



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

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

**March 17, 2010
4:00 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 at 4:15pm

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Council Member Ron Carter, Tom Wiknich, Chip Holloway, and Jerry Taylor

Council Members Absent Mayor Morgan

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Harvey M. Harvey Rose; City Clerk Rachel J. Ford; Other Staff

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Pro-Tem Carter

INVOCATION led by moment of silence

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Approve Agenda of Special Session of the Ridgecrest City Council for March 17, 2010 made by Council Member Holloway. Second by Council Member Wiknich. Motion carried by voice vote of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, and 1 Absent.

SPECIAL SESSION

Resolution No. 10-21, A Resolution Amending Resolution 10-16 Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Calling For A Municipal Election To Consider An Initiative Regarding The Election Of A Mayor And Determining The Term The Elected Mayor Will Serve **Rose**

The resolution presented, radically amends Resolution No. 10-16 to clearly formulate the question to be placed on the June 8, 2010 election ballot and to define other necessary procedures required of a measure to be placed on the ballot including Budget Analysis and Arguments. The County elections calendar provides submission of rebuttal arguments up to close of business on March 22, 2010

- Keith Lemieux – gave staff report indicating that the language of the initiative was incomplete, similar to Trash initiative thereby no clear question was present in the body of the initiative. Sufficiency report included supplemental signatures

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resulting in a disagreement between the City and County. Currently, the initiative is flawed so the amended resolution presented is the Council's resolution to place the questions on the ballot. Non-binding measure, poll only and does not obligate Council to take action. Action is exactly like the trash initiative.

- Jerry Taylor – not trying to fix at this point, just council taking their own questions to the poll.
- Harvey Rose – deadline of 5pm, hope to conclude matter around 4:30 so city clerk can finalize and get signed and sent off.
- Chip Holloway – not binding
- Keith Lemieux – correct, to be binding would have to propose specific change in the ordinance.
- Jerry Taylor – question to council members, non-binding, if approved today, assume they vote up, is intent to bring to council to enact an ordinance.
- Harvey Rose – assuming positive vote in June, have 3 options. 1. Place on November ballot 2 questions listed, or to create own ordinance involving direct election of mayor, or 3 ignore.
- Jerry Taylor – if passes in June and we decide to draft ordinance, eligibility to elect a mayor.
- Keith Lemieux – Mr. Rose spoke about ordinary circumstances, not certain that this matter can be adopted by ordinance. May have to do by election. Recall specific statute and don't want to give impression could be done by ordinance afterwards.
- Jerry Taylor – in other words, if passes in June, then November would be putting forward something that would not be voted on for another 2 years.
- Keith Lemieux – yes but need to look at statute.
- Jerry Taylor – if do not pass today, would have to go back and start over.

Public Comment

- Ron Porter – biggest problem is initiative put forth is clear on what should be enacted, should be addressed as proposition for adoption. If on ballot as written as proposition number would go on ballot as written. Language could be better but could use language written here.
- Chip Holloway – understand original isn't binding
- Ron Porter – binding to put the question on ballot, not binding to create ordinance and enact.

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- Ron Carter – read editorial in DI and agree with what was in the DI. Perception is growing that 2 council members are getting special privledges.
- Tom Wiknich – heard this also, can't speak for Holloway. Agreed to change rather than push for the original. Agreed to make same as what Council did with trash, not forgetting the Walmart initiative which was pushed thru council. In order to show we are not able to change initiative, cleaner way is to do same as trash. Non-binding survey and if voted down then dead issue, if voted up then council make decision for future. By agreeing to this path, we are now treating this same as the other.
- Chip Holloway – adamantly opposed Friday because of issue with signatures and public perception. Confident the signature issue is resolved. Not willing to change text. Only reason brought forward is for 12 years have not been sure if public really wanted this. Trash initiative demanded council make specific changes. This in an opinion poll and holds us to the same standard.
- Jerry Taylor – really trying to sample the public. Concern about this issue is to many people means many things. Agreed last Friday about special treatment, but if going to bring this forward, will truly ask public of elected mayor want it to be more definitive. This one would rather be asking the question of what kind of program you want for elected mayor. To have it on the ballot as you are running for mayor or the person who gets highest number of votes. Concerned public will be voicing their expectations. Some will have expectations of separate ballot and other will expect highest vote getter.
- Tom Wiknich – point of this is to determine if we need to have that discussion at all. If this poll is defeated we don't need to have discussion. If voted up then will need to discuss.
- Jerry Taylor – arguments being written. In the words can the argument describe the process better? Only have until the 22nd to deliver.
- Ron Carter – third or fourth time to council, citizens came each time and said they were not interested in changing things. Have problem with this and concerned our attorney has been in negotiations with county. Doesn't smell right and gives strong perception that council gets special treatment on initiatives. Wasn't done right, concern with county's opinion that not enough signatures to begin with. Isn't right, had conversations in past that when we elect mayor, pro-tem, vice that the positions automatically revolve forward. Would rather see it done that way. Can't support this, done wrong and isn't good.

Motion To Amend Resolution No. 10-16 Was Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Wiknich. Motion Failed By Roll Call Vote Of 2 Ayes (Council Members Holloway And Wiknich), 2 Nays (Council Members Carter And Taylor), 1 Absent (Mayor Morgan). Motion Failed.

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Meeting adjourned to 6pm meeting.

ADJOURNMENT


Rachel J. Ford, CMC - City Clerk