



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

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

**March 16, 2011
6:30 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; Keith Lemieux, 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 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

- GC54956.9 (A) Conference with Legal Counsel; Existing Litigation – City of Ridgecrest v. Benz Sanitation Inc.
- GC54956.9 (A) Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation – Eierman v. Stephen Morgan et al.
- 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

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

No member of the public presented comments.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- **Closed Session**
 - Ridgecrest v. Benz Sanitation – report received – no action taken
 - Eierman v. Morgan – report received
 - Due to time constraints, closed session was adjourned to after the regular meeting session.
- **Other**
 - Eierman v. Morgan et. Al – briefed public on history of this matter which was originally heard by court and city was sustained. This was an attempt to have it reconsidered, hearing was held on Monday and motion was denied.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom Wiknich – did not attend last meeting as was out of town. Last meeting topic of RDA projects. Wanted public to understand opportunities to council and city over the next couple of years. Funding required for paving and maintaining every arterial street in Ridgecrest up to full standards. 9.3 million dollars of the 24 million received. Add to sewer lines and signage, Wal-Mart and corporate yard. All of these add up to 21 million, the new PMS study has new numbers and with new technology the price could be even lower. After correcting all of these there should still be remaining funds to repair the pool and other projects. Council has a lot of opportunity to make a commitment to put \$20 of the 24 million into infrastructure. Encourages council to put a philosophical statement to this effect. Is still critical about the cost of the concession at the ball fields. Need to see the requirements document. If you hire a consultant to design with a limit, he will design to that limit. Ask council to strongly consider a philosophical statement.
- Joe Conway – now that streets are deteriorating, will the streets have to be watered down to control dust.
- Al Huey – regarding RDA bond and concept of partnering with school district. Have concerns with this because of a partnership performing arts center. In past if community wanted a center such as this they raised funds and had the building

built with understanding that community could use at their convenience. That has now stopped. Be very careful in partnership with school district. Past issue of an 11 million dollar loan, paperwork could not be found. If partnership and generations later can't find the paperwork, each party would be saying something different. Also number one problem since being here is the streets. Topic of discussion is the Wal-Mart but has been for several years and still no ground breaking. Be careful in message being sent to the community, have real concerns with the amount stated to be spent on parks and recreation when we have concerns with streets and flooding. Be cautious on how you will spend this money.

- Mike Neel – addresses proposed spending of RDA funds, like to thank Mr. Taylor in voting against the issue and is ashamed that the rest of council supported it. Spoke of a list of projects which includes 11 miles of streets in town, this has been in council for awhile. 12-14 million for streets plus other items, this would get a majority of streets into decent condition. Hope council is listening to the public in getting the streets fixed and not upgrade the ball fields, fences, and lights. Every citizen in town drives on the streets and hope the streets get so bad that citizens would feel forced to vote on a sales tax to repair the streets.
- Mary Frost – when this bond issue went thru means taxes will go up. We have people who floated the bond because they believed we needed to fix the infrastructure. Now we have the other fluffy stuff. These funds are not for fluffy stuff, but to keep the roads going.
- Howard Auld – motivated to speak from reading latest newspaper about schools and city's situation and follow up on the city's desperate situation. A furlough, golden handshakes, staff doubling up on jobs, no filling vacancies is how this budget was balanced. Numbers for next budget are short for both the city and school district. Staffing cuts and service reductions will be coming. We as a city have to work together, council, college, school district, chamber of commerce, and economic development need to work together. We are a national defense support city, not the same as other military bases and we are integrated with the base. Started working on solutions, urgent that we correspond with senators and representatives to make them aware of the situation we are facing. Need to seek funding solutions and have done our homework when going into meetings. For the sake of future generations.
- Christina Witt – listening to budget and dire straits everyone is on. Few months ago worried about lights but now talking about revamping sports center. Community center was built by citizens. We could be spending money on more important things and get parents to assist with improving sports facility. The more the government pays, the less the community steps up to help. I want my lights on and streets fixed rather than a sports complex, the last rains destroyed Silveridge. Fixing the streets reduces claims. Not against a sports complex but

am against the government paying for it. If people want it then they should be willing to pay for it, not the government.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Mid-Year Budget Presentation FY2010-11

Staheli

- Tyrell Staheli – gave power point presentation of mid-year status of FY2010-11 budget expenditures and revenues.
- Kurt Wilson – current expenditures are less than anticipated because we don't let staff spend the funds. Staff is cooperating and making it work.
- Jerry Taylor – appreciate the things staff has been doing, are we going to adjust and let staff know where they are?
 - Kurt Wilson – since we have done it already we have no plans to make changes.
- Jerry Taylor – asked Tyrell to do a cumulative chart showing last year and this year.
- Jason Patin – question about the 18% parks and recreation expenditure, is that only expenditure or include revenue and does parks wash?
 - Correct
- Chip Holloway – can the chart separate parks from recreation backing out the revenue from the expenditure?
 - Yes
- Chip Holloway – On page 11 gas taxes, do you have a projection?
 - Tyrell Staheli – receive those from the county
- Chip Holloway – internal service funds – police percentage makes sense, why is public works so high
- Jerry Taylor – clarify parks and recreation, revenue v. costs programs and parks differences
 - Tyrell Staheli – parks is in the red but programs is neutral
- Steve Morgan – different pots of money and what they mean to the different funds, more definition and understanding would be helpful to the general public. We are not in the red.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom Wiknich – need to challenge the programs being a wash, they don't all 'wash' and a blanket statement is not accurate. The general administration does not wash. Ponek and staff and maintenance for facilities costs the programs do not wash.
 - Chip – the way to get that to be lower is to increase programs and bring in more revenue.
- Mike Neel – general fund revenues page lists franchise revenues, trash and taxi, Mediacom, Edison. Would like to see a breakdown. Been told there is a franchise fee/tax levied on the wastewater fund. To my surprise the city is franchise taxing itself, is that a part of these numbers.
 - Tyrell Staheli – ½ of that is here.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion Of A Wal-Mart Letter Of Support For Access From Bataan Avenue As Recommended By Economic Development Committee McRea

- Jim McRea – gave staff report of recommendation from economic development committee to council to issue letter of support for an access avenue for bicycle and pedestrian access and vehicle access from Bataan Ave. to the new super Wal-Mart. Potential amendment to the development plan and other agreements.
- Steve Morgan – community development committee, city agreeing with other property owners that it is to benefit of both properties for access to be allowed. It makes sense to committee the access be granted, even though an issue between private property owners, it is in the benefit to the community and owners.
- Jason Patin – letter not meant to be demand or delay, just recommendation that in best interest of both parties that Wal-Mart consider at some point creating the access. Not meant to put further conditions on Wal-Mart and if this would delay the process then not in agreement. No delay to the project and no expense to the city.
- Jerry Taylor – Wal-Mart has submitted plans and paid fees?
 - Jim McRea – yes, several plans and permit applications have been submitted and paid.
 - Jerry Taylor – support the concept of what is trying to be achieved.

Public Comment

- Jim Falgetter – want to thank council for patience as we went thru this process, thank staff also. Can assure you as property owner, working hard to see what we can do to attract other large businesses to Ridgecrest

Minute Motion To Approve A Letter Of Support Be Forwarded To Wal-Mart Recommending An Access Way Be Added To Allow Pedestrian, Bicycle And Motor Traffic Access From Bataan Avenue To The New Super Wal-Mart Property 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.

3. Discussion And Authorization Of A Letter Of Commitment For AMG and Associates LLC Low Income Set-Aside Housing Project And Recommendation Of Economic Development Committee McRea

- Jim McRea – gave staff report. This is one of three proposals being developed for senior low/moderate and professional affordable housing.
- Jason Patin – think would be beneficial to have AMG give presentation
- Alexis Devorgian – gave overview of projects developed in Ridgcrest and other cities. Planning process has been completed and has unanimous support and has developed a plan that will meet all requests of the planning commission and fire department. Have a plan in place to refund this loan. Gave debt on property numbers. Secured deed of trust to be paid over a period of time. Residual cash flow loan maturity over 30 years with 50% of cash flow going to each party. Have never defaulted on any development loans with RDA, cities, or states. We are ready to develop as soon as approved including street widening and improvements.
- Jason – 50/50 profits pay out and feel you will have a profit the first year?
 - Alexis – cash flow, first mortgage lenders are conservative so 20% of cash flow coming off property to be distributed at 50/50 to each agency. 4 million requests is to be able to show state we are serious about building this project, recognizing council could approve a lower amount we want to be able to go into this with best foot forward. Originally wanted a grant but re-did to be a loan to show state we are committed and to give us an edge in this competitive process.
 - Jason – 3% and 50/50 percent, can we amend these numbers?
 - Alexis – we are open to proposals, could increase interest rate but cannot go beyond an unreasonable rate for public agency.
- Steve – have a concern about the commitment. Was refreshing to hear people speak well of RDA funds and infrastructure. Each RDA has a 20% set-aside funds that must be used for housing, can't be used for roads, lights, sewers, etc. My overall concern is we have \$4million of set-aside funds, don't want to put all of our eggs in one basket. Couple other things is they are talking about paying us back, important but long term. This development is talking about return on investment on the entire 4 million dollars. More inclined to go 2.5 million and leave funds for other developing project, however these gentleman are talking about two phases for senior and entry level housing for young engineers. This

project does both and is encouraging. Meets requirements, can use deviated fixed route as stop for this complex, a lot of positives. Not against the project but am against the entire 4 million, 2.5 million at the most. Has a comment about the placement of the development, seniors do like being between a park and schools. Very please this is being presented.

- Jerry Taylor – is risk really risk, if project is approved at state level, no further risk to our dollars?
 - Alexis – correct, this is conditional commitment.
 - Jerry Taylor – if we lower the amount, will these number change
 - Alexis – no
 - Jerry Taylor – Mr. Morgan implied the second phase will be open to any age group?
 - Alexis – yes, entirely separate project
- Jerry Taylor – relative to 20% set-aside of 4 million, is this part of the TAB money?
 - Jim McRea - no, this is separate available for these types of projects
- Jerry Taylor – senior low income is needed here.
 - Alexis – reason there are two loans is because can use some of these funds road improvements, lighting, curb, sidewalk to improve infrastructure, also fees will be paid out of our total budget, can specifically allocate city's money for specific projects.
- Jerry Taylor – what is your timeline to getting state approval and breaking ground
 - Alexis – application deadline next week, potential award in 60 days and ground breaking approximately 3 months thereafter.
- Jerry Taylor – currently do not have the grading plan for streets and utilities in that area.
- Chip Holloway – last project did not start out as low/mod.
 - Alexis – had to go thru council.
- Chip – had questions pertaining to mortgage costs and number of units.
 - Alexis – committed to do 20 units as part of the 40 total.
- Chip – if assigning a cap rate to the property, what would it be?
 - Alexis – difficult because rent rates are restricted. Generally don't look at cap rates.
- Chip – cash flow projections and Performa
 - Alexis – Gary Parsons has them.
- Chip – costs reviewed, if contingencies not absorbed does it go to the city first?

- Alexis – will have to modify and less costs reduces equity.
- Chip – is this protected if RDA goes away?
 - Jim McRea – won't impact the agreement. Referred to High Desert Haven loans. This is a secured loan.
- Chip – interested in hearing where we could go with the 50/50 split. Would like agency participation for more projects in the future. Let us participate after the 15 year payoff, would you consider city's continued participation in the future.
 - Alexis – biggest hang-up is the total number. Would consider increasing percentage and paying city in perpetuity.
- Chip – if I knew the RDA was going for sure, might be willing to go all in, but at this time feel would be wrong to put all our eggs in one basket.
 - Alexis – want to go in as strong as possible, if council would consider alternatives like reducing the funding and building the other building under other county funding.
- Chip – talking about ACD monies?
 - Jim McRea – presented current information pertaining to ACD funds.
- Chip – we have been trying to access those funds for several years.
 - Alexis – we put a backfilling agreement, if city commits to funding, we would also submit to ACD for funds to backfill the city.
- Ron Carter – support the project but not the 4 million, concern with what state will do with RDA funding. Other proposal mentioned that State would take away our set-aside funds, if we commit to it and then state comes back and requests the funds what do we do.
 - Alexis – have discussed with our attorney's, because we are getting approvals before the abolishment of RDA then we are not concerned to the extent the state makes the determination then we would do whatever they say.
 - Kurt – that is not a proposal from the state. Still scrambling to get the 54 votes, there is language about timing and can't say with 100% guarantee that this will go at the state level.
 - Alexis – willing to live with whatever the state says same issue in other cities and our attorney's willing to work with yours.
- Ron – are these safeguards going to be in the letter?
 - Jim McRea – this is a letter of intent, but write the contract later
- Ron – does this letter commit us?
 - Jim McRea – state will award tax credits based on this letter, if at the last moment can't finish then state does not award the credits. Advantage in

participating. This evening they are asking for a letter of commitment so they can go request the funding.

- Ron – concerned we would have to take funds out of general fund to pay state.
 - Alexis – this is a conditional commitment that we have to bring back to council for document approval. State is fully informed. Second approval for DBA after State decisions.
 - Jim – comes back as owner participation agreement. Can't second guess the state. State may impact the project.
 - Alexis – commit that no proceeds come from general funds.
 - Kurt – in addition to other conditions, you would like a condition that would prevent general funds from being used.
 - Alexis – we will commit to not compel any use of the general funds.

- Jason – if we commit today, we give away our bargaining power?
 - Jim – letter of intent

- Ron – rather ask questions now because in the past it came back at us; don't want it to happen again.

- Jason – want to be clear what that letter means to us.

- Ron – no harm no fowl if we pass this letter
 - Alexis – not sure if we have the opportunity to discuss the amounts today, if the opportunity made we can have more clarity.
 - Kurt – asking to take a break to discuss with staff?

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Norm Stevenson – represent Pacific Development wrote a letter on February 9, 2009. Don't understand why Pacific was not invited. One of three participants invited how you can make a decision tonight without the participation of the other three. Letter of commitment is very powerful. Public needs to know everything. This development is on a major street at Downs near the ball field, charter school and other development. Not sure this is best location for senior development. Is there a traffic study and flood study? Marketing is not best for that site. There are three other participants who all need to be here when council makes the decision. Letter with Performa was sent. We are looking at borrowing 2.1 million and producing more houses. Agree with Mr. Morgan and other about not putting all eggs in one basket. Again think all participants needs to be here.

- Dave Matthews – when I found out about this project in newspaper had concerns. As a senior citizen, have to disagree with you about walk able. What is really walk-able to a senior citizen? Only 1 facility that is walk able, Howards mini mart. Not going to rely on transit system and can't afford a taxi. Senior center is over a mile away. Don't think this is a good location for senior housing. Other concerns are a lot of traffic on that street that needs to be improved, why

are we adding to the mess already in that location. Saw other locations referred to, not clear but don't think there is walk able shopping near them either. Planning commission needs to start looking at this. Would like to see demographics of other cities where seniors don't mind living near a school and ball field.

- Chip – don't want to make a decision tonight. Have we done an analysis for dollars per unit and housing studies? Are we behind on the allocations?
- Jim McRea – study developed by Kern COG doesn't have anything to do with the needs. A guideline of what we are supposed to meet, doesn't say we need those houses. Number we are cognizant of and try to get credits.
- Chip – only way we are trying to address that allocation is the low income housing loan program
- Jim McRea – gave explanation to why the other three programs were not invited. City does have adequate set aside to do two or three projects. Fund is currently approaching 5 million but have previous commitments for about 1 million.
- Jason – all developers have had a shot at this in the process, where in the process are the other companies? To my knowledge it isn't up to staff to urge companies to put in their projects.
 - Jim McRea – other three projects are not the same type of project, different utilizations with different timelines. Not a competition of who gets the money first, tax allocation deadline is April; specific development looking at funding that doesn't go to the state.
- Jason – have the other three started the process?
 - McRea – yes, tentative tract map and letters. Other two are proposals 1-3 months and not ready for funding recommendations.
- Jason – just wanted to understand, just timing that AMG happened to be here first.
- Chip – the 500k coming out of RDA and not set aside so if we fund this at 2.5 million, we would still have 2 million left.
- Ron – what type of commitment for other projects?
- Jim – outlined the commitments currently pending but projects have not come to fruition.
- Ron – if looking at all four, what is the total being asked?

- Jim – recommend 2 and 2.5 which diminish the possibility of award from ACD and may not get funded. If given 4 they have a higher chance of being funded.
- Jerry – when looking at these 4 projects, land write down clarification. May not need all four projects
- Chip – so some funds listed are not coming from set aside. One condition is a traffic study, if can't meet the obligations, then what?
 - Jim – traffic study won't address these issues.
- Jerry – traffic flow out of the school may need a median. Streets development is tied directly to project development. I like this project, not willing to allocate all of the money so others can do projects.
- Jason – if we have chance to get a return on the investment, if whole project goes bad then whatever funds used, we have security to cover it. This is only project brought forward willing to pay it back and work on the numbers, but still feel needs to leave funds for other projects.
 - Alexis – proposal willing to do 60/40 and amend proposed buildings to reduce by one building.

10 minute break

- 2.5 million from the set aside, reducing units to 32 with other 8 as different project. Move agreement to 60/40 and go to 4%.
 - McRea – if awarded tax credit program would come back with the owner participation agreement. Council would see agreement with highlights as a 40 unit project but 32 would be under tax allocation and the others under different funding source. OPA would be back once awards received from state and worked thru redevelopment committee. Promissory note and deed of trust.
- Chip – were agreeing to 60/40 now and they had indicated a perpetual agreement. Would this be done later?
 - Alexis – the 60/40 in perpetual makes it more difficult for us.
- Chip – after payoff then ratio be changes.
 - Alexis – 80/20 after payoff.
- Chip – how do we audit numbers?
 - Alexis – certified audit each year.

Motion To Approve Was Made By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Morgan. 2.5 From Set Aside, 60/40 And 4% Followed By Perpetual 80/20 after Loan

Payoff and Certified Audit. Motion Carried By Voice Vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.

- Kurt Wilson – agreement will come back before council.
- Chip Holloway – can we get the 80/20 perpetual on the other 8?

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Approve Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of March 2, 2011 Ford
5. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 25, 2011 In The Amount Of \$562,161.34 Staheli
6. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 28, 2011 In The Amount Of \$10,693.91 Staheli
7. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 25, 2011 In The Amount Of \$7,064.41 Staheli

Items pulled – none

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Robert Gould – advocate for poor beat up streets, encourage council to approve as much as possible to repair our streets. Other people and projects will be asking for money of the 24 million dollars which would be nice to have but encourage the bulk of funds will be allocated to the needs.
- Dave Matthews – tomorrow is St Patrick's Day, if looking for corned beef and cabbage, knights of Columbus will be serving on west Ridgecrest blvd. On the 19th, St Joseph's day, you get a choice of that or spaghetti and meatballs.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Steve Morgan, Jerry Taylor, Craig Porter, James Sanders
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: April 13, 2011

- Jerry Taylor – met last Tuesday, discussed bike stations on bowman channel bike path, resting locations. Explored street light savings plan. Update on PMS report. Discussed policy for half-street developments. Safe routes to schools in future meetings, downs street circulation,

Quality of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin, Craig Porter, Carter Pope
Meetings: 1st Thursday of every even month at 12:00 p.m.; Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: April 7, 2011

- Jason Patin – last meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

City Organization

Members: Ron Carter, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Christopher LeCornu
Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room
Next meeting: April 19, 2011

- Jerry Taylor – Met yesterday and discussed council committees. Plan coming back later in workshops. Ideas discussed is eliminating council members from committees and using planning commissioners more.
- Ron Carter – appreciated discussions.

Community Development Committee

Members: Steve Morgan, Jason Patin, Christopher LeCornu, James Sanders
Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: April 7, 2011

- Jason Patin – met couple weeks ago and the topic of discussion was the housing project.

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

Members: Ron Carter, Chip Holloway, Ron Strand
Meetings: 2nd Monday of odd numbered months at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: May 9, 2011

- Ron Carter – shifted gears on this committee, originally was a support system for public, at that time focus was on part-time jobs and gangs coming into the community. These problems are no longer there, thanks to our police department. Now will focus on the Teen court which has funding problems and has 80% success rate. It works for first time kids

getting into trouble. Also talking about SARB and keeping kids in school and off the streets. Conflict resolution at Mesquite High School and CHAMPS program. This is all budget related and am requesting a line item in police department. Had standing room only, good turnout

Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin

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

Next meeting: April 6, 2011 and location to be announced

- Chip Holloway – not met

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- Steve Morgan – Kern COG meeting tomorrow night. Transit claims on the agenda. Item on SB325 which we passed a support resolution for which will be discussed by the COG. Also officer elections.
- Jerry Taylor – met jointly with Kern County, school district, college and navy for fiber optics along 395.
- Chip Holloway – accepted resource conservation district board member position. Working on a grant for the fiber optics. Current budget is zero and board may be in jeopardy.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

- Invitation to select committee on high speed rails if going to be in Madera tomorrow.
- This Friday is solar park ribbon cutting at 9am.
- Committee structures discussion we have the opportunity to look at Ad Hoc committees. We had outsourced service presentations for you but now need to figure out the next steps. Challenging for most members of staff to have participation. Recommendation is to have next step taken by council members, two members with interest and want to move forward with a topic to get more information and decide which direction we should go. Staff support will be available but things would move faster if council.

Ad Hoc Committees established to research possible outsource projects and report back to Council:

- ❖ *Building Inspector – Steve Morgan and Jerry Taylor*
- ❖ *Grants – Chip Holloway and Jason Patin*
- ❖ *HR – Ron Carter and Chip Holloway*
- ❖ *Other – Jerry Taylor and Ron Carter*

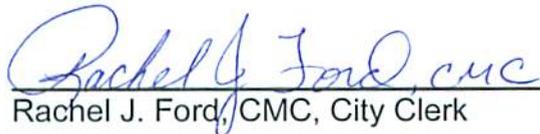
MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Ron – thank you to citizens, who came out and spoke with us, helps us in the decisions we make. Excited about government agency partnerships going on, good communication.
- Chip – want to congratulate little league teams that started play last weekend. Encourage citizens to attend and support our youth. Former council member wanted us to make a philosophical statement regarding RDA, in my mind there would be a ratio split and important to me is the return on investment for those dollars. Agree the majority should go to streets and believe the council is the same. The entire amount will not go to streets as there are other projects that have been neglected. On positive note, Red Fridays support our troops by wearing Red every Friday until our troops come home. Daily independent will begin recognizing groups who wear red every Friday. Chamber is on board and positive the news review will support.
- Jerry – great program, also attend the Seabees ball; there was a soldier in attendance who had volunteered for World War II. Opening days of youth sports, great events. Fundraisers, Burroughs is showing Les Miserable or the folly's are going on Saturday. Always something to do in Ridgecrest. Jason signed up for Navy League.
- Steve – Ridgecrest tax allocation bonds has support for streets. Very pleased, but want to remind public about 3 other items brought forward over the years, measure Q, N, & I which all included infrastructure projects and were voted down. We could have done a lot earlier with your help. Have concern, read in newspaper during baseball celebration, statement of pony division field being dedicated to Evan Etoch. Those fields belong to the City of Ridgecrest and this is the time to re-write that contract. That group needs to understand that we own those fields, even though we appreciate the help they give with those fields but changes need to go thru the city. Asking quality of life to bring forward a new agreement. Not saying I disagree with what they did but they need to ask permission. Also, city of Ridgecrest considers it a navy community; read in the paper that one of our local team members, NJROTC, is being disbanded. Will be looking into this, the numbers and staff position have been cut from the school district budget. Here are a bunch of young men and women who are supporting our community and doing the right thing, yet because of a bean counter in the department of the navy are being disbanded. I am going to work to change this. Meeting on Friday at 6pm to try and gain as much information as possible which will relay to council. Maybe I'm not thinking correctly, but you have a high school named after the first commander of the base and fight song is 'Anchors Aweigh' and not fighting for that program is incorrect. If I have to put together fundraisers to keep this program alive then I'll do it, these kids deserve our support.
 - Ron – agree and will help. Need to get a letter off to Kevin McCarthy.
 - Jerry – ask staff to reach out to Naval facility and get command support.

- Jason – baseball opening day, young girl singing national anthem, she froze up about 2 sentences into it. Soon heard crowd begin singing the national anthem with this little girl. Started with the players. This community lifts each other up. As for RDA bond funds, everybody knows we need to fix the streets, but there are other issues that need our attention too. Concerned with the parks issue, they are part of our infrastructure and we have to maintain them. Agree that a majority of the funds needs to go to streets but also need to focus on other infrastructure needs. Would like former council member to remember that he was on the council when those funds were first received. Also the partnering with the school district, don't know what happened in the past. Agree we have to be careful but are a good idea and plan. An opportunity to pool resources to support the youth of the community. Happy birthday to Steve Morgan and happy St. Patrick's Day. Thanks to Cathy Armstrong for the boutonnières.
- Chip – made special trip to testify in front of senate budget committee. Found out today Senator Rubio did a great deal of supporting China Lake and east kern, if anybody has time, send email Michael@change kern.org as he voted no on RDA abolishment. We need to give him our support.

Reconvened to closed session

ADJOURNMENT


Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk