

MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL/AGENCY/AUTHORITY MEETING

NOVEMBER 3, 2010

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

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

**November 3, 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

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Morgan, Council Members Carter, Wiknich, Holloway, and Taylor

Council Absent: Council Member Carter arrived after roll call but prior to closed session

Staff Present: City Manager Kurt Wilson; City Clerk Rachel Ford; City Attorney Keith Lemieux; and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda Was Made By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Wiknich. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, Nays, Abstain, And 0 Absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- Mayor pro-tem carter arrived, no member of the public provided comments for closed session, adjourned to closed session at 5:33pm

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CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

GC54956.9(a) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Benz Sanitation, Inc. and Tehachapi Recycling Inc. v City of Ridgecrest – Claim No. 10-13

GC54956.9 (b) Conference With Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Jerome Young - Claim No. 10-10

REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance led by Council Member Carter
- Invocation led by Rev. Warren Campbell

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Received report, no action taken
 - Received report, voted unanimously to deny claim of Jerome young.
- Other
 - Appearance in court regarding Benz Claim and temporary restraining order ex parte asking court order that council suspend implementing opt-out of trash ordinance. Court took under submission, have not received court order, optimistic the request will be denied.

PUBLIC COMMENT – REGULAR SESSION

Opened at 6:43

- Walt Maurer – have to say had opportunity and privileged to ride along with officer. One thing changed was shocked to discover heroin addicts are in Ridgecrest, don't leave car doors unlocked at night, professionalism of officers was commendable. Observed dialogue that is probably more polite than I have addressed council, apologize. Yesterday would like to thank several media for candidate opportunities. Lois Beres, tea party, republican women's group, daily press and news review. As candidate express appreciation. Thank you. Offer congratulations to Mr. Holloway and Patin. People have spoken; wish you the best and wish council the best. As result of Sacramento changes council will have hard row to hoe. Congratulations and god speed.
- Mike Neel – concerning election, noted numbers, one thing there are 65,000 outstanding votes in Kern County at this time. Suggest candidates to consider based on the spread, consider recount.

Closed Public Comment at 6:47pm

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing – Golden Handshake – Ernie Carter

A. Taylor

- Ann Taylor – gave staff report. Cost of benefit estimate required to provide additional service credit. \$11831.76 annually for two years. 4859.00 annual saving to pers. Paid by increase to employee contribution rate increase amortized over two years.
- Mayor Morgan – information questioning golden handshakes with regards to effect on state budget.
 - Kurt Wilson – concerns about impacts peers itself while statewide agency is not funded from general fund, comes from actuarial and other sources.
 - Mayor Morgan – city budget impact has been instituted?
 - Kurt Wilson – correct, did compensate.
- Council Member Taylor – this position will be downgraded? Only talking about PERS savings, not salaries. Doing this as alternative to laying people off. So public understands, entirely alternative method to give employees a voluntary option to save money rather than RIF.
 - Kurt Wilson – correct, PERS is part of the process, position is not eligible to be filled at current level for two years. Some impact to employees who will pick up the cost over 20 years.
 - Council Member Taylor – real savings comes from elimination or downgrade to position, salary savings to us.
- Council Member Holloway – effects existing contributions, most risk is to employees. Contribution rate is based on formula?
 - Tyrell Staheli – correct, is shared in future actuarial, will probably see increase to employee contribution. At this time city is covering but is capped and when the cap is reach the excess is picked up by the employee.
 - Council Member Holloway – jeopardize future employees?
 - Tyrell Staheli – percentage of percentage increase.

Public Comment – golden handshake

- No comments presented.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

- 2. Approve A Joint Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council And Redevelopment Agency Ratifying And Establishing Budget Appropriation And Expenditure Approvals As They Pertain To The City's Contract With South California Trane For The Construction Of A Photovoltaic Solar Energy Production Field**

Bradley

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- Craig Bradley – gave staff report. Subsequent resolution regarding portion of total project. Provided supplemental report. Current status provided by PowerPoint presentation. Moving forward since ground-breaking. Schoolhouse relocated. Regular meeting on June 16 reviewed. Previous resolution established total cost for project. Expenditure related items are listed in staff report. Second resolution will help stay on track with project.
- Council Member Taylor – asking for 129,000 but have not seen design package for security systems, what are we going out to bid or doing in-house.
 - Craig Bradley – concerns project was secured well. Contingency before approval was to form security in-house. Will do panel to bring energy in, reset light bulbs, set cameras and security system within budget.
 - Council Member Taylor – not questioning need, concern is hasn't been before infrastructure or council, no one has seen design. Could be better with more eyes. Concerned designing to budget rather than requirement. Would be nice to see design for 129,000. Not ready to move forward.
 - Craig Bradley – entire 129,000 not dedicated to security, did bring a list of expenditures. Would follow same as other video security currently installed, police dispatch in 911 for 24 hour viewing. Same pattern as what is already dispersed.
 - Council Member Taylor – protecting 3 million dollars in panels from theft and vandalism. Current system has auto detection with alerts or just monitors. What are we doing to protect this system?
 - Craig Bradley – recommendation to move forward and will develop design for whatever committee necessary. Project is moving forward and expenditures building.
 - Council Member Taylor – already authorized to spend this money?
 - Craig Bradley – budget was set in previous resolution.
 - Council Member Taylor – want project to move forward but concerned with protecting it. Want to see a plan and not seeing a plan. That is my concern.
- Mayor Morgan – understanding is system in-house staff designing deals with motion detection and security lighting and visual.
 - Craig Bradley – large area so also considering other protection.
 - Mayor Morgan – safe to say system your staff is envisioning and put in place is less costly than other bids you have received.
 - Craig Bradley – absolutely
 - Mayor Morgan – everybody will want to see that.

Public Comment – Solar Project

- Dave Matthews – wondering will site be posted to fact these monitors are there.
 - Mayor Morgan – detection system has to be posted?

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- Craig Bradley – not my intent, some law signage for energy usage, if desire of council will put in plan.
- Mayor Morgan – yes and vet to committee
- Council Member Taylor – not here to slow down, had requested prior to meeting.
- Mayor Morgan – would you like to see in more detail at infrastructure.
- Council Member Taylor – yes
- Council Member Wiknich – at next infrastructure committee meeting.

Motion To Approve Joint Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council And Redevelopment Agency Ratifying And Establishing Budget Appropriation And Expenditure Approvals As They Pertain To The City's Contract With South California Trane For The Construction Of A Photovoltaic Solar Energy Production Field (As Amended) Was Made By Council Member Wiknich , Second By Council Member Carter . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 1 Nays (Council Member Taylor), 0 Abstain, and 0 Absent.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Approve A Resolution For Tentative Tract No. 6731: Utilization Of Development Impact Traffic And Drainage Fees For Off-Site Improvements For A 40.6 Acres Project Located North Of The Northwest Corner Of Kendall Ave And S. Norma McRea
4. Quarterly Investment Reports For First Quarter FY 2010-11 Staheli
5. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Announcing Proclamations Prepared For The Month Of November 2010 And Scheduled Date Of Presentation Ford

Proclamation Titles

Honoring Ridgecrest Citizen - Bill Folden

Native American Heritage Month – Little Dear Durvin & Daughters of the American Revolution

National Veterans Remembrance Month – Elks

These Proclamations will be presented on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. at City Hall

6. Approve Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of September 1, 2010 Ford
7. Approve Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of October 20, 2010 Ford

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8. Approve Council Expenditure List (DWR) Dated October 18, 2010 In The Amount Of \$3,350.00 Staheli
9. Approve Council Expenditure List (DWR) Dated October 22, 2010 In The Amount Of \$229,003.76 Staheli
10. Approve Agency Expenditure List (DWR) Dated October 22, 2010 In The Amount Of \$1,834.30 Staheli

- Mayor Morgan – read items

No Items Were Pulled By Council Or A Member Of The Public.

Motion To Approve Consent Calendar (As Amended) Was Made By Council Member Carter, Second By Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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 November 4, 2010

- Mayor Morgan – met September 9. Presentation on economic development projects and list given to committee members, asked to give comments to Mr. Parsons. Public wishing to see list contact Mr. Parsons. RRA funding discussion. Request to meet with Mr. McQuiston, not scheduled but still being worked on. OTAPP update by Craig Porter. Scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss 2010 TABB balsam street enhancement, military banner program, and committee member reports.

RACVB

Council Members Chip Holloway, Jerry Taylor

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

Next meeting December 1, 2010 and location to be announced

- Council Member Holloway – met this morning. Asked Doug to read report.
- Doug Lueck – met this morning report is off road show October 9-10. 1200 business guides, expo show, very successful. Cal city redevelopment and jawbone present. Maturango, USO, fairgrounds Jackson park event. Attended 35th annual film directors symposium workshop. Digital revolution. Digital world coming like Avatar. Scary for film commissions. Planet of the Ape's movie had 200 extras on film. If done today could use 5 people with digital. Learning to adjust to new technology. Film commission doing great job. Spoke with

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president of viewfinders, event October 2-3. Ridgecrest did well, down just over 5%. October 95,000 in revenue. Next meeting at Carriage Inn December 1.

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 1, 2010

- Council Member Carter – next meeting December 1, if anyone has items to discuss will be happy to put on agenda.

Youth Advisory Council

- Council Member Carter – meets next Tuesday, November 9, 11:45am at Kerr McGee Center.

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- Council Member Wiknich – infrastructure next Wednesday at 5pm. Sewer lines, solar plant security.
- Council Member Taylor – city organization not going to meet. Looking for in-house inspection. Joint meeting with water district. Discussion item for next council, input for citizen and planning commission outline idea of allowing turf in front yards, new version sliding scale based on lot size. Also digital 395 project, ask staff for discussion item on future agenda. Fiber optics from Barstow to Carson City coming thru Ridgecrest. Also looking at connecting at navy facility. We are hosting next meeting, tri-county thing. We need to get involved with route for our infrastructure, franchise fee, etc.
- Council Member Holloway – IWV2000 and chamber joint meeting. IWV 2000 suffered with china lake defense alliance. Did not go away. Take on rules and responsibilities outside defense alliance. One action items coming from meeting is alternative energy symposium first half of next year and invite manufacturers, look at nexus between bases. We are the Saudi Arabia of alternative energy. May be great niche to pursue outside defense alliance. Encourage people to support both groups. Now that back on council will try to take on roll of attending these meetings.
- Mayor Morgan – attended desert mountain division. One thing is committees, may be some openings, if already sitting on committee and want to continue, need that information. If interested in openings, let me know. Have already spoken for a couple of league committees.
 - Council Member Carter – interested in getting back involved
 - Council Member Taylor – gave response to Sam

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- Mayor Morgan- attended Kern COG October 28. Alternate forms of transportation discussed. Awards and artwork, presentations from artists. Kern COG trying to promote alternate transportation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened at 7:29pm

- Dave Matthews – asked question of IWV 2000. Glad you mentioned it; I was one who thought it had become China Lake Defense Alliance. Thought that perhaps IWV 2000 might be where could go with an idea I have. Comments in order as they happened. We saved her, say we as I feel involved as I spent 3 days and several rolls of film, filming process of moving old school house. Thanked those involved. When get pictures sorted, if interested would be willing to give presentation to council. Watched process and it was fascinating. Glad we saved the old gal, not just fact we saved the building but it represents a way of life that has gone by the wayside. Next, as of last night, congratulations to Mr. Holloway, my condolences to Mr. Wiknich. Congratulations to Mr. Patin. Would like you to stick around after the meeting.
- Randy Jenkins – good evening, the thing on my mind is people in Ridgecrest, we have only just begun to fight. Won't end tomorrow or the day after. Some people in town still tired of freedoms being trampled on with regards to constitution and too many rules/mandates. When a boy, had to memorize the preamble of constitution. Little rusty but haven't forgotten. Appreciate those who voted for me, every vote is special regardless of how it was cast. When oppression comes, we as a local town can either buckle under the situations or can look to the future. Tomorrow what we will be looking to is breaking these yokes off our necks. Water department is referred to as water Nazis and senior citizens can't take the trash out and are afraid. People in town talking about freedom, going to get it back. Bigger picture, which stand up for what is right which goes far beyond the polls. Many didn't vote but their voice still means something to me. Change is needed. Don't care if state is made out to be scapegoat. Can't just lie down. As child bully picked on children but I taught him a lesson. Have to defend against bullies and as council you are a part of that. Didn't end yesterday, only just started. Tired of trash issue, water deal. No water shortage, different configurations all over the valley. Plenty of water, no need for that.

Closed at 7:37pm

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

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- Kurt Wilson – old schoolhouse, few people thanked but want to also thank staff, police and maintenance workers. Just informed that I have been appointed to Pension committee. Take a moment to thank candidates for a professional campaign. Staff appreciates. Spoke with all or attempted to speak with all candidates today to personally thank them. Statewide will bring impacts to Ridgecrest of propositions passed. More information to be presented as soon as available.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Council Member Carter – all candidates that ran, thank you, have great respect for you putting your name out there to do things better for community. Positive campaign, tone was appreciated and respect for each other. Historic voting across country, citizens saying to politicians is stop doing party business and does business for the people.
- Mayor Morgan – every election cycle say two things, first recover from bruises and beatings and second is to echo what Carter said about when you put your name, reputation to represent community that is special gift that each candidate has given to our citizens. There are still unprocessed ballots and does take 30 days for those ballots to be counted. Numbers will possibly change some. Have to go thru verification process. For those who ran for council, strongly recommend putting in application for planning commission, each member of council appoints a member of planning commission. One page form that you express your desire to be a member of planning commission. Wonderful way to help at all levels. Many years ago I was a planning commissioner and most valuable experience of my life. Veteran's day November 11, take moment to thank someone for their service to our country. Will be activities going on, look in local papers. Viewfinders were highly attended and successful. All volunteers who worked on project made Ridgecrest shine. Did see change in fair for those who went. Positive changes and attendance was up, vendors were happy, most people pleased with new carnival and appreciate everyone who worked on that. For those who participated in electoral process, to my understanding we have over 13,000 voters need to improve turnout.
- Council Member Taylor – thank everyone for prop 22. One positive thing at state level. Prevents taking of local revenues. Interesting to go to state website, only 2 counties did not pass and they did pass prop 19. Appreciate everyone's support. Thankful I was not up to run, is difficult to put yourself out there. Do put word out for those trying to recall, believe clear message was also sent relative to recall. To a city whose finances are forced into giving out golden handshakes, ask proponents to reconsider the financial impact of a recall. In spirit of trying to move forward, suggest people take a strong look at that and feel the finances will be disastrous to city. Navy League dinner coming up, military banner program moving forward. If want to sponsor, go to chamber of commerce to get form. Have a good November.

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- Council Member Holloway – was happy last night for prop 22. A lot of work with the league, almost every piece of legislature proposed goes before the league, biggest way to fight some of the things mentioned in Randy's comments. The league has won and pushed the state back on several occasions. Governor may fight us. Most significant things were prop 20 and prop 27. Must draw the line and force people to make the tough prudent decisions. Mr. Burdick made it thru part of the process to be on committee, encourage him to keep involved. Never been so stressed out in my life thru this election. Classy candidates, perception in community and feel blessed and lucky to be given the opportunity to try to correct past mistakes. I got the message. No greater courage than to fail publicly. Anybody who goes thru the campaign process has my respect. Stay engaged, keep trying, and don't walk away. Thank you for being here tonight. Thank community and excited about future. Great things coming for this community. Have to change tone of city hall and community. Go back to the days when we were excited to move forward. Thank you.
- Council Member Wiknich – came here prepared to give concession speech but find out there may be about 800 ballots waiting to be counted. Looks to be a win on Mr. Patin, congratulate you. Reserve my actual leaving council for when it really does happen. Thank those who came in today and encouraged me to move forward. Want to thank all volunteers who worked with me, especially on the petitions. Formed action committee for it. Thank everybody in their effort. Shows there are people in the community with ideas to do things differently in future. Thanked wife for support, she stuck with me and checked the numbers all night. Without her support might have been basket case. Thank other council members for their support. Happy Veterans Day and don't forget infrastructure next week.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk