



**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 2, 2011  
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 Ronald H. Carter; Mayor Pro-Tem Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Vice Mayor Jerry D. Taylor; Council Member Steven P. Morgan; and Council Member Jason Patin

**STAFF:** Kurt Wilson, City Manager; Ricca Charlon, Recording Secretary; Keith Lemieux, City Attorney and other personnel

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- No changes with the exception of closed session cancellation and attorney comments

*Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended 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.*

**CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m. CANCELLED**

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.

GC54956.9 (B) Conference with Legal Counsel, Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure of Litigant may prejudice the City of Ridgecrest

**PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION**

- No closed session held this evening

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS -**

- Closed Session
  - No closed session held this evening
- Other
  - No other report

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Christina Witt – Concerned that Ridgecrest Charter School on Downs has traffic issues in regards to 'right turn only' lane needed. She wants to know who she can address this issue with.
  - Jerry Taylor said they would put this item on the next infrastructure committee meeting.
  - Ron Carter suggested have school contact police to come out and address the issue
- Jim Rachels – Concerned the trash issue is getting too quiet lately. Feels it is being swept under the rug due to arbitration. Addressed issue with his bins taken in December by Benz due to nonpayment of his bill. He contacted City Manager regarding his right to arbitration with Benz and he has heard nothing to date and it is approximately 3 months later. He still has the same dispute and no trash bins and wants arbitration. He says that billing disputes cannot wait till arbitration with Benz v. City is over. He is asking City Manager to step in and arbitrate. Mr. Rachels wants direction from city. He intends to not pay his bill and wants an answer. He states the people need direction and leadership.
  - City Attorney Lemieux stated that he agrees with Mr. Rachels. Per the Benz contract the City Manager does have power to arbitrate Benz issues. Benz is arguing this and now the issue of arbitration is in front of the arbitrator.
- Howard Auld – spoke regarding News Review article. He found interesting the '21.5M in expenses, balanced by 14M in revenues from services and 16.1M in tax revenues' – he stated in some amazement 'where did numbers come from?' He is concerned about the deficit and future plan to grow reserve. He has talked with O'Neill from the base, Kevin McCarthy, and others about this issue. He states Jodie Rummer and Jill Board from the College paint a dire need as well with cuts eminent. He wants to address efforts going forward to solve the problem suggesting it is time for some sort of 'summit meeting' where key players (i.e. City, schools, government officials, etc.) attend. Some sort of a forum where the situation can be better explained and sum up solutions needed. What CAN be done? He stated the City has got to be politically sophisticated and solve this.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### 1. Unmet Needs Public Hearing

Speer

- Speer gave staff report.
  - Jerry Taylor – asked if local taxi service included in report?
    - Speer – Yes, they are considered.
  - Patin – asked if City still has dial a ride system?
    - Speer – Yes, it is still dial a ride system.
- Dave Mathews – Spoke regarding transit map in Council packet. Map included base behind the gate and he was wondering what the procedure to use that service and go on base is? Pass still needed to go on base?
  - Speer – Yes, individual using the service still required to have a base pass.

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Establishing A Finding For Transit Unmet Needs That Is Reasonable To Meet With The Public Transportation System 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.*

## DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

### 2. Implementation Plan For The General and The Strategic Plan Presentation By Craig Porter, Chairman Of The Ridgecrest Planning Commission

J. Taylor

- Craig Porter – Informed Council that this presentation is part of maintaining the implementation of the General Plan and is a required, informational annual report. He stated the zoning ordinance and housing element (last update 2002) are both in need of being updated. He then proceeded with slide presentation.
- Steve Morgan – thanked staff for bringing this forward as more information is always needed. He asked staff to resend Planning Commission (PC) implementation measures .pdf to council.
- Jerry Taylor- thanked staff also for presentation. He asked that the list go back to PC staff and be taken further down in prioritization due to budget limitations.
- Chip Holloway – commented on the ‘daunting and unrealistic list for a 2012 deadline’. Suggested PC needs to do an exercise like CC strategic planning to break down list and prioritize.
- Ron Carter – would like to see economic development committee work with this and prioritize and give guidance to council. Praised PC for a thorough and good job.
- Jason Patin – agreed the General plan and zoning don’t match. Asked if consultant necessary and if so, can RDA money be used to pay for consultant?
  - Jim McRea – No, RDA funds cannot be used; it would have to be General fund money.
  - Matthew Alexander – stated staff could look at working with KCOG as is is mostly a mapping chore.

**3. Discussion Of Proposed Agenda Topics For A Council Workshop Scheduled To Be Conducted On March 8, 2011** J. Taylor

- Jerry Taylor – What are expectations of meeting?
  - Kurt Wilson – not anticipating any votes needed from council merely informative. Requesting input from council on 3 topics 1) Grants – current path of how we do grants? 2) Building Inspector – realistic for in house person? Could a firm be beneficial? 3) Human resource practices – current direction department follows working? Presentation material requested by morning of 7<sup>th</sup> to allow review by Council. Meeting will be open to the public.
- Steve Morgan – Since this is a first look at only some of the important issues, will there be follow up meeting?
  - Kurt Wilson- yes, these issues are being brought forward only due to their readiness at this time compared to the entire list.

**4. Strategic Plan Workshop For Tax Allocation Bond Projects And Associated Projects** McRea

- Jim McRea – presentation is an overview. Cycle 1 contains 9 projects; Cycle 2 projects require more time; Cycle 3 contains the remaining suggested projects. Tonight's minute action involves requesting action only on cycle 1 remembering that this motion is for allocations not expenditures.
- Ron Carter – in his opinion the Sierra Sands joint use option is important and beneficial.
- Line item 4
  - Jim McRea - Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) funding not likely.
  - Morgan- agrees good use.
  - Taylor- this item needs to be updated.
- Line items 6-13.
  - Jerry Taylor- wants to mention that college heights streets noted on chart is part of Wal-Mart agreement not necessarily worst streets. Staff does need to add more to this list of roads in town needing repair, especially Bowman road project continuing further east due to flooding should be looked at (add to infrastructure agenda?)
- Line item 15
  - Jerry Taylor- expressed an issue with using this much money for corporate yards. Wants to ensure that the best possible deal will be used not necessarily to the max amount allocated.
  - Steve Morgan – sighted Corp yard project is future planning as current facilities not adequate for space. Possibility of partnering with school and cost savings on equipment could be involved and beneficial and this is vitally needed within the City.

- Kurt Wilson – discussions regarding partnering with schools, hospital, etc. is being openly appreciated within the community.
- Jason Patin – questioned whether improvement included expanding?
- Chip Holloway – this is huge opportunities to gain efficiencies within the community, need to look at every option on this.
- Line items 19 – 20
  - Steve Morgan – Agrees with these items, wants to move forward and increase traffic, get businesses, and create revenue. It is vital we step up and promote our 'image'.
  - Jerry Taylor – less money?
  - Jason Patin – what will the 500,000 be used for? Needs to be more specific as he cannot see that entire dollar amount being needed.
- Line item 23-26
  - Jason Patin – feels Council should be careful here. This money needs to go to fix current facilities not make new ones. Parks are part of infrastructure in his opinion. We need to look at who is going to maintain these facilities?
  - Steve Morgan – this is our opportunity to fix issues, notably KMYSC football field. Agrees with Patin on fixing current facilities. Consolidated green space becoming increasingly more important with current and future water issues.
  - Jerry Taylor- are we maintaining or building new? Need to be careful of current definition and the use of funds - spend wisely.
  - Chip Holloway – city needs to think of what is efficient and progressive looking forward. Agrees with Jason on fixing current facilities not building new.
  - Ron Carter – introduced the idea of adding to first cycle lights for high school facility.
  - Kurt Wilson – we all serve same population, how can we make that better? All fields need a chance to rest for revitalization; BHS has gone through re modernization and background work has been done for this project to move forward. Wants to partner with school district and have joint use facility.
  - Steve Morgan – likes concept wants to see contract. What is the % of use that will be allowed by city?
  - Jerry Taylor – talked with Dave Ostach and agrees it is a great opportunity. Wants to see agreement as well.
  - Chip Holloway – sees this as a leverage of resources and this is a great opportunity.
  - Ron Carter – Citizens want to see all agencies work together. This will open the door and meet all needs. Fully supports this and encourages staff to staff working on MOU and consider putting in first cycle.
  - Jim McRea – asked 'so understand that Council wants to change 4.2M of P&R money to 5M to accommodate?'
- Taylor – concern that line item 52 (pool) not in first cycle considering issues last budget cycle with pool and timing. Will pool survive budget process?

- Ron Carter recommends QOL look at pool being considered in first cycle and bring recommendation back. The QOL needs to discuss how the pool should be addressed; either by expanding first cycle dollar amount for P&R or reallocating money.
- Chip Holloway – concerned cycle approach might eliminate soul source one company bid process?
  - McRea - not necessarily

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ronald porter – regarding Corp yard – wants to see plans, general overview and desires/wish list first so not to have to pay twice for process. In regards to Downs park – wants to see overall 30 yr generalized plan of use. Regarding school district – again, wants plan of what is being proposed. Council needs to address a ten yr maintenance plan on anything before we build, what are long term costs? Wants to see with pool what maintenance is needed now and what expected life of pool is.
- Dave Mathews – is it true this is only to do planning and study of projects? What is next step to actually starting? Wants to make sure that there is still a process that the public can come and make comments. Regarding co-ops City needs to consider county in co-ops for future uses. Concerned with lights for Parks make sure to reduce and / or eliminate glare problem.
  - Kurt Wilson – Professional Service Agreements (PSA) will come back to council and subject to public comments as an agenda item.
- Roy Parris – considering turn off of water and funding of maintenance (i.e. Helmers, medians) he is surprised with talk of putting money into these parks considering these facts. Pool is as important as some of other park projects since it has been out of date for many years. Keep all options open in this initial stage.
- Brad Bays –IWVYB Vice President–likes what is being said about local parks and the TAB money usage. Thanked City for purchasing Landry property. Addressed building of a new concession stand and its importance to the leagues the use the complex. Concession sales are what keep costs/registration fees down. A season sales total would be approximately 30-40K. He believes some local contractors would be willing to help City in the construction and keep costs down.
- Mike Neel – read the definition for use of RDA funds which are by law are for elimination of blight. Regarding the Gantt chart he feels what is missing is a prioritized list of street repairs needed. Council needs to look to the future. Council needs to put street repairs on this list and have some other items removed.

*Minute Motion To Authorize Staff To Begin Implementation of Specific Projects Listed on Gantt Chart With Addition of Three Additional Projects To Include 1) 600,000 for joint use with school district; 2) 300,000 for professional services and master plan for Parks and Recreation; and 3) 800,000 for consideration in use at Pinney Pool made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.*

## CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Approve A Resolution For Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Annexation McRea
6. Recommendation For The Appointment Of New Members To The Old Town Action Plan Committee (OTAP) McRea
7. Approve A Resolution Authorizing A Letter Of Support From The Ridgecrest City Council In Favor Of SB325 Be Forwarded To 16<sup>th</sup> District Senator The Honorable Michael Rubio Wilson
8. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Authorizing The Disability Retirement Of Sworn Safety Member Douglas Plumhoff Strand
9. Approve A Resolution Listing Proclamations For The Month of March and Announcing The Date And Time for Presentation - Senior and Junior Blue Jacket of the Year Awards Ford
10. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of February 16, 2011 Ford
11. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 11, 2011 In The Amount Of \$1,378,531.55 Staheli
12. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 11, 2011 In The Amount Of \$2,500.00 Staheli

### **ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- Ron Porter # 5 – Is the 37.5 % standard amount of annexation?
  - Jim McRea- yes.
- Howard Auld #7 – What is SB325?
  - Steve Morgan – does not have much to do with Ridgecrest necessarily but Tulare County and beyond. Deals with short haul rail trains.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Barbara Auld – Invited Council to Armed Forces Day May 21<sup>st</sup>. Event will combine 100th anniversary of Naval Aviation and 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United States entry into WWII.
- Dave Matthews – mentioned DI article regarding Frank Buckles, recently passed at 110 yrs old. Mentioned to Aulds he should be included in Armed Forces Day. Praised City for Norma street paving.

## **DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Infrastructure Committee**

Members: Steve Morgan, Jerry Taylor, Craig Porter, James Sanders  
Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

- Jerry Taylor – next meeting Wednesday at 3pm – PMS will be presented

### **Quality of Life**

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin, Craig Porter, Carter Pope  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every even month at 12:00 p.m.; Kerr-McGee Center

- Jason Patin – did not meet due to no quorum. Next meeting April 7<sup>th</sup> - 12 noon

### **City Organization**

Members: Ron Carter, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Christopher LeCornu  
Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

- Jerry Taylor – March 15<sup>th</sup> 5pm – working on committee structures

### **Community Development Committee**

Members: Steve Morgan, Jason Patin, Christopher LeCornu, James Sanders  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

- Jason Patin – meeting tomorrow 3/3/11 @ 3pm upstairs

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

Members: Ron Carter, Chip Holloway, Ron Strand  
Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of odd numbered months at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center

- Ron Carter – March 14<sup>th</sup> 3pm time change if possible for Chief Strand to attend

## **OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

- KCOG awards tomorrow in Bakersfield.
- RACVB – Holloway – The RACVB has been approved to receive a 2010-2011 Kern County Tourism Promotion Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for a Ridgecrest Area Interactive Kiosk Project. Doug Lueck is working with Brian Voigt Distribution to develop indoor business racks and outdoor street boxes at different locations north and south of Ridgecrest to display Ridgecrest Area tourism brochures. On February 16<sup>th</sup> Lueck along with Gary Parsons from the City of Ridgecrest attended the Friends of Jawbone meeting; State OHV grants were discussed and explained. Lueck provided copies of the new RACVB Visitors Guide, the Sun Runner Magazine and the new California Visitors Guide. The RACVB will be attending the Los Angeles Times Travel and Adventure Show March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>; the Wildflower Festival will be the main highlight. February had 4 days of filming generating \$230,000.00 in film revenue. Next RACVB meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2011, 8:00am; location to be announced.
- IWVWD Board of Management – Taylor – Joint meetings suspended due to lack of consensus on making joint agreement

## **CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS**

- Wilson – Solar fields moving along, approximate finish date of March 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Partnership with base job fair at Kerr McGee on May 25th

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Patin – wants citizens to know trash issue is moving forward. In regards to RDA money looking forward to second go around with more input and suggestions and delving deeper. Thank Planning Commission for presentation. This Saturday is IWVYS at 4pm opening day at Knox Field on base. Following Saturday is IWVYB opening day at 9am. Thanked Aulds for ongoing efforts.
- Morgan – will be at IMVYS not at IWVYB. Addressed recent letters to editor regarding aircraft flights over Ridgecrest. Staff aware of differences in General Plan and Zoning, we are working on it. In regards to trash- citizens pay your bill till this is resolved like it or not it is a process that must take place. Not because city sued but because Benz sued. Happy to see TAB funds moving forward and looking forward to seeing real numbers. Just because we let contracts does not mean they will be funded. Speers we need to be spot on for this as some projects moved from/to TAB funds and City needs to build list so public can see full scale of road improvements. Primary one that cannot get forgotten is W. Ridgecrest blvd – it is a great thing to spend 1Million and get an 11Million dollar project - without this project being ready we would have lost KCOG funding.

- Taylor –thanked Ponak for youth programs. Regarding vote earlier loved what he heard earlier from Mr. Bays and their credibility with public we need to deal with infrastructure of City. Master plan of P&R should have been presented first and this is the reason for his vote. Banner program-work with Aulds as roll out day. Appreciate Aulds
- Holloway – thanked Aulds for energy regarding Armed Forces Day. Mentioned recruiting of BRAC process and the impact on the City. Issue regarding dissolving RDA is problematic visit Protectourlocaleconomy.com. China lake technology alliance meeting scheduled with city and moving forward. Great example of how military uses can be nontraditional outside the fence technologies. Energy symposiums to eliminate alternative technologies possible in our region; Major event this summer or fall; Meetings are getting bigger. Congrats to Nathan Ahle on marriage.
- Carter – thanks colleagues on input for TAB projects. Happy about potential partnerships with other agencies. Everything talked about tonight is QOL issues; everyone wants to see money put into roads but there are other issues as well and happy to see moving forward. Thank the Aulds for their focus within the City.

**ADJOURNMENT 9:45pm**



Ricca Charlon  
Ricca Charlon, Recording Secretary