



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

City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555

September 1, 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 O. Wilson City Manager; Rachel J. Ford, City Clerk; and other personnel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 2 pulled

Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Carter, Second By Council Member Wiknich, 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent And 0 Abstain.

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

GC54956.9 (b) Conference with Legal Counsel - Potential Litigation - Benz Sanitation, Inc.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:21 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – led by Mayor Morgan
- Invocation – Moment of silence led by Mayor Morgan
- Mayor Morgan – updated audience of agenda changes

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CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- Closed Session
 - Keith Lemieux – report received, no action taken.
- Other
 - Eierman Petition has been dismissed with prejudice from court.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened at 6:25pm

- Dave Matthews – if doesn't use five minutes during first public comment, can I come back and use the rest at the end.
 - Mayor Morgan – no sir
 - Dave Matthews - On website, Mr. Wilson's email is not there and Mr. Rose's email is still linked. Don't know if there is a report on solar field but old school house still has interest, isn't dead yet. Sent everyone an email with pictures regarding utilities. Looked at self-haul form and suggestions for changes were made but see no changes have been made. Statement regarding self-haul service level requested and 3 choices. Please tell me the difference between choices, very confusing. Has suggested rewording read I/we certify that I/we will self-haul trash and/or recyclables as follows, trash and recyclables, trash only, recyclables only, wish to negotiate level of pick-up service.
 - Mayor Morgan – supervisor McQuisten email is trying to get in contact with people at Kern River valley interested in building.
- Rick Mulkey – never been here before until today, called the transit system for ride to doctor appointment on Friday. Staff was semi-polite, definite about not being able to get a ride on transit on Friday. Not new news, but is new to me. Used to be able to get a ride. Why?
- Jim Rachels – short agenda, surprised by that. While probably as weary as everyone about trash, surprised no agenda items. Unanswered questions, city paid money to Benz, attorney has acknowledged most were unlawful payment. What is city doing to collect? Also around 80k of money collected by city for unpaid trash bills, attorney recognized city did not owe this money to Benz so was not owed to city. What is status of 80k refunds? Last meeting temporary rate of \$18.11. Set there because was believed to be lowest can service in neighboring city, turns out that is for 2 cans? Was to be temporary rate, how temporary is it? Council and Benz is in turmoil, significant need for negotiation however council position is Benz needs to f****ing play ball. Written statement when? More issues, when will these unanswered questions going to be answered? Band-aids but no progress; don't confuse motion with progress.

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- Bobby Gainer- when trash thing first started I lived in trailer park because that is what could afford. Name is Bobby Gainer. When blue barrels unloaded were charged \$20 per month. 60+ people in park who can't afford, we recycle. While you and Benz are fighting about the problem, \$20 per month coming from our pocket, please end it. We don't use the service, at least 20 spaces in park that mobile homes are not livable; john hall has his junk in about 5 spaces, blue and green bin in every space whether someone is living there or not. Beg you to bring this to an end.

- Bob Anderson – do we still have to meet 50%recycling?
 - Mayor Morgan – yes
 - Bob Anderson – if don't meet the 50% will state make us do recycling again?
 - Mayor Morgan – technically, no, will talk with you after the meeting.

- Randy Jenkins – had an idea for old school house, USO building raised money with private funds, fantastic, totally redone, lots of things happening. Might be a possibility for school house, teenagers could use as a club for them, little old for boys and girls club. Fundraisers, managed thru private organization, moved to area off city property. Video arcade at no charge, pool tables, television with videos, hot dog stand and refreshments. Managed by volunteer parents as chaperones. Teenagers are in limbo, boys and girls club and little league, then college, nothing for ages 13-19. Great need and ask to consider. Fundraiser could easily raise money needed.

- Jack Noyer – thank Mr. Wilson for attending senior center, met with seniors, seniors appreciated representatives making appearance and showing genuine concern for their well-being and problems. Some people talked to me afterwards. Mr. Carter asked Chief about students and drug problems and I have question about DARE program. Daughters participated and no problems. DARE was eliminated then went to CHAMPS and now this year according to budget, no program for schools about drug education. Health and future employment, if busted for drugs the long-term ramification. Also for Chief Strand, went thru and did data extrapolation, July 8-Aug 28 there were 227 traffic tickets. Number of registered voters from Mrs. Ford. Take just a few months to issue a speeding ticket to every registered voter, all this money for traffic why aren't we teaching our youth about drugs. Wanted list is all about controlled substance, major problem in the community, need to be proactive to prevention rather than reactive to crime. Thank you again Mr. Wilson for visiting the senior center and thank council for listen to tirade.

Closed Public Comment at 6:46pm

PRESENTATION

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1. Approve A Resolution For A Proclamation Honoring Ridgecrest Citizen And A Service Award Presentation To Captain Jon Wheeler – Retired With 25 Years Of Service For The Ridgecrest Police Department Morgan
- Special presentation of service award and proclamation to Captain Jon Wheeler, retired from the Ridgecrest Police Department with 25 years.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

- Item pulled prior to approval of agenda
- 2. Approve Agency Agreement On Civic Center And California Ave.; Alley Improvements & Parking; VIMCO & RRA McRea

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Approve A Resolution Authorizing The City To Extend A Golden Handshake Retirement To Pam Hill A. Taylor
4. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Announcing Proclamations Prepared For The Month Of September 2010 And Scheduled Date Of Presentation Wilson
5. Approve Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of August 18, 2010 Ford
6. Approve Council Expenditure List (DWR) Dated August 13, 2010 In The Amount Of \$104,328.10 Staheli
7. Approve Agency Expenditure List (DWR) Dated August 13, 2010 In The Amount Of \$4,741.35 Staheli

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

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

- No report

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Tom Wiknich, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Craig Porter

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

Next meeting to be announced

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- Council Member Wiknich – next meeting September 8. Review west Ridgecrest Blvd. improvement 100% plans

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Jerry Taylor, Tom Wiknich, Nellavan Jeglum, Lois Beres

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

Next meeting to be announced

- Council Member Taylor – September 13, discussing code enforcement and transit update

Activate Community Talents and Interventions For Optimal Neighborhoods Task Force (ACTION)

Members: Co-Chairs Ron Carter, Chip Holloway, Ron Strand

Meetings: 2nd Monday of odd numbered months at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting to be announced

- Council Member Carter – September 9 looking at drugs in community

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- Council Member Holloway – RACVB met this morning, read report of meeting copy provided to clerk.
- Council Member Taylor – McRea, Patin and I meet with water board sub-committee on September 10 at 1:00 at the water district.
- Mayor Morgan – community development meeting scheduled for September 2 but canceled because agenda not posted 72 hours prior to meeting. Future date will be set and posting will be done in accordance with brown act. Regular council meeting of September 15 has been canceled due to league of California cities conference. Special meeting for September 23, closed session at 5:30pm and 6:00pm public session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opened at 6:58pm

- Al Huey – don't want to elaborate on this but VIMCO sewer was pulled. Hope when this item returns to council, sometime press doesn't get whole story right, find this troubling if it truly occurred if what paper portrayed in article. Have serious concerns if paper was accurate in reporting of this story. Will wait for this to return as future agenda item.
- Howard Auld – want to report on Ridgecrest financial recovery team. Thought the meeting on August 23 was a good meeting with Kevin McCarthy. Interesting

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there was no transit on Friday and city hall is closed on Friday. Think Kevin got the information that city needs funds to operate at full level. Need to be politically astute, find all funds available to us, and look for grants and discretionary funds. As a team will look for the money we need to be a fully operational team. Also with Kevin in meeting was Shelby Habanera legislative director.

Closed public comment at 7:03pm

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Mayor Morgan – BRAC buildings on base are nearing completion, Vietnam memorial wall at fair grounds and 1000 flags parade and display in parks this weekend. Read statement and quotes from 7 habits of highly effective people. Copy provided to clerk.
- Council Member Carter – appreciate Kevin McCarthy meeting with us, individually and council. Important to work with senators. Few days later met with Boxer and Feinstein. Saw Barbara Streisand, melted a lot of class, appreciate opportunity to talk with some of our elected officials on our behalf.
- Council Member Wiknich – request staff check into combined two can rate with Benz supposed to remain at \$30.52 but was quoted over \$36 at Benz today. Also copy of bill given to staff to investigate rate being charged at mobile home park. Request volunteers to help with graffiti abatement. Very expensive and costs covered by donations. Help pact graffiti team. Also PACT looking for someone who would like to volunteer to do their newsletter.
- Council Member Holloway – thank Kevin McCarthy for coming to Ridgecrest and listening to us. Thank Howard and Barbara auld for their outreach. Important we maintain these relationships. BRAC was good but need to plant seeds again to ensure we keep these positions and let them know we have resources that are being under-utilized. Our role to get this information out to the rest of the country. Navy has been restricted from doing this. Have a good week. September 11, encourage everyone in this town to participate and watch the parade of flags. Is a genuine and unique experience, Viet Nam wall also?
- Council Member Taylor – contacted by citizens, program honoring our war fighters. Banners in towns honoring those serving our country from each city. A program I am working with is service organizations at no cost to the city, will be moving forward. Great program honoring those who serve our country from Ridgecrest. Local newspaper, blogs need to be monitored, violent statements not pulled recently. A more civil tone in community, people should not have anonymity on the blogs which could curb the violent tendencies. Please consider a constant time stamp on the blogs. More positive note will be trying to honor those who serve us.

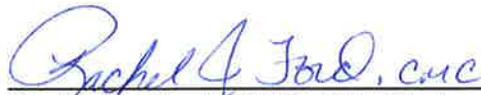
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ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:15pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk