



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

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

**May 4, 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;
and Council Member Jason Patin

ARRIVING LATE: Council Member Steven P. Morgan

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Jerry D. Taylor

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

GC54956.9 (A) Conference With Legal Counsel; Existing Litigation; City Of Ridgecrest V. Benz Sanitation, Inc.

GC54956.8 Redevelopment Agency Real Property Negotiations excess properties. Agency Negotiators, Kurt Wilson and James McRea

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- No comments presented by public

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- Closed Session
 - Met in closed session for matter identified as city of Ridgecrest v. Benz. Received report, no action taken
 - Met to discuss matter identified as excess properties. Received report, no action taken
- Other
 - No other reports presented by City Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Renee Westalusk – Thanked council and community members who took time to testify in redistricting hearing. Redistricting committee heard 14 testimonies. Provided council a list of continued actions and hearing dates including letter campaign. Gave tips for letters to show Ridgecrest involvement in Kern County. Contact information for letters was provided. Asked for help from newspapers and public to write letters and attend hearings. Looking for volunteers to help monitor hearing calendars and attend other county's meetings.
 - Ron Carter – thanked Renee for her assistance in bringing redistricting information to council and for her hard work.
- Harris Brokke – attended the redistricting hearing with emphasis on arts council and tourism for the community. Encouraged people to send letters and offered information of a sample letter available at chamber of commerce.
 - Steve Morgan – Provided copies of the chamber newsletter and thanked chamber for their involvement. Noted that the front page of Chamber newsletter has letter writing information.
- Dave Matthews – Attended redistricting hearing and stated he was one of the voters for redistricting the amendment and getting redistricting out of the hands of the legislature, however the process is not happening as was envisioned. Presented the idea of the state of California having all districts apportioned to the counties boundaries and dividing seats available on basis of population to counties and allow counties to split them up. Stated this would be a more Fair process.

- Barbara Auld – attended the business part of redistricting hearing on Sunday. Stated that this process occurs every 10 years and was surprised in the Daily Independent comments. Noted that the proposed redistricting would adversely affect both school district and college who are now sending letters because their offices are in Bakersfield and redistricting Ridgecrest to another county would cause the school districts to do double duty. Noted this as one item of how closely Ridgecrest and Bakersfield, which is our county seat, are connected. Encouraged community to vote to keep the present boundaries connected to Bakersfield. Commented that the Ridgecrest community needed to send a flood of letters to the committee and state and reminded public that the Commission does not want to see status quo in the letters but specific reasons for maintaining the present district lines. Thanked council for their support in this district.
 - Ron Carter – thanked Barbara for her time and effort to help coordinate this issue.
- Howard Auld – stated that Ridgecrest is connected to west Kern County thru multiple county seat functions. Gave an abbreviated list including fire, recorder, waste management, LAFCO, Kern COG, air pollution control district, superior court, etc. Encouraged the commission to keep Kern County whole and allow Ridgecrest to remain integral with Kern County.
- Barbara Auld – Reminded public they were working very hard to get armed forces day going and presented flyers to council.
- Ron Carter – requested council discuss sending a letter or resolution to the redistricting commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Recommendation For Modifying The Appointment Of Planning Commissioners To The City Organization Committee McRea
2. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting And Reaffirming The City's Annual Statement Of Investments And Delegating The Authority To Make Such Investments To The City Treasurer Staheli
3. Accept For File The Investment Reports For Quarter Ending March 31, 2011 Staheli
4. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Announcing Proclamations Prepared For The Month Of May 2011 And Scheduled Date Of Presentation Ford
 - ❖ *Be Kind To Animals Week – May 1-7, 2011*
 - ❖ *Child Care Providers Appreciation Month – May 2011*
 - ❖ *Ridgecrest Honors National Police Week – May 15-21, 2011*
5. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated April 22, 2011 In The Amount Of \$376,684.44 Staheli

6. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated April 22, 2011 In The Amount Of \$4,013.88 Staheli

PULLED ITEMS

- Item 2 by Dave Matthews

Motion To Approve Consent Calendar With Item 3 Removed Was Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent (Council Member Taylor)

ITEM 2 DISCUSSIONS

- Dave Matthews – Inquired as to who the city treasurer that was mentioned in the resolution. Commented that the City treasurer title is not anywhere on the website and suggested that it be eliminated from the resolution.
 - Tyrell Staheli – responded that the City Treasurer title is outlined in both our municipal code and the government code.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting And Reaffirming The City's Annual Statement Of Investments And Delegating The Authority To Make Such Investments To The City Treasurer Was Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 1 Absent (Council Member Taylor)

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

7. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of City Of Ridgecrest Repealing Resolution No. 11-05 And Calling For A Municipal Election To consider The Direct Election Of A Mayor And Determining The Term Of The Mayor So Elected Ford

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No member of the council made comments.
- Tom Wiknich – informed council he was available as the proponent if there were any questions about the resolution.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of City Of Ridgecrest Repealing Resolution No. 11-05 And Calling For A Municipal Election To Consider The Direct Election Of A Mayor And Determining The Term Of The Mayor So Elected Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Morgan . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent (Council Member Taylor).

8. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of City Of Ridgecrest Repealing Resolution No. 11-06 And Calling For A Municipal Election To Set Term Limits For City Council Members And Mayor Ford

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No member of the council made comments.
- Tom Wiknich – informed council he was available as the proponent if there were any questions about the resolution.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of City Of Ridgecrest Repealing Resolution No. 11-06 And Calling For A Municipal Election To Set Term Limits For City Council Members And Mayor Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Morgan . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, and 1 Absent (Council Member Taylor).

9. Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Services Agreement With Helt Engineering, Inc. For Surveying And Geotechnical Services Along With The Preparation Of Plans, Specifications, Bidding Documents And Construction Cost Estimate For The Alley Way Between City Hall And The South 100 Block Of South China Lake Blvd. And To Authorize The City Manager To Execute This Agreement Speer

- Dennis Speer – Gave staff report. Included purpose and background. Noted that the alley is utilized daily and does not meet city standards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dave Matthews – has observed the deterioration of the alley for years which has been accelerated by building the motel. Asked if the costs for reconditioning were being spread among business owners utilizing the alley.
 - Jim McRea – Responded that no costs were being spread on development cost of the motel. The purpose of economic development was defined and expanded on the purpose of TOT revenues.
- Howard Auld – encouraged the council to “go for it”.

Motion To Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Services Agreement With Helt Engineering, Inc. For Surveying And Geotechnical Services Along With The Preparation Of Plans, Specifications, Bidding Documents And Construction Cost Estimate For The Alley Way Between City Hall And The South 100 Block Of South China Lake Blvd. And To Authorize The City Manager To Execute This Agreement 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 Taylor).

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom Wiknich – Reminded Council and public of The Friends of the NRA dinner at Kerr McGee. Ticket sales ongoing. Stated the funds raised were used locally for the community

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Steve Morgan, Jerry Taylor, Craig Porter, James Sanders
Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: May 12, 2011

- Council Member Morgan – Made not of the modified meeting date as listed.

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: June 2, 2011

- Council Member Patin –Gave next meeting date and time.

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: May 17, 2011

- Council Member Carter – Gave next scheduled meeting date.

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: May 5, 2011

- Council Member Patin – Gave next scheduled meeting date.

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

- Council Member Carter – next meeting cancelled due schedule conflict.

Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin
Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month, 8:00 a.m.
Next meeting: June 1, 2011 and location to be announced

- Council Member Holloway – read directors report, copy on file with the city clerk.
 - RACVB Executive Director Doug Lueck briefed Board members on the following items:
 - On May 2nd the RACVB received a \$10,000.00 grant from the 2010-2011 Kern County Tourism Promotion Grant. The grant funds will be used for a Kern County Interactive Visitor Kiosk that will provide visitors with information about the Ridgecrest area and the rest of Kern County.
 - Lueck traveled to Lone Pine on April 7th to meet with the Lone Pine Chamber CEO, Kathleen New, to discuss getting more visibility for Ridgecrest in the Lone Pine area; it was agreed that more Ridgecrest area tourism information would be made available at various locations throughout Lone Pine.
 - Lueck provided copies of the new 2011 Death Valley Visitors Guide which includes an inside cover, full page advertisement listing Ridgecrest hotels and museums. A Ridgecrest advertisement will also appear in the 4th Edition of the Inyo County Visitors Guide.
 - Scott Seymour of Inyokern Airport is working with Lueck to develop a plan to make visitor information easily accessible for arriving travelers; the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert and Mark Pahuta are assisting with this endeavor.
 - The Long Beach Convention Center will play host to the 2012 Los Angeles Travel & Adventure Show; the RACVB will be attending the 2012 show January 14-15.
 - Lueck will attend the 2011 Pow Wow in San Francisco May 20-25.
 -
 - April had 3 days of filming generating \$55,000.00 in film revenue.
 - “Priest”, the feature film that filmed in the Ridgecrest area opens in theaters on May 13th.
 - Next RACVB meeting: Wednesday, June 1, 2011, 8:00am at the Best Western China Lake Inn Conference Room.

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- Council Member Morgan – Kern COG approved a letter to be written expressing collaboration and to be approved in May at board meeting. Expect to have letter to redistricting commission.
- Council Member Holloway – Reported the Desert Mountain Division met the previous week and discussed Redevelopment. Also City PAC committee fundraiser grossed \$130,000.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

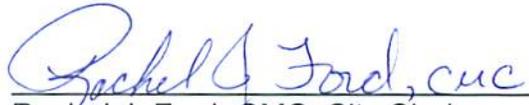
- No report

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Council Member Patin – thanked everyone who participated in redistricting meeting. Especially Renee. Fellow council members attended and thanked them for their participation. Many reasons to stay where we are and encouraged public to write the letters. Gave chamber phone number. Welcomed and Congratulated the new CEO at the fairgrounds. Noted he would be attending the NRA dinner. Spring Fair in town this weekend. Reminded council that both He and Chip would not be at the next council meeting due to commitments in Sacramento. “Happy 20th wedding anniversary to my wife. Thank you for your support.”
- Council Member Morgan – attended CA Council of Governments meeting. Discussed transportation issues and will hopefully begin lobbying but is not on the agenda for this year. Tonight heard a couple of comments about RACVB and Chamber. Reminded public that these bodies are an extension of the City’s arm and that is why we support them. To the News Review, would appreciate equal time, they printed one thing I said but did not print the apology given the same evening. Regarding the TAB programs, it is impossible to create a list of everything we need to do. To state there is no direction or understanding is a false statement. Encouraged public to attend the Desert Empire Fair and come by the non-profit booths, by attending the fair you help keep a viable facility in our community. The fairground is a valuable piece of property that we as a community utilized. Also, wished a speedy recovery to Mr. Taylor. “Jerry behave yourself, take it easy.”
- Council Member Holloway – wished Jerry the best and noted that he can still type emails. Stated that he had called Mike at the fairgrounds and congratulated him and informed public that he is putting a community resident adhoc committee together to improve the fair and our community. Noted that this year’s attendance would send a message to the state and encouraged public to attend and let the State know that our fairgrounds is important to us and we want to see it remain intact. Requested council put a resolution together for redistricting and commented that by not attending the hearings allow people to make false statements against us. Stated that there were no articles in our local papers and that he has not received the press releases. Comments on Prop 22 and RDA funds, legal opinion states governor’s proposal is illegal, but need to support senators bill. According to reports it went to committee this morning but nothing has happened yet.

- Council Member Carter – we have a consensus for a resolution against redistricting. Thanked all community members and leaders who showed up to support this community at the redistricting hearing. Regarding comments made in the papers, made correction to statement of fair share of taxes from county. If we have to go to LA County we won't get our fair share, same with San Bernardino. Asked all members of the community to please write letters and give comments to the commission supporting Ridgecrest remain with the rest of Kern County. Wants to overflow the commission with letters and reminded public to give specific reasons like those presented by tonight's speakers who each covered different ground. Again, please send letters and the contact information is available at chamber and city website. Thanked public participation at tonight's council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:17 pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk