

**MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY/HOUSING
AUTHORITY/FINANCING AUTHORITY - REGULAR**

August 15, 2012

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RIDGECREST CITY. SUCCESSOR AGENCY,
FINANCING AUTHORITY, AND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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

**August 15, 2012
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

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Ronald H. Carter; Mayor Pro-Tem Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Vice Mayor Jerry D. Taylor; Council Members Steven P. Morgan and Jason Patin

Staff Present: City Manager Kurt O. Wilson; City Clerk Rachel J. Ford; City Attorney Keith Lemieux; and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Add ROPS resolution to consent calendar

Motion To Add ROPS Resolution To The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Motion To Approve Agenda (As Amended) Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

No members of the public presented comment

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CLOSED SESSION

- GC54956.9(A) Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. City Of Ridgecrest v. Benz Sanitation, Inc.
- GC54956.9(B) Conference With Legal Counsel, Liability Claim Of Maria Tripp, Claim No. 12-05
- GC54956.9(A) Conference With Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation – County Of Kern v. City Of Ridgecrest
- GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations – negotiation for lease APN 419-073-16-00 located at 1521 N. China Lake Blvd - Agency Negotiator Kurt Wilson, City Manager.
- GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations – United Food and Commercial Workers Golden State 8 (UFCW); Police Employee Association of Ridgecrest (PEAR); Management; Mid-Management; Confidential; Part-Time Employees. Agency Negotiator City Manager Kurt Wilson
- GC54957 Personnel Matters – Public Employee – City Manager

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Benz – no report
 - Maria Tripp – notice of rejection
 - County of Kern – settlement action item No. 7
 - Real property negotiations – item no. 8 pulled
 - Union negotiations – no reportable action
 - Interim City Manager – action will be taken in Item No. 11
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harris Brokke

- 50th anniversary celebration of Maturango museum invitation extended to council and public
- Request for proclamation

Randy Jenkins

- Interim City Manager suggestion of Jim McRea

Sophia Merck

- Thanked Council for support of CAPA process and motorcycle trails
- Presented letter regarding the CAPA process

Dave Matthews

- Referenced last Friday's article in daily independent regarding southern California Edison flex power.
- Discussion of cooling centers with website listing but nothing in Ridgecrest.
- Asked why Ridgecrest did not have cooling centers and encouraged Council to activate the cooling centers.

Manual Farmer

- Mentioned agreements for youth sports leagues and questioned what would happen with the budget allocations once the fields are turned over to the leagues for maintenance.

Henry Wilson

- Spoke on the cooling center past experience and PACT volunteer staffing.
- Other volunteers needed to assist with the centers.

PRESENTATION

1. **John Dukes And Representatives Of The Sister City Organization Will Present A Plaque To The Mayor From Tepatitlan** Ford

Tepatitlan Jalisco presented a plaque to Mayor Ronald H. Carter recognizing Ridgecrest participation in the Sister City Organization

- 1a. **Special Presentation Of Appreciation To City Manager Kurt Wilson By Council**

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approve A Resolution Updating The City Of Ridgecrest Alcohol & Drug Policy To Remain Compliant With Federal Department Of Transportation Regulations Speer
3. Approve A Resolution Of Intention Amending The Contract Between The City Of Ridgecrest And The Board Of Supervisors For The California Public Employee Retirement System Wilson
4. Approve Authorization To Expend \$1,000.00 Of Unallocated General Funds To Support The Local Veteran's Stand-Down Event Wilson
5. Approve Draft Minutes Of Council Meeting Dated July 18, 2012 Ford

5a. Approval Of Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule.

Items Pulled:

- Item 2

Motion To Approve Consent Calendar (As Amended) Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Item 2 Discussion:

Jerry Taylor

- Concern of issues with legal drugs that can impair performance.
 - Dennis Speer – anything other than what is in this policy should be addressed in the personnel rules. This policy is mandated by the department of transportation.
- Requested employees be properly educated about the ambient drugs.

Steve Morgan

- Mentioned exhibit showing form of over the counter medications and expect that to be part of the program of education for employees.
- Expect to continue things done in the past and looking forward to having education occur.

Ron Carter

- There is a provision for prescription drugs which requires disclosure if there is a warning on the medication.

Dave Matthews

- What are the changes and why under the public works director.
- Pointed out this is being done to follow the line from the federal government. We should be telling federal government what they can do rather than the other way around.

Motion To Approve Item 2 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

PUBLIC MEETING

6. Public Meeting To Receive Comments Pertaining To The Proposed Ridgecrest Tourism Improvement District McRea

Jim McRea

- Presented staff report and overview of the process taken to date.
- Explained what the Ridgecrest Tourism Improvement District is and who is affected.

PUBLIC MEETING opened at 7:04pm

No comments or questions presented by Council or Public.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

7. Approval Of A Settlement Agreement Between The City Of Ridgecrest And The County Of Kern Wilson

Keith Lemieux

- Gave staff report outlining the redevelopment pass-through agreement and arguments of the accuracy of the calculations.
- City and county agreed on methodology and a settlement has been reached.
- Agreement requires two votes, one a city council and one as successor agency.
- Agreement has been approved by the oversight committee.
- Note clarified payment amount up to 2.5 million but county is agreeing to a lower amount of slightly over 2.2 million.
- Agreement calls for county to reimburse certain fire fees.

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Steve Morgan

- Complaint was filed with county court but never served on the city. were never at issue with the case. Filed to preserve the timing.
- During ongoing negotiations, this agreement of funds that have been held by the city actually comes in lower than the original disagreement amount?
- As the agreement went on, there is a higher amount but in concept that is correct.
- The money leaving is not general fund however the funds returning is general fund and has been scored in the last budget.
- Asked if the agreement was amicable?
 - Keith – very friendly negotiation. Complaint was a placeholder and County has been very cooperative.

Jerry Taylor

- Thanked Keith and City Manager for settlement which eliminates negative general fund balance.

Barbara Auld

- Asked what the nature of the agreement was and Kurt Wilson explained the redevelopment agency settlement reached in 1987 which allowed county to receive funds from redevelopment and became complicated due to multiple changes in redevelopment law.
- Keith Lemieux – City recognized the money was owed but the argument was in how to make the calculation.

Jerry Taylor

- City has been working on this for a long time.

Tom Wiknich

- Is there language stating there will be no further disputes.
- Keith Lemieux – do not anticipate future problems.

Steve Morgan

- This agreement was created before any current council was seated on the dais. Predates all current council members.

Motion To Approve A Settlement Agreement Between The City Of Ridgecrest Successor Agency And The County Of Kern Made By Council Member Morgan , Second By Council Member patin . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Motion To Approve A Settlement Agreement Between The City Of Ridgecrest And The County Of Kern Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Patin . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Kurt Wilson – special thanks to Supervisor John McQuiston for his efforts on this agreement.

8. Approve A Resolution Authorizing A Lease Agreement Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Waste Management Wilson

Pulled after closed session.

9. Approve A Resolution Authorizing Amendments To Agreements And Memorandum Of Understanding Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Police Employee Association Of Ridgecrest (PEAR) And Unrepresented Employees Wilson

Kurt Wilson

- Only approving the PEAR agreement implementing 4.3% and 6.8% non-sworn COLA and retirement contributions for CalPERS retirement will be responsibility of the employees.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked if these changes were currently in the budget.

Tyrell Staheli

- Current budget estimated the CalPERS change
- The COLA was not estimated in the budget but amount is \$140k

Jerry Taylor

- Asked where the increase would be coming from and Tyrell stated this would be from the General Fund Reserve and recommends the adjustment comes from the Measure 'L' funding reserve.

Jason Patin

- Believe this would qualify

Motion To Approve A Resolution Authorizing Amendments To the Memorandum Of Understanding Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Police Employee Association Of Ridgecrest (PEAR) Made By Council Member Taylor , Second By Council Member patin . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

**10. Approve And Authorize The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement
Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Certain Indian Wells Valley Youth
Sports Leagues** **Wilson**

Kurt Wilson

- Requested the item be pulled for further negotiations.
- Last minute change today which prevents the final approval.

Jason Patin

- Recommends pulling the item until concerns are addressed.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked staff to provide conditions currently being negotiated to better understand our current position.

11. Approve An Appointment For An Interim City Manager **Wilson**

Kurt Wilson

- Gave staff report
- Council can appoint either interim or permanent and recommendation is to appoint interim to allow option to gather a larger candidate pool.
- Recommend local appointment to reduce substantial housing costs.
- Number of individuals within the community and recommend consider appointing Dennis Speer for initial 6 month interim with options to cancel at any time at a salary of \$185k and draft agreement is available should council move in that direction. Recommend changing date to August 17.

Jason Patin

- Cost is an issue, a recruitment for interim is upward to \$25k
- Hiring internally is experience of working with Mr. Wilson and is prepared to keep the flow going.
- Agrees with recommendation

Chip Holloway

- Fully confident in moving forward with Mr. Speer in light of the cost savings and the election which could change the current makeup of the council.
- Ready to make motion now.

Jerry Taylor

- No problem moving forward and fulltime process will be brought in future.

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Jason Patin

- Will begin the process of a full-time recruitment and asked Mr. Speer to consider applying.

Ron Carter

- Fully support recommendation and have faith in you and appreciate the willingness to do this.

Barbara Auld

- Will Mr. Speer remain as public works?

Ron Carter

- Recommendation will be made to council by Mr. Speer.

Motion To Approve An Appointment For An Interim City Manager to Dennis Speer Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

ORDINANCES

12. First Reading And Introduction By Title Only An Urgency Ordinance To Amend The Retirement Contract With The California Public Employees Retirements System For Safety Members Lemieux

Kurt Wilson

- Reviewed previous actions and CalPERS request to redo the action taken at last council meeting.

Keith Lemieux

- Urgency ordinance to adhere to timeline of the actuaries provided by CalPERS.

Motion To Waive Reading In Full Of An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest To Amend The Retirement Contract With The California Public Employees Retirements System For Safety Members Made By Council Member Taylor , Second By Council Member Morgan . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

Requires A Second

Motion To Introduce, By Title Only, And Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest To Amend The Retirement Contract With The California Public Employees Retirements System For Safety Members Made By Council Member Morgan , Second By Council Member Taylor . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

Requires A Second

**13. First Reading And Introduction By Title Only An Ordinance of the
Ridgecrest City Council Amending the Ridgecrest Municipal Code as it
relates to Trench Cut Fees** **Lemieux**

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report of purpose providing cost recovery for excavations of city streets.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked what the proposed fee would be.
 - Dennis Speer – will return to council, outlined various ways of calculating the fees.
- Without knowing the impact of the cost shift to the utilities, not against but would like to see the fee structure prior to putting this in place.
- Requested examples of what has been paid in the past and what would be paid in the future.

Steve Morgan

- Have talked about this for a long time.
- Concerning Mr. Taylor's questions, if this item would be taken to City Organization Committee to vet the various structures.
- This gives a timeline where we must act and is a good thing.
- Forces us to meet and make a decision within a set time frame.
- Believe this is appropriate action and did not ask for boilerplate language.
- Take the 3 formulas to city organization to be discussed and brought back to council.

Jason Patin

- Agree this is great and appreciate the timeline set out to enforce.
- Bring it back to city organization.

Chip Holloway

- Agree with moving forward, gentleman's agreement in past which has been ignored.
- Should move forward tonight.

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Dave Matthews

- Asked if this is a new ordinance as opposed to changing an ordinance.
 - Dennis Speer – would be placed within our existing street ordinance.
- Asked who would be affected.
 - Jerry Taylor – anyone cutting the roads such as Verizon, water district, Edison, digital 395, and version.
- Will there be exceptions for individuals who may have a problem with septic in the street.
 - Would be part of the details of the fees which will be part of a future resolution. Will be exemptions.

Stan Rajtora

- Where would the fee go?
 - Dennis Speer – this ordinance will establish a trust account to be used specifically for repair of the streets.

Jerry Taylor

- Utility master plan submissions includes telecommunication companies.
 - Dennis Speer – currently negotiating right of way so contracting outside the agreement
- Would affect future telecommunications who do not currently have an agreement.
- Referenced a master plan and be proactive in sharing our plans when putting the burden on the utilities.

Steve Morgan

- City sponsors meetings with the utilities and because are not getting information from them we are forcing their hand.

Motion To Waive Reading In Full Of An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending the Ridgecrest Municipal Code as it relates to Trench Cut Fees Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Holloway . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

Requires A Second

Motion To Introduce, By Title Only, And Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending the Ridgecrest Municipal Code as it relates to Trench Cut Fees Made By Council Member Holloway , Second By Council Member Morgan . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 1 Noes (Taylor); 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

Requires A Second

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: September 12, 2012

- Jerry Taylor – discussed sewer line video inspections. Appreciate staff bringing forward the video from the digital mapping system. Can be used for projections of future maintenance and repair needs.
- Steve Morgan – in some sections of town, sections were not as bad as previously though however did see root intrusion at connection between the lateral and the main line. Received document from public works director updating the PMS plan improvement in 3-5 years which ties into conversation with utility companies.

Quality Of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin, Craig Porter, Carter Pope
Meeting: 1st Saturday Of Every Even Month At 10:00 A.M.; Kerr-McGee
Center
Next Meeting: October 6, 2012

- Jason Patin - Did not meet, next meeting October 4 at 5pm

City Organization

Members: Ron Carter, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Christopher LeCornu
Meeting: 1st Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference
Room
Next Meeting: September 4, 2012 (Subject to change)

- Jerry Taylor – meeting rescheduled due to Measure 'L', requested examples of variations for trench cut fees calculations.
- Ron Carter – requested Steve Morgan to attend in his place
- Steve Morgan – confirmed he would be attending.

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: September 6, 2012

- Jason Patin – received final report from COSMOT and update from current economic development happenings from Gary Parsons. Committee is committed in moving forward with economic development without adequate funding.

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 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee
Center
Next Meeting: September 10, 2012

- Ron Carter – announced next meeting.

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: September 5, 2012 at location to be announced

- Chip Holloway – reviewed directors report from last meeting and announced next meeting date and location to be held at Marriott/springhill suites

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Steve Morgan

- Requested overview of what happened at the Measure 'L' committee meeting.
 - Kurt Wilson – have established chair, vice chair, and secretary. Will be meeting bi-weekly on Mondays, getting acclimated on processes and how things function.
- Requested this be kept as a Council Committee report so we can assist as needed and be informed of their actions.
 - Jason Patin – attended the meeting and spoke on a presentation received by Sam Ramirez of Delano.

Kurt Wilson

- Oversight board met briefly yesterday and approved an auditor and took the same actions as council did this evening with regard to the ROPS.
- Reviewed the audit requirements which must be completed by end of September.
- On schedule with getting the final certification so council can access the tax allocation bond information.

Chip Holloway

- League of California cities executive board is passing a resolution that enforces that league members will continue to abide by the brown act regardless of actions taken at the state level which turned off the funding for creating and posting agendas.

Jerry Taylor

- Attorney general has stated candidates can attend and speak at meetings without violating the brown act.

Steve Morgan

- Fine with measure 'I' reports happening during the other committee report section.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Moved to end of the meeting

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jerry Taylor

- Appreciate cooling centers being brought to council.
- will be reaching out to other utilities and agencies for their Inyokern cooling center.
 - Lori Acton – solved bus transportation issue for weekends to cooling centers. No dial a ride fee if going to a cooling center.
 - Henry Wilson – past few years PACT reports have shown the low attendance at the centers which affected the closures.
- Trying to get grants which help fund these facilities. Relative to retention of police officers and measure 'I' funding, funding will not be there in a few years so will need to deal with it and be prepared for it.
- GSA was going to lower per diem rates which would reduce what local hotels could charge for DOD employees. Thankfully, GSA has decided not to lower these rates.
- Would like the Wal-Mart discussion be brought to the full council.

Jason Patin

- Think staff has done a great job working thru the issues with Wal-Mart and don't feel it would be beneficial to bring to council. more time delay.
- Thanked Officer Mike Myers for his work on the off-road trails. Project is long-overdue and appreciate staff efforts.
- School back in session and hope everyone has a great school year.
- Thanked RACVB for their efforts going forward on plan for tourism district and taking burden off city's general fund.
- Congratulations and condolences to Dennis Speer. Sorry in advance.
- Youth sports complex snack bar was vandalized and robbed. Groups work hard and costs a lot of money to supply the snacks.
- Measure 'I' committee, hope they communicate with council and they are working very hard to get organized.

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- Campaigns are beginning, advise all candidates. Easy to get unfocused on how to run campaign. Please stay focused on the issues and what is important and be easy on each other. Take it easy on each other and be tough on issues.
- Kurt, been great working with you and truly believe you took on some tough assignments and handled them with professionalism and integrity. Took everything in stride. Appreciate what you have done while here and believe you are leaving this city in a position to move forward in a positive direction. Think Stockton is blessed to get you.
- Paul Weimholdt lost. Donated a lot of personal resources to the community and will be missed for his good works for the youth of the community.

Chip Holloway

- Thanked Officer Myers and also did not get arrested, back seat was the only one left.
- Kern cog is doing Kern COG presents and Ridgecrest is scheduled to be aired.
- Thanked Sam Ramirez, mayor pro-tem of Delano for calling into our Measure 'L' committee to discuss their committee and sales tax measure.
- Congratulations to Dennis and also apologize up front.
- Candidates, it's encouraging to see you at the meeting. Echoed Jason's statements. A negative campaign is a disservice to the community and distracts from the real issues. Unfair to entire council and staff deserves credit for trying to shepherd us thru some of the most difficult economic times we have ever experienced. People deserve credit who sacrificed to make sure the right thing is done.
- To Mr. Wilson, I am a better man for having know him. Thank you for showing me that some things are bigger than the little things.
- There are people hurting in the community and asked public to pray for those who are hurting.

Steve Morgan

- Thanked everyone who remained to end of meeting.
- Disappointed in fellow council this evening, those who know me know my wife lays out my attire but she cannot be blamed for tonight's attire. If I am going to be portrayed as the devil then will dress like the devil for the remainder of my time.
- Have been torn apart by those who want to see a different style of council members.
- Have always been a bull in a china shop and I laugh at the comments and editorials.
- Mr. Neel gave a load of horse dung about his perceptions. I begged this man to apply for that committee and he was a coward and did not do it. He does not want to be a part of the process, but a part of the problem. Mr. Neel is not by any stretch of the imagination the person to talk to, might be the person to be ignored.

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- As we go thru the election cycle, thoughts to ponder, those looking for your trust and saying they want to work for you, look at what committees and experiences they have and what problems they may cause for our staff. What bureaus and committees outside the community will they participate with. Do they understand the rules of the State of California and do they have concept of how those rules have changed. Rather than blame the council, do they understand the process and how funds have been stolen. How many have sat with staff and learned what is really going on. Are they engaged. Do they support various bills. I give my heart and soul to fellow and previous council members because they are truly committed to you even though you beat them to death because you don't get the answer you want. You have the opportunity to set a new direction for this city and hope you as a voter do your homework and choose wisely.
- Did not know Paul but is a tragedy to lose someone so young.
- Two other individuals, Gale Marie Petty and another. Pray for their families and those in the community with family members who are ill. This community comes together to help those who are hurting.
- To our staff, all the hardships and difficulties we have gone thru and are going thru, all are doing magnificent work and are doing a great job at keeping yourselves above the fray. Your work has always been appreciated by me. I meet with you and discuss things so I can understand everything. A lot fewer staff than a few years ago and would like to try a test in the community to see if community members will actually go up and say thank you to our staff and ask staff to let me know if the community responds. Will ask this each council meeting until I'm gone because I want community to understand these people have feelings too.
- Mr. Wilson, you have stayed above the fray impeccably even though you have not been able to keep me from getting into the fray. Not your fault. You have greatly raised my respect for you. You have taken an uncalled for beating in this town, some of it from this dais. You have stayed the course and continued to do your work and tried to tie up as much as you could in your remaining time. Saddened you felt you could not remain in this community and does not speak well for this council and is a travesty.

Ron Carter

- Thanked everyone who attended this meeting.
- Election cycle here again, for me, I live here because it is positive and supports each other. Great police department and safe community. So much to be blessed for and candidates are here to do the best we can to represent everybody. Honored to be parts of the great colleagues have worked with thru the years. Encourage candidates to keep this in mind as we begin our campaigns. Be above board and represent our community in a positive way. Answer the community's questions and concerns. Do not be negative with each other.

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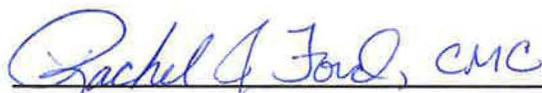
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- Sad day for me, been worked closely with Kurt. Received emails and text messages late at night and he works non-stop for this community. Losing a great man. Will miss your family. Know you will be successful in anything you do. Sorry all of us did not work with you cooperatively. Stockton will be blessed to have you. As time goes on everyone will realize what a great man you are.

Kurt Wilson

- People in the community do not realize how difficult the council jobs and staff jobs really are. Have been a council member before and people do not realize the amount of hours put in to make each meeting successful.
- Council has made some very painful decisions and have taken some hits for it but in the long term feel the decisions made will be felt in a positive way.
- Staff has the most difficult jobs at times. Have a lot of staff who have been here for a long time and have developed expertise in their field. Very dedicated in what they do and take a lot of pride in their work. Staffing cuts have affected their ability to continue to provide the high level of service. Very frustrating for them when you take pride in what you do and then get blamed for not being able to continue to provide that level of service. Staff is very good at what they do, when given the right tools can do magnificent things. Cooling centers mentioned tonight and that level of compassion is wonderful but important to know that at the same time we have employees going into the heat in far worse conditions and doing their job. Every department has staff giving a lot to this community. Feel leaving the city on good solid footing.
- Having worked with Mr. Speer, have every confidence in his abilities. The education and experience level Mr. Speer has is high and the level of integrity is unmatched.
- Specifically mentioned staff in attendance at the meeting. Feel going to be in solid spot staff wise as city moves forward. Staff level is comprised of people who live and breathe for this community.
- Been an honor to have been here and feel the best days for Ridgecrest are still ahead.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:52 pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk