



**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 23, 2011
5:00 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 solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Ronald H. Carter; Mayor Pro-Tem Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Vice Mayor Jerry D. Taylor; and Council Member Jason Patin

ABSENT: Council Member Steven P. Morgan

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Taylor . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent (Council Member Morgan, Holloway)

PUBLIC COMMENT (*Closed Session Items Only*)

- No comments were presented by the public for closed session items.

CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 p.m.

GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations – United Food and Commercial Workers Local 8 (UFCW); Police Employee Association of Ridgecrest (PEAR); Mid-Management Group of Employees (MM); Confidential Group of Employees (CO); Management Group of Employees (MG) – Agency Negotiator City Manager Kurt Wilson

GC54956.9 Conference With Legal Counsel, Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure Of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest

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SPECIAL SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

No reportable action

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Christina Witt – read article that Coles is interested in coming to Ridgecrest. Encouraged City to work with business to fill the existing empty buildings before allowing new buildings to be erected.
- Dave Matthews – agreed with Christina and asked council to change their policies regarding new buildings.
- Barbara auld – made comments on redistricting and the threat of current 2 district supervisors being reduced to 1 supervisor. Asked community to show support for keeping 2 supervisors. Reminded that changes made now would not be changed again for 10 years. Provided forms to be used when contacting the redistricting committee. Also announced the new Optimist Club which chartered today in Ridgecrest and noted the good turnout. Comments that the club is a strong supporter of the youth in our community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval Of A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Agreement For HUD's Urban County Qualification Renewal - Kern County Programs Wilson
2. Approval Of A Resolution Approving By Reference And Authorizing Execution Of An Extension Of The Memorandum Of Understanding With The United Food And Commercial Workers (UFCW Local 8) To July 31, 2011 Wilson

3. Approval Of A Resolution Approving By Reference And Authorizing Execution Of An Extension Of The Memorandum Of Understanding With The Police Employee Association Of Ridgecrest To August 31, 2011

Wilson

Item 1 removed

Motion To Approve Item 2 & 3 Was Made By Council Member Holloway , Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent (Council Member Morgan)

Item 1 discussion:

- Council Member Taylor – would like a summary are there any changes?
 - Jim McRea – intent is for city to declare their intent to participate. Annually we operate with the county so determination is made every 3 years. 5 year program of how anticipated funding will be allocated. 5 year program due next year for approx. \$168,000 per year. Has to be approved by county because county does reporting and tracking. This just declares our intent to cooperate with the county. Money is fed to county then redistributed on population and miles of road. Don't know how much will receive annually until the year is done. Similar to gas tax. Is in our best interest to work with the county. If you deal directly with HUD are locked into a 7 year cycle which criteria changes annually with different benchmarks. Competitive grant.
- Council Member Patin – this is the last year of our 5 year cycle?
 - Jim McRea – correct. Can only go to HUD every 7 years if you don't participate with county. Strictly competitive with no guarantee of funds.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Agreement For HUD's Urban County Qualification Renewal - Kern County Programs Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 1 Absent (Council Member Morgan)

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

4. Discussion With Members Of The Public Regarding Future Solid Waste And Recycling Services **Wilson**

- Kurt Wilson – gave review of the solid waste and recycling services and regulations. AB939 creates benchmarks for recycling. History of the process over the past two years and PowerPoint presentation of suggestions received to date regarding provisions for a Request for Proposals and the new franchise agreement.

- Jerry Taylor – appreciate council and staff participation in these events
- Jason Patin – looking to get this right this time so if we are missing something then let us know.

PUBLIC COMMENT/SUGGESTIONS

- Travis Johnson – read prepared statement regarding ease of recycling and outlined a process he uses to recycle. Recommend giving options for curbside, self haul. Recycling center provide verification.
- Christina Witt – suggested educating public on recycling locations. Keep service list simple in the RFP, let the hauler tell us what they can do for us. Recapped list and noted these provision should be in the agreement, not the RFP. Without list may get more options and better rate. Stated Benz has a MERF so other haulers would be more expensive for recycling since they would have to build a MERF.
- Bridgett Ware – recycling question of why Ridgecrest only and no the outlying areas.
 - Kurt Wilson – responded.
 - Bridgett Ware – would like to see vacation hold
- Marty Wigton – came from Nashville Tennessee who has mandatory recycling on a quarterly basis can put large items out for recycling. Don't think the contract should be 30 years. Building a recycling center creates jobs in the city. Bills should not go up when hauler is making money off the recycling.
- Jack Noyer – would like to see a quarterly Hazardous Waste pickup for paint, etc. Also a clear and concise outline of what we need the new hauler to do. Keep it simple. Comments regarding the state of California creating the issue. Applaud Mr. Benz for trying to do the job the state tasked him to do. Question about water waste for cleaning out recycling items.
- Tom Wiknich – Local Assistance Plan we have, is it still in effect?
 - Kurt Wilson – requirements are still in effect but the date has changed.
 - Tom Wiknich – consider how you will evaluate the proposals. In the interest of fairness and transparency, to avoid lawsuit by the losers of the bid, create a methodology with fairness and transparency. Want to see a full and open competition and the criteria used and be public, transparent, and fair by the people who do the evaluation. Moving forward which is great.

- Dave Matthews – in thinking of process we are rushed again. If another hauler besides Benz bids, Benz is the only one in town with the equipment and will still be operating franchise in the county. Other new vendor would not have equipment so will take awhile to get established and city must ensure that it is in place to start hauling on September 3. Have the opportunity to put specific options for handling recyclables into the agreement.
- Joe Conway – can recycler and hauler be separate?
 - Kurt Wilson – council discretion but is possible.
- Gerald Houser – several elderly living in trailer park with very few recyclables and cockroaches. Asked that seniors have option of having bins per row rather than each home. Also if bin is damaged or stolen the cost is expensive for the individuals to replace the bin. Can local hardware store stock bins of the same standard to be purchased at a more reasonable price and individuals be responsible for their own bin replacement? Current bins have serial numbers and records are not kept accurate. Also contract should be legible for a layperson, understandable to average individuals without the legal terms. Last contract no one agreed on either side.
 - Council Member Taylor – individual carts.
- Ray Taylor – is this the same path as last time with council setting standards for recycling? Need a franchise hauler only, not something in-between. Let haulers control and let community control the recycling.
 - Council Member Taylor – commented on different options for public, voluntary program, many different ways to provide service but want to understand what way the public wants us to go.
 - Ray Taylor – mandatory thing was flawed.
 - Council Member Taylor – residential program will be voluntary recycling. What kinds of services do citizens want into the contract, such as bin sizes, rates for seniors,
- Diane Grattaroti (telephone) – what we had worked, makes the contract simple and let the hauler tell us what they can provide. Make sure city ordinance is correct and in place before the RFP is written.
- Carol Vaughn – would like to see the contract before it is signed and secondly commercial was almost as big a mess as residential. Bins for multi-family became unmanageable. Let business people decide what works for their property, if it doesn't work then might have to look at regulating.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Council Member Taylor – appreciate everyone’s participation. Asked city manager to give process from this time forward.
 - Kurt Wilson – will compile listing to provide to agency currently writing the RFP and a draft agreement sample will be part of the RFP. Ultimate decision will be council after the evaluation process.
 - Council Member Taylor – what is opportunity for public to view the RFP?
 - Kurt Wilson – comments were understood that public wanted to view the contract before council signed. Anticipate the RFP being ready before next council meeting.
 - Council Member Taylor – will be see it or get public testimony?
- Council Member Holloway – surprised that nobody has suggested terms, length or rate in the contract. Confusion between contract and ordinance. Ordinance is flawed. Met with Cal Recycle last Thursday, commercial is going to be mandatory statewide. Have to get the ordinance done before doing the RFP. Cal Recycle impressed with the consultants we are using to draft the RFP. Concerned with the September 2 deadline, very qualified vendors who should have the opportunity to bid on this RFP. All council has been watching options in other areas, interested in the blue bag idea but wasn’t good in reality. Want to see what other trash contracts are like in other areas. nothing new on the suggestions but still go back and review. Ordinance needs revamped, need acceptable level of service and better rates.
- Council Member Patin – need to learn from the mistakes, act quickly but not rush it. We were prepared to move forward regardless of the ruling by the arbitrator because of the work that Mr. Wilson and staff have done. Move forward and get it right. Unfortunate that Benz was caught in the middle, hoping Benz bids on the contract and they deserve an equal evaluation. Looking forward to getting this done. Council tried to come up with an agreement with Benz. Think these are proper first steps, have a list of what public wants, council is listening, may not get everything but want to come up with something reasonable for majority.
- Mayor Carter – thanked public for responding, calling, writing, attending forums, and public comment. Appreciate staff and consultants. Thanked Stan Rajtora for his input.

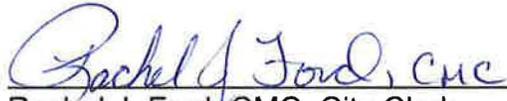
PUBLIC COMMENT (2)

- Tom Wiknich – will RFP be posted on website and media?
 - Kurt Wilson – yes.
- Gerald Houser – feel hauler should not reap profits from the recyclables.
- Manuel Farmer – has attended all meeting with council regarding Benz. Local Assistance Plan requirement was for council to provide education for the public which council failed to do. If council had done the outreach program the public would not be confused.

- Jack Noyer – comment to chief of police. Was uncomplimentary of the citation program which was said out of stupidity. Has since found out that other factors impact the police and schools ability to educate youth on drugs. Recently home was burglarized and car was burglarized. Commend the police department, officers very professional and courteous. Everybody thru entire process was professional and chief should be commended for his leadership. Thanked chief personally.
- Gene Snyder – when cal recycle determined recycling numbers, they only checked trashcans. There is a Ridgcrest recycle program which takes in many items and recycles them. Asked if cal recycle would reconsider the types of recycles they count.
- Howard Auld – still in the mandate to reduce the level of waste going into the landfill and city could be fined \$10,000 per day if we don't meet the mandate.

Mayor Carter – thanked everyone for their testimony and participation.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:19 pm


Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk

