



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AND
RIDGECREST REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
FINANCING AUTHORITY**

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

**November 17, 2010
5:30 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 solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Steven Morgan; Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald Carter; Vice Mayor Thomas Wiknich; Council Member Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; and Council Member Jerry Taylor

STAFF: Kurt Wilson City Manager; Rachel J. Ford, City Clerk; Wayne Lemieux, City Attorney and other personnel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda Made By Council Member Carter, Second By Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- No comments presented by members of the public

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

GC54956.9(a) Conference With Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation - Benz Sanitation, Inc. v City of Ridgecrest

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- Closed Session
 - City attorney instructed on various matter how to proceed. Public discussion would be inappropriate at this time.
- Other

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Christina Witt – wanted to announce public invitation regarding website open to public, invite city if you have documents put on the site contact by email www.thetruthpointstoitself.com
- Judy Hyatt – Introduced Lori Acton who will be replacing Mr. Peterson in McQuiston's office.
- Lori Acton – Announced she would be in the office on Mondays and could be contacted via email or phone. Looks forward to working with the City on projects.

Closed Public Comment at 6:12pm

CITY CLERK

1. Approve Resolution No. 10- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Reciting The Fact Of The Consolidated General Municipal Election Held On November 2, 2008, Declaring The Result And Such Other Matters As Provided By Law Ford

- City Clerk – read resolution certifying election results as received from County Clerk.

Motion To Approve Resolution Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Carter. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

- i. Introduction Of Council Elect And Administering of the Oath Of Allegiance Ford
- ii. Election Of Mayor For A Two Year Term Of Office Ending In November 2012 And Reorganization Of The City Council Ford

***** Nominations DO NOT require a second**

- Opened nominations for Mayor.
 - Nominated: Ron Carter

Motion To Close Nominations Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.

***** Motion to close nominations REQUIRES a second**

City Clerk returned control of the meeting to Mayor Carter to complete election of Mayor Pro Tempore and Vice Mayor

- Opened nominations for Mayor Pro Tem
 - Nominated: Chip Holloway

Motion To Close Nominations Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.

- Opened nominations for Vice Mayor
 - Nominated: Jerry Taylor

Motion To Close Nominations Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2. Proclamation Honoring Ridgecrest Citizen Thomas P. Wiknich**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3. A Public Hearing And A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Confirming The Five Year Consolidated Plan And The Adopting The Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Annual Action Plan For Community Development Programs**

McRea

- Jim McRea – gave summary of staff report. Highlighted financials and use of funds. Outlined process.
- Council Member Morgan – I want to go over couple of things. CDBG for Norma street has gone thru bidding and engineering. This is predetermined to roll funds into this project. Pre-decision in 2013 allocations will be done at a later time.
 - Jim McRea – correct, public hearings in 2012 and 2013 to allocate funds. Decision can be made to hold funds and take advancement and move to use 3 years funding to do a single project, we elected to do 3 year project. Current agreement with Kern County is 4 year with funding from each year 2009-2012.

- Council Member Holloway – we just punted each year on taking the allocation, are you continuing to monitor sole-source and go on our own to try to get more funding?
 - Jim McRea – not monitoring but are cognizant. Seven year cycle, city has opportunity each seven years to not be part of consolidated plan and work directly with HUD. Can get \$500k but must make application that focuses on HUD goals and objectives. City would probably not do as well as other cities because harder to match HUD objectives. Ridgecrest hospital did finish building that was HUD sponsored.
- Council Member Taylor – where does this list come from? What is Kerr McGee Sports Complex?
 - Jim McRea – 2009 met with county community development with projects. Council adopted plan in December 2009. One thing said at the time is we might consider allocating to boys and girls club or parks, for 2014-15 we outlined five things that were of interest to council at that time. Council didn't say which they wanted to do in 2014-15, have to get Kern county approval. Certain neighborhoods rejected by kern county because of inadequate housing.
- Council Member Taylor – would love to have seen streets capped and improved.
 - Council Member Morgan – we have that option.
- Council Member Taylor – missing basketball courts and other items. Ask we review again.
 - Jim McRea – can do that for 2013-14

Opened public hearing at 6:47pm

- Tom Wiknich – interested in streets, wondering why no streets were on this list. What are LMI border?
 - Jim McRea – starts at church, runs west of college heights to southern limits of city. Very little in college heights and the area behind the civic center. Predominantly mobile homes.
- Tom Wiknich – does not go west of downs. Is the kerr mcgee sports center out of LMI?
 - Jim McRea – was approved by county. Did qualify.
- Tom Wiknich – would like to see a road on here.
 - Jim McRea – funding was allocated for road improvement.

Closed Public Comment at 6:49pm

- Council Member Taylor – agree. Have major backlog of streets, recently identified sewer lines issue. Sierra boys and girls clubs. Interested in infrastructure project.

- Council Member Carter – when does list come back?
 - Jim McRea – during budget hearings. This resolution is for 2011-12 not to amend 2013-14 but can do that during budget.

Motion To Approve Resolution Was Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The City Manager To File And Execute Applications For Federal Funding Under FTA Section 5311 (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) With The California Department Of Transportation A. Taylor
5. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving A Professional Services Agreement With Helt Engineering, Inc. For The Preparation And Provision Of Environmental Studies, Permits, Plans, Specifications And Engineering For The Resurfacing, Rehabilitation And Reconstruction Of College Heights Boulevard From 350 South Of Franklin Avenue To Cerro Coso Community College And Authorize The City Manager To Execute This Agreement Speer
6. Approve A Request For Authorization To Enter Into Program Supplement Agreement No. 021-N1, To The Administering Agency-State Agreement No 09-5385R (State California Department Of Transportation) And To Authorize The City Manager To Sign The Agreement Speer
7. Approval of Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of November 17, 2010 Ford
8. Approval of Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated November 19, 2010 In The Amount Of \$230,781.09 Staheli
9. Approval of Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated November 19, 2010 In The Amount Of \$890.30 Staheli

Pulled: Items 7 & 8

Motion To Approve Consent Calendar With Items 7 & 8 Pulled Made By Council Member Patin, Second Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

Item 7 discussion:

- Dave Matthews – had opportunity to look over minutes. Know everyone is busy, read public comment and council comments. Doesn't make sense. Want it to make more sense and be clearer.

Motion To Approve Item 7 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

Item 8 discussion:

- Christina Witt – page 6 attorney fees question. Would like to get a breakdown on total fees.
 - Wayne Lemieux – no problem identifying case by case but could be mistake in providing invoice details due to confidentiality.
 - Christina Witt – how much does it cost for each court hearing for city attorney to appear?
 - Mayor Carter – asked Mrs. Witt to meet with the city manager, staff will have to come up with the figures.
 - Christina Witt – you budgeted 100k, looking at expenditures just for July including retainer. After doing the math totals are short and funds are not budgeted to cover the shortfall.
 - Mayor Carter – noted observation.

Motion To Approve Item 8 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development Committee

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

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

Next meeting December 2, 2010

- Council Member Morgan – canceled due to lack of items, next meeting in January may also be canceled.

RACVB

Council Members Chip Holloway, Jerry Taylor

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month, 8:00 a.m.

Next meeting January 5, 2011 and location to be announced

- Doug Lueck – submitted 2010-11 grants to kern county board of trade for business kiosk. Festival April 15-17. New website www.ridgecrestdesertwildflowerfestival.com Attended Jawbone Canyon

meeting. Kevin bloomer writer/editor stayed in Ridgecrest to write OHV desert article for April/May magazine and on website. November had 21 days of filming for revenue.

Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee

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

Meetings: 1st Thursday of every even month at 12:00 p.m.; Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting December 2, 2010

- Meeting tomorrow, items on the agenda are the naming of the park near Dennys; RDA report/recommendations. Also discussing Maturango Museum recommendation for City taking over the annual event.

Youth Advisory Council

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- Council Member Taylor – city org. committee canceled.
- Council Member Taylor – infrastructure is scheduled for December 8 at 5pm
- Council Member Holloway – League of California Cities leadership summit. Three goals this year including returning California back to the Golden State with governance reform, pension reform, and education by technology. Also looking at ways to reduce travel for members during these tight economic times.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

- Kurt Wilson – congratulate incoming class, welcome back to current roles. Refreshing to have more lighthearted meeting. Not reflective of gravity of issues but is reflective of cooperation of council. Next few weeks, will be taking a series of steps to set forth a game plan for next year. Will communicate that vision to public so council goals will be known to public.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Harris Brokke – correct minutes of meeting, Maturango Junction event rather than Maturango Museum. Welcome to the new members of council.
- Jim Rachels – take opportunity to congratulate Holloway and Patin. Both well-deserved. Echo sentiments of City Manager, nice to see levity at the meeting. Public hearing on item concerning the budget, a question was asked and council was quick to dismiss that question. City attorney doesn't feel it is prudent to release detail of his bill, to counter balance this statement it is the right of public to understand where the public funds are being spent. We are asking council to release that information so public can see where their tax dollars are going. also with regard to the budget, only \$200k budgeted on legal fees, assuming we

continue at this rate we will be upside down by about \$150k at the end of the year. I witnessed much ringing of council hands about street lights and coming up with \$130k to cover the cost of those, but \$150k for legal fees is being swept under the rug. Public has a right to know where this money is going to come from and how it is being spent.

- Dave Matthews – Thanked Mr. Wiknich for the last 4 years of service, asked that he stay involved. Mr. Patin, you were looking forward to my coming up and raising heck, get with it. Would like to at this point, hopefully Benz sanitation representatives are watching, and publicly appeal they come back to the table and hear what is happening. Said several months ago that if this is the way it is going to end up we will be hurting. Understand situation, but please let's get this resolved without going millions of dollars into debt.

Closed public comment at 7:11pm

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Council Member Taylor – relative to action, was not included when researching ordinance, Mayor Pro Tem is in an ordinance, don't believe we need three titles up here, would like the ordinance revised. Strong respect for Mr. Morgan, believe and recommend the two people Mayor and Pro-Tem are the biggest go getters. Not against Morgan, believe he was a strong go getter too. Banner program, shout out and thank you to chamber of commerce whose wine walk raised \$200 for the banner program. Mr. Wiknich, definitely behind your back and support the infrastructure. Making some recommendations for projects in near future. Slight issue with drainage. Welcome aboard Mr. Patin.
- Council Member Holloway – apologize for exhibition earlier but meant what I said. Agree the levity is nice, look forward to being pro-active the next 4 years rather than reactive. Bantering utility district, catch-all for alternative solutions such as solar, agriculture, way of generating revenue stream for road repair. Statement, same problem in streets as we did when first elected, solution isn't from changing the players but changing the game. Diversion issues, and the right wastewater system (3 areas to pursue in next 4 years) establish relationship with the base, been too much of a one-sided relationship, will pursue that we work together to support each other. Glad to be up here to help solve these problems.
- Council Member Patin – thank you Mr. Mayor. Look forward to getting head wrapped around issues. Will be getting all the information and educating myself and diving into the issues plaguing the city. Thank Wiknich for two terms serving the council, voters for putting me here and family for their support. Sons helped put out signs and parents encouraged and supported me. Best thing they've given me is my faith in church. My wife is best friend for 23 years and couldn't do

it without her. Two years on planning commission, ready to step in and accept the challenge.

- Mayor Carter – thank tom Wiknich for his leadership. Worked hard for city and council. Willing to help you with anything you want to do. Thank Mayor Morgan, exceptional leader the past two years, you are one of my heroes, appreciate your dedication to this community, citizens don't know the amount of time you spend. Thank you. Want to bring forward ideas for generating revenue. Also council pursues technologies that are out there. Looking for citizens who are helpful and supportive. We need to work together. Problems aren't just going away, can make headway if we work together to support this community.
- Council Member Morgan – Jerry Brown will hold budget presentation on December 8. Announce upcoming in community Santa's art shop this weekend at fairgrounds, over 200 vendors and Santa Clause. Mayor carter, meeting scheduled December 9 at 11:00-12:00 with john McQuiston, please attend. Elks children's Christmas parade, December 11. December 5 city tree lighting event at city hall. Tom Wiknich, always had open and blatantly honest with each other, don't hesitate to call me and I will continue seeing you in your shop. Past four years your work has been phenomenal and people do not understand the time and effort put in by council. Thank you. This is time to renew and resolve as new council. Four years ago advocated my post on infrastructure committee and hope to get back on that committee. One thing infrastructure will be discussing, years ago had on the shelf projects that funding stopped so projects went away. Want to figure out a way to get those funds back to do projects. Legal fee discussion, I pledge to spend whatever it takes to do the right thing for the community.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:30 pm


Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk