software and hardware for the transition to dispatch system
  - ❖ Holloway thinks in his opinion deviated fixed route is key to save transit
- The consultant is supposed to do a projection on costs to run the system
  - ❖ Holloway said at one time hinted at going back to contract
    - You don't do an RFP if you don't have a viable system in place
  - ❖ Morgan would like to have funds 1150 cafeteria cash-outs- explored
    - Some employees do not take the insurance packages they take the cash and put it in their pocket
  - ❖ He questions that as there has to be a way to say if they don't take insurance they don't get to take the cash
  - ❖ Carter thought that when we did this before that we saved money by doing it this way
  - ❖ Morgan on page 54 salaries and benefits for WWT
    - This is engineering survey – is for the new WWT facility
  - ❖ Wiknich on page 56 salary increase of 30K with medical increase of up to 40K

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- ❖ Taylor had question on fleet maintenance ISF pg 48 174K down to 133K
  - Figures based on mileage use during the year
- ❖ Page 58 9020 admin what is this

### Public comment

Jim Winegardner

- Cafeteria cash out – as city is still negotiating with bargaining groups and is good time to bring it up
- It is a considerable amount of dollars
- Internal service funds are similar in many ways to enterprise funds
- These funds are supposed to be dispersed by the end of the fiscal year
- The treasurer's cash flow report should be used
- Fund 18 – Dennis is wrong – capital improvement projects fund is used to house all cap projects except for specifics like WWT or Redevelopment Agency specific
- If council has project with multiples funding it is hosed in fund 18

City Manager noted that description is exactly what Speer was talking about

Stan???

- Noticed that is not a rosy picture about roads
- Last year heard report that we had 128M worth of road work we needed to spend to bring the roads up to California standards
  - 12.8M dollars a year to bring it up to the California standard for roads
- Our liability is going up rather than down
- We really need to be spending a lot more or we will be further in debt with the roads
- Implores them to really look at the roads and get on a path to start repairing our roads

Holloway

- ❖ Noted the costs totally unrelated to putting asphalt on the roads such as CEQA, air quality issues, etc that the state requires
- ❖ Asked what is the basic cost of fixing roads without all the external cost
  - Taylor - Budget used to be 14M
- ❖ What is the total cost of projects we have done this year

Speer

- Used some of his charts to answer questions about PMS

Taylor

- ❖ Asked if there is money in the budget for the new speed limit change for signs

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❖ Cutting of traffic service

Council concurred it should be put in as a budget adjustment

Wiknich wants info from Parks and Rec page 100 and wants one from Police Department also

**PUBLIC COMMENT - none**

**COUNCIL COMMENT**

Council Member Taylor appreciates all of staff efforts

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m. to reconvene at 6:00 p.m. June 10, same place.



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Rita Gable, City Clerk