



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

City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555

December 19, 2012
5:30 p.m.

This meeting is recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period from date of approval by City Council/Redevelopment Agency. Meetings are recorded for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Daniel O. Clark; Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Patin; Vice-Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Council Members Jim Sanders and Lori Acton;

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Dennis Speer; City Clerk Rachel J. Ford; City Attorney Keith Lemieux; and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADD:

A Need Arose Item for Closed Session

GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations with UFCW. Agency Negotiator Interim City Manager Dennis Speer

Motion To Add Closed Session Item Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

Motion To Approve Agenda Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

No comments presented

CLOSED SESSION

GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations with UFCW

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GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – City of Ridgecrest v. William Dale Howard

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Labor negotiations – received report – gave instruction to negotiator, no reportable action
 - William Dale Howard – received report – no reportable action taken
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Salvatore

- Referenced County lawsuit and asked for details to public.
 - Keith Lemieux responded. Is a public record that can be accessed.

Howard Auld

- Referenced recent Newtown Connecticut tragedy.
- Suggested Council consider holding a public Town Hall meeting to assess local situation compared to Newtown Connecticut.

Dave Matthews

- Distributed Government Code protocol to Council pertaining to the position and manner of displaying flags at half-staff.
- Referenced other locations where protocol for flags is located.
- Thanked Kathy Armstrong and other volunteers for decorations in City Hall.
- Spoke on Newspaper notification of DUI checkpoint and mentioned saturation points that were not publicized.
- Thanked Eagle Scout, exchange club, and all those involved with relighting the star on 'B' mountain.

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Al Huey

- Congratulated newly elected members of Council.
- Mentioned staff budget recommendations being ignored at last Council meeting
- Objected to Mayor having a regular office and hours
- Objected to CDBG funds being used as monetary gift to other organizations.
- Spoke on ADA unfunded mandates.
- Spoke on various government give-away programs including Medicaid and welfare.
- Read article on violation of individual restraints.
- Mentioned Measure 'L' comments made at last Wednesday Council meeting.
- Read quotes from individuals such as Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein, Edward abbey and Thomas Jefferson.

Closed public comment at 6:42pm

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve The Final Balancing Contract Change Order, Authorize The Interim City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign Notice Of Completion, Authorize The City Clerk To File The Notice Of Completion And Authorize The Release Of Retention On The Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Bowman Bike Rest Stations At Various Locations Speer
2. Approve A Resolution Rejecting All Bids On A Construction Contract For The Safe Routes To School Cycle 9 Project Speer
3. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Summarily Vacating An Easement Speer
4. Approve Draft Minutes of Council Meeting Dates December 5, 2012 Ford

Items Pulled for Discussion:

- Item no. 1, 2, & 3.

Item 1 discussion

Jim Sanders

- Questioned cost overrun and additional contingencies previously budgeted.
 - Dennis Speer – no cost to the City, utilized the contingencies.

Motion To Approve Item 1 Was Made By Council Member Patin, Second Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

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Item 2 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Read report and noted staff suggestion to reject and seek additional funding
- Suggested re-opening the bid process and see if someone is willing to do the project for the price.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked where the original cost estimate came from and how old the estimate was.

Jim Sanders

- Asked why the estimate was lower than the actual bids presented.

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

Item 3 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked about the location of the right of way.
- Asked how the excess right of way was developed and if we were overlooking something.
 - Dennis Speer responded

Chip Holloway

- Suggested staff provide a map on similar items in the future.

Jim sanders

- Confirmed this was reviewed by planning commission and explained the lack of need so the right of way will be vacated.

Motion To Approve Items 3 And 4 Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

5. Mayoral Appointments To Council Committees, Boards, and Commissions

Clark

Mayor Carter

- Conducted nominations for planning commission

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Planning Commission Nominees

- Lori Acton – Nominated Pat Broke
- Jim Sanders – Nominated Scott Davis
- Chip Holloway – Chris LeCornu
- Jason Patin – Robert Obergfell
- Dan Clark – Steve Morgan

Motion To Accept Nomination Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

- Measure 'L' committee nominations tabled until January.

Jim Sanders

- Inquired about Measure 'L' Committee term limits.
 - Keith Lemieux – clarified each member serves at the pleasure of Council and can be examined with new Council

Dan Clark

- Observation, redirecting responsibilities of planning commission and focus on codification of construction code and general law versus Charter city
- Suggested appointing only 2 Council members to standing committees and department head have responsibility of calling meetings when there are items ready to discuss.
- Asked for Council support on the suggested changes.

Jason Patin

- Likes the idea but would like to add housing element to planning commission.
 - Dennis Speer – most critical item on the horizon and is appropriate for planning commission with guidance of city planner.
- Ok with idea of staff bringing ideas to Council and Council members on the committees should have ability to bring issues to staff.

Lori Acton

- Asked if a member of public would be added to replace planning commissioners
 - Dan Clark – at this time envisioned 2 Council and 1 department head. Public can always attend.
 - Keith – committee will only be members of Council, department head will be advisor and receive instruction.
 - Jason – with 2 Council things could be moved forward quicker.
- Some committees don't need to meet as often and staff is at bare bones.

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Jim Sanders

- Old Town committee excluded from structure
 - Council agreed with suggestion.

Chip Holloway

- Has long proposed eliminating committees completely, wants to handle things at Council level, however there are times when staff can work thru the fine details.
- Not convinced Charter versus general law is a planning commission subject but freeing them to work on other items without adding meeting times for them is fine.

Jim Sanders

- Mixed feelings and related experience as a planning commissioner and committee involvement.
- Fine with committees not meeting if nothing to discuss
 - Committees will have set dates however meeting would only be called by department head when a subject needs committee input.
 - Designed to eliminate staff having to put reports together when nothing really to discuss.
- Requested this be formed as a test time and evaluate the effectiveness.

Public Comment

Tom Wiknich

- No problem with reducing number of meetings
- Disagree with planning commissioners being removed.
- Feels planning commissioners are a valuable asset.
- Mentioned his research of general law versus Charter city and will require funding. Suggested more investigation before moving in that direction.

Jerry Taylor

- Mentioned former planning commissioners in attendance at the meeting.
- Agrees with Mr. Holloway about bringing items to the Council meeting.
- General Law versus Charter, the discussion should happen in public meetings and not at committee level.
- Mentioned the cost of converting our municipal code to Charter city from general law.
- Understand streamlining committees and how information is disseminated at public Council meetings.
 - Dan Clark – research is relatively inexpensive and once the research is available then can have discussions for public. Concerned with staff spending too much time when short-staffed.
- Spoke on the type of Charter desired and Council members should be involved with city attorney input.

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Jason Patin

- Not asking for decision, just want to see the information

Lori Acton

- Agreed with receiving information after research so informed decisions can be made.

Chip Holloway

- League of California Cities is putting together a tool kit for cities on the subject of general law versus Charter
- Will bring back to full Council once League releases the tool kit as first step form of analysis without staff time and cost involved.

Al Huey

- Asked what the reasoning behind topic for committee to research.
 - Dan Clark – some advantages for cities our size and is premature to share until research is completed.
- Agree with Mr. Holloway suggestion to wait for League to move forward.

Dave Matthews

- Understood committees was outlined in the code
 - Dan Clark – has been reviewed and Council has ability to change, nothing firm in the code.
- Expressed concern about having only 2 Council and suggested a member of the public participate.
- Many times discussions in open Council can lose some of the smaller details.
- Mentioned public inability to make the committee meetings.

Jason Patin

- Agrees with the recommendation.
- Streamline the process and commissioners can attend as members of the public.
- Welcome commissioners and public attendance and input.

Personnel Commission Nominations.

- Dan Clark nominated Ryan Hunter
- Lori Acton nominated Robert Obergfell
- Chip Holloway nominated Christian Patin

Construction Appeals Board

- Chuck Cordell
- Mike Ferguson
- Russ Hurst

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Handicap Access Appeals Board

- Travis Riley
- Stevie McWilliams
- Christine Alloya

- Council instructed to return to next meeting with all nominations

Quality Of Life Committee

- Chip Holloway
- Lori Acton

City Organization Committee

- Dan Clark
- Jim Sanders

Community and Economic Development Committee

- Jason Patin
- Chip Holloway

Infrastructure Committee

- Dan Clark
- Jason Patin

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

- Jim Sanders
- Jason Patin

Kern Council of Governments (COG)

- Primary – Chip Holloway
- Alternate – Dan Clark

Navy Community Council

- Dan Clark
- Jim Sanders

Civilian Military Affairs

- Lori Acton

Kern County Air Pollution Control Board (KCAPC)

- Chip Holloway

Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

- Jason Patin

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- Chip Holloway

Indian Wells Valley (IWW) Ground Water Committee

Jim Sanders

Lori Acton

League of California Cities

- Primary - Jason Patin
- Alternate - Chip Holloway
- Second Alternate - Dan Clark

Youth Advisory Council

- Jason Patin
- Dan Clark

Veterans Advisory Committee

- Jason Patin
- Lori Acton

Seniors Advisory Committee

- Lori Acton

Arts Council

- Dan Clark

Reviewed Municipal Code Requirements For The Disaster Council

Teen Court

- Jason Patin
- Chip Holloway

Economic Development Council

- Lori Acton

Dave Matthews

- Inquired about the Public lands roundtable appointment
 - Lori Acton will attend the Ridgecrest Roundtable and Friends of Jawbone meetings.

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Quad-State Coalition

- Chip Holloway – suggested Steve Morgan continue to attend Quad-State Coalition as City of Ridgecrest representative.
 - Keith Lemieux – will look at bi-laws to see if there is a conflict
 - Steve Morgan – agreed to continue as representative providing there is no conflict.

Southwest Events Alliance

- Lori Acton

6. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving Budget Amendment #2013-03 Decreasing Appropriations And Estimated Revenues In The Annual Budget **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Gave Staff Report and PowerPoint presentation (copy available in the city clerks office)

Jason Patin

- Asked Mr. Ponek to review proposed Parks & Recreation reductions
 - Recommendation primary loss of 3 more full-time maintenance employees.
 - Past 2 years Parks has lost the equivalent of 10 full-time employees' total.
 - Maintenance and repair of buildings reductions.
 - By eliminating 3 more maintenance employees will have to close piney pool and no longer maintain the sports complex and Jackson park sports complex giving them back to the organizations such as intramurals and county.
 - Will have to review the cuts impact and what will be eliminated out of necessity.
 - Reviewed pool activities that have already been planned and booked.
 - More challenges and reviewed the changes made last budget.
- Asked about revenue items that now cost the city.
 - When staff is lost then maintenance cannot be maintained. Will have to cut programs. Have already eliminated some programs and moved staff around. Staff is doing a great job and have stepped up to the challenge.
 - Eliminated spring soccer program and more will have to be done, not desirable but can be done.

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Jim Sanders

- Asked for projections of revenue reductions and if the impact would be beneficial or detrimental.
 - Quoted past revenues and the impact from loss of staff.
 - Will have to bring plan of action back to Council based on the cuts Council makes.
- Increasing revenue is a way to make up the difference and asked if this had been done.
 - Related history of revenue generation and the difficulty faced the past few years as cuts were made.
 - Will be under \$400k in revenue because of the present cuts and will change if more cuts are made tonight.
 - Needs a solid projection of cuts before can cost out revenue changes.
 - Spoke on in-house concession stand staff added during off-season.

Lori Acton

- Asked for breakdown of current maintenance staffing.

Jason Patin

- Concerned that park is cut every year and facilities continue to deteriorate.
- Asked if we want to fund the parks and recreation or outsource some of the functions or set up a special district to remove the functions from the general fund.
- Suggested that discussion take place.

Lori Acton

- Agree with Mr. Patins' suggestion.
- Suggested cutting the ISF funds that are transferred to other departments who have not experienced any cuts.
- Need to collect accounts receivables

Jason Patin

- Suggest keeping intact until we figure out how else to fund the parks functions.

Dennis Speer

- Parks is the only revenue generator in general fund

Jim Sanders

- Everyone is going to but hurt in this, cannot afford to continue to bleed dollars.

Lori Acton

- Cut it from a department that has not been cut and suggested finance department.

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- ISF should go away and other department should stop having to give up their budgets to the finance department
- Need to collect the outstanding receivables where members of the public refused to pay for solid waste service.
- There are better ways to do this.

Chip Holloway

- Asked about the cost breakdown for personnel.
 - This proposal is for the balance of this year only.
- Spoke on the methodology of cutting percentage of budgets for all departments and questioned the ISF funds.
 - Agree with Council Member Acton in eliminating ISF for general fund costs for next year budget.

Dan Clark

- Gave roads comparisons for streets and parks.
- If looking for fairness finance is not taking a reduction in staff and suggest Council consider the staffing issues in the sense of fairness.
 - Dennis outlined the current staffing functions of the finance staff.

Chip Holloway

- Should be looking at need instead of fairness.
- Finance is buried by compliance on every dollar spent.
- Don't disagree about option of cutting finance but need to look at need rather than fairness
- Asked public to send direction to Council regarding a parks special district or these functions will go away. If you take recreation out of the equation, recreation used to be awash with revenues, parks does not generate revenue.
- Have done a masterful job shielding the pain from the public but at a point that can't hide the pain anymore.
- Unfair to lose partnerships with school district and other agencies by cutting programs in the community.
- Outlined city of Taft parks special district. Similar to Measure 'L' and the parks and recreation is eliminated from general fund and supported by the district.
- Unfortunately most of the supporters for parks & recreation are single moms and can't attend meetings so their voice is not heard.
- In past 14 years have only looked at the expenditures and not revenue side of the budget. Need to increase revenues and create more programs that will encourage people to come to the community.
- In marketing it is easier to keep a customer than to attract a new customer, every time we cut a program it costs more to attract new customers.

Dan Clark

- If Council follows the current direction of Dennis Speer, there is a 6% cut to finance.

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Chip Holloway

- Think the recommendations are good then city manager needs to divide the functions in finance that can be cut.

Jim Sanders

- Want to make sure Council is focusing on long-term cuts rather than just short term.
- In favor of restructuring parks and recreation.
- Need to make some cuts tonight to stop the daily loss of funds.
- Asked for plausibility study for recreation being able to support itself, in favor of keeping programs if they are self-supporting.

Lori Acton

- Asked for a review of the additional reductions.
- Asked Tess Sloan about loss of half time person transferring to full-time funded from different account.
 - Explained the shift of functions between payroll and human resources

Jim Sanders

- Reference to Public Services department, has issue with proposal of eliminating the full-time employee and utilizing a part-time consultant.
 - Final recommendation was to NOT cut the planning department.
 - Final recommendation was to take the \$52,000 from other transfer accounts between line-items of special projects and capital projects.
- Asked for clarification of the Public Works reduction.
 - Reduction of the general fund line item that funds production of plans and specifications.
- Would like to eliminate the lobbyist and grant writer and proposed approval of cutting those tonight so the 30 day notices can be sent.
- Would like to see Council position of eliminating Council benefits and retirement, would like to see the numbers for savings from staff.
 - Expressed idea of Council not being a full-time position so benefits and retirement are not warranted.
 - Mayor Clark not in support of a blanket elimination because some of the benefit funds are used for Council functions.
 - Patin commented that small amount of funds is not supportive of the amounts spent out of pocket to attend Council related functions.
 - Holloway expressed opinion that the funds are small and Council members have voluntarily given up percentages of funds. Other cities have discovered that reduction of funds restricts the type of candidates for Council.

10-minute recess

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Public Comment

Jerry Taylor

- Distributed a handout representing general fund reserve with comparisons from wastewater fund and other funds and department usage.
- Commented on the revenue and general fund balance that would not exist the following year.
- Cuts used now will still mean hard decisions for the next budget and encouraged Council to come back with more discussions in January.
- Asked Council to reconsider where the RDA allocations have been made.
 - Keith Lemieux commented on the \$575k and broke down the revenue received.

Scott Garver

- Asked for Chief Strand assistance in police proposed cuts.

Ron Strand

- Presented overview of the cuts made within the department including police positions which would be backfilled with Measure 'L' funding.

Scott Garver

- Commented that on first glance the proposal looked like funds were being moved which changes the original discussions of the use of Measure 'L' funds.
- Concern that perception ends up being reality and feels Council owes the public a clear explanation of the use of the Measure 'L' funds. Explain why went from funding 3 positions to 7 positions.
- Backfill of funds seems appropriate.
- Committee purpose is to look after expenditures made and report to public. Take expenditures and ensure they are spent consistently with the purposes and duties of the measure.
 - Dialogue between Keith and Mr. Garver regarding the true intent of the language. Keith asked to sit down with members of the committee to sort out the rights and responsibility of the committee.

Phil Salvatore

- Reviewed the original Measure 'L' funding breakdown and subsequent revisions, which reduces the reserve and street fund.
- Outlined forward projections in the following years of the Measure 'L' funds and anticipated decrease in tax revenues.
- Asked Council to keep this in mind and the appearance when the measure comes up for renewal.

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Tom Wiknich

- Thanked Council communication with the public.
- Asked about the loss of 3 persons in parks and recreation. Noted that one employee would be returning and another person leaving so asked for clarification of the numbers.
- One person out of the management category, one person from parks and recreation staff, and a third person from maintenance. Asked if the salaries and benefits were accurate. Commented on the proposal equals a net 2 positions.
- Asked if budget presented taken into account there are current reductions in salary for finance director and city manager.
 - Calendar Year only.
- Asked about total number of employees
- Asked when Council will talk about revenue and fees.
- Asked Council to put the parks district on the ballot.

Dave Matthews

- Commented about revenue sources such as advertising on the buses and website, sell advertisement space, sponsorship of the ball fields.
- Suggested volunteers helping research these ideas.

Aaron Miller

- Clarified the COLA's for the police department and PERS contributions.
- Encourage and support Mr. Garver's comments of using Measure 'L' funds to offset the general fund costs for police services.
- Made comments about the criminal element on the street who receive little or no jail time and the increased impact to the police department.

Barbara Auld

- Public will be more comfortable if the descriptor of what the committee does is reported out of Council. Public has misconception and clarity will help.

Stan Rajatora

- Questioned the transfer of coming out of general fund for streets.
 - Staff did not touch the transfer of gas tax funds, remains intact
- Reviewed the totals going to roads and the amounts going to police from Measure 'L' funds. Encouraged Council to work with real anticipated revenues.

Barbara Auld

- Tracking of Measure 'L' funds needs to be clear and specific.

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Al Huey

- Surprised that no one from Council questioned the police and focused on Parks which shows the Council's priorities
- Asked Council to look at reality, each year the problems get worse and will continue to get bad.
- Need to make hard fiscal cuts, may not be able to do away with parks infrastructure but on recreation need to find a better way to fund them. City cannot continue to support recreation.
- In past sports were provided by boosters clubs, parents, and volunteers. Asked city to adopt a pay-to-play attitude to prevent keeping parks and recreation going while sending staff and police home.
- Suggested more discussion in January and encouraged some departments to change the way things are being done to keep this from happening every six months.

Jerry Taylor

- Suggested revenue from parks and recreation which is not a profit but covers cost of staff but not maintenance of the field.
- Cutting the workers who are not making a lot, did not hear discussion of parks maintenance supervisor who makes 2-3 times more than the workers under them. What is the ratio of employees versus supervisors? Original proposal eliminated the supervisor and put the workers under another supervisor.

Lori Acton

- On behalf of Travis, when looking at all of this, what happened to looking for volunteers to keep things going?

Closed Public Comment At 9:33 p.m.

Dan Clark

- Asked Council how best to attack the situation. Is it acceptable to begin with the proposed recommendation of keeping the City Planner and work backward from that point?

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Lori Acton

- Asked Police Chief what would happen if the Measure 'L' funding does not realize the projected amount.
 - Services would be cut significantly.
- Council will have to adjust the numbers if the revenues are not received. Asked for an alternative number that could be used in the event of lower anticipated revenues.
- Asked for clarification of COPS versus police officer
 - COPS are post 911 positions.

Dan Clark

- Asked for agreement of the City Planner exception
- *Council concurred that the exception of City Planner is acceptable*

Reviewed the Additional Revenues portion of proposal

- Council asked for clarification of the \$722k solid waste receivables, asked if we had the option to put liens on properties that have not paid delinquent amounts.
 - Would have to go into court to prove the debts are real and many may be fraudulent and services were not actually performed. Staff has not separated out the real from fraudulent debts. Some amount is collectible but transaction costs could possibly exceed the actual recovery. If the funds came in it would be considerably lower and would not happen in a year. Keith can give report to Council in closed session.

ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS

Dan Clark

- Can re-negotiate the Litigation Consultant cost for Solid Waste and could eliminate the grant writer and lobbyist

Lori Acton

- IWW economic development corporation has set aside funds to assist with payment of a lobbyist and city could work with them to fund a lobbyist.
- Talented staff could seek out grants and grant writing rather than pay a company. Look at options.

Jim Sanders

- If other groups in the valley want to take on the cost for a lobbyist then fine with their support. City would no longer direct the lobbyist.

Dan Clark

- In terms of the lobbyist and grant writer could eliminate up to \$50k, is that an acceptable reduction. Suggests eliminating both lobbyist and grant writer.

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Chip Holloway

- Disagree with elimination of lobbyist and mentioned past discussions with IWV and china lake alliance and chamber.
- Lobbyist is currently working on several issues including BRAC and others that could potentially save the city between \$7.5 million and \$15 million dollars and is silly to risk that potential for less than \$20k. cannot divulge details at this time but want to see it go forward.
- Local per diem is just one benefit we have realized and not willing to risk this other issue right now because it is so big for our valley.

Lori Acton

- Asked if the lobbyist could be tabled until more information for possible cuts next year.

Jason Patin

- Agree with Chip on this issue and feel it would be unwise to let the lobbyist go at this time.

Chip Holloway

- Feel the grant writer should be here to defend themselves. Are receiving \$250k and are working on 9 grants at this time.
 - Dennis Speer – all the grants require matching funds and city does not have the matching funds.
 - Jim Ponek – without TAB funds allocated there are no matching funds. Until Parks has direction then cannot proceed with any of the grants they found.

Dan Clark

- ok with continuing this discussion later and give the consultant the opportunity to speak with Council.

Jim Sanders

- does not see we will receive the performance we want out of this in the long term.

Jason Patin

- keep lobbyist and eliminate grant writer

Lori Acton

- keep lobbyist and eliminate grant writer

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Chip Holloway

- keep both lobbyist and grant writer

Dan Clark

- requested the elimination of one full time equivalent from the finance department.

Lori Acton

- fine with it, have done accounting, payroll, and human resources

Dennis Speer

- asked Council defer and review with finance director.
- ❖ *Council in favor of re-negotiating the contract with solid waste litigation consultant*

Dan Clark

- requested putting the parks maintenance positions back into the budget. Either close down the parks or give Mr. Ponek the work force he needs to do the job we expect of him. Keep pool open and maintain parks. Total of \$48k.

Lori Acton

- need more real numbers for next fiscal year so are buying some time until later cuts are made in next year's budget. Asked Mr. Ponek to look at moving management around to make cuts differently.
- Jim Ponek – can do the numbers but need to look at the years of experience that would be lost in more advanced functions such as electrical, HVAC.

Jason Patin

- Need to develop a plan and look at outsourcing parks maintenance with outside services.
- Have to make tough cuts and plan better for the next budget and rely only on revenues we know will be coming in for that year.
- Not fair to keep employees on edge wondering if they will have a job.
- Cannot rebuild until we get where we need to be and live within the revenues we know are going to be there.

Chip Holloway

- Take 18k out and leave 30k for parks employees.

Jim Sanders

- Don't want to kick the can down the road anymore. Cuts now will drive Council to make the plans needed for the future. Hate letting people go but don't see how to make it work any other way.

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Lori Acton

- Tough decisions, we don't like them but have to do them. Do not want to keep putting Band-Aids on, rip it off and get it over. Want to make it to the end of this fiscal year the best we can. Is it fair to the community to close things now or better to let them know that at the beginning of the next fiscal year we will be closing the programs and facilities.
- Keep planner, renegotiate litigation, eliminate grant writer, add 60k revenue and give public head up that the facilities will not be there next year.

Jason Patin

- Has to happen but don't want to cut now and say sorry. Either community decides what they want to keep and how we are going to do it then go from there.

Jim Sanders

- Have heard the same discussion for the past two years, such as pool closure so public has had enough notice.

Jason Patin

- Proposing keeping the balance of this year and cutting it off July 1.
- ❖ *Discussion of closures now versus six months.*

Mr. Ponek recommendation 2013 advertised as the last year to have the pool and sports programs. Mentioned the aquatic park proposal. Agree that can't afford what we have but facilities are already booked for a year. Talked about Jackson sports complex owned by the county and city leases the complex and has put funds into the facility. Kerr McGee sports complex is leased to youth baseball and football. Need to look at what will be done with these complexes. IWW youth sports organizations are currently in negotiations with city trying to come up with options. Liability issue to consider, if going to give the facilities away then need to do it completely to avoid liability if someone is injured. Willing to go forward with cuts but need to let other agencies know what is coming such as the county. High school also uses the facilities thru the city. peak revenue season is May-August.

Dan Clark

- If Council keeps the three employees, then with next budget will move to a nuclear winter in the 2013 budget.
 - Mr. Ponek spoke on facilities and programs. Asked Council for time to put the plan in motion and to complete the obligations already committed to for the public.

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Jim Sanders

- Now talking about keeping the 3 employees on until September and asked where the funds would come from to pay these employees.

Dan Clark

- During the peak of the season there is positive revenue but then at the end of that revenue season the employees would go.

Further discussion of revenues and expenditure adjustment within the contracts.

Motion To Execute The City Managers Proposal. Amended Add \$48K From Waste Management Lease To Keep Parks Department Employees To Keep The Programs Going For The Balance Of The Revenue Season Made By Mayor Clark, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Did Not Carry By Voice Vote Of 2 Ayes; 3 Noes (Council Members Patin, Holloway, And Sanders); 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

Motion To Execute The City Managers Proposal Amended To Add \$48,000 From Waste Management Lease To Keep Parks Department Employees And To Keep The Parks Programs Going For The Balance Of The Revenue Season And To Eliminate The Grant Writer Made By Mayor Clark, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 1 No (Council Member Holloway) 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Organization

Members: To Be Appointed

Meeting: 2nd Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: January 8, 2013

- None

Community Development Committee

Members: To Be Appointed

Meetings: 1st Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: January 3, 2013

- None

Infrastructure Committee

Members: To Be Appointed

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: January 9, 2013

- None

AGENDA - CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR
December 19, 2012
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Quality Of Life

Members: To Be Appointed
Meeting: 2nd Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: February 14, 2013 (Dark in June, July, December, and January)

- None

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

Members: To Be Appointed
Meetings: 2nd Monday Of Odd Numbered Months At 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: January 14, 2013

- None

Veterans Advisory Committee

Members: To Be Appointed
Meetings: To Be Announced
Next Meeting: To Be Announced

- None

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: To Be Appointed
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: January 2, 2013 at location to be announced

- None

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- None

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Reported on Finance Director interviews.
 - 3 good candidates
 - advised there would be no decision until after the first of the year due to holidays.
- Requested direction to staff of whether to hold the meeting of January 2, 2013.
 - Council agreed to cancel the meetings of January 2nd and 16th and call special meeting for January 23, 2013.
- Discussion of code of decorum.
 - Protected speech versus meeting disruption.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lori Acton

- Sang a Christmas tune of realignment.

Jim Sanders

- Good meeting, tough times right now but this time of year gives us a chance to focus on what's important in our lives. Hate that these types of cuts are happening at this time of year. Wish everyone a merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to focus on what is important

Jason Patin

- Cannot express enough my sorrow for the people of Newtown Connecticut. Worst thing to see is the little faces on TV. Keep the families in your prayers. Agree that Christmas is a special time of year and keep Christ in Christmas.

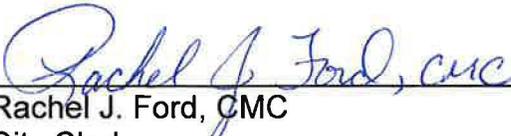
Chip Holloway

- Thanked the Christmas elf who brought the decorations for Council. Talked about a movie called 'Last Ounce Of Courage' about a small town Mayor. Council gets beat up a lot but we still have a Christmas tree and a banner that says in god we trust. We still protect the principles and values that made this country great. Encouraged everyone to watch the movie. Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and do something for someone else and not let anyone know.

Mayor Clark

- Rose Vargas flew to Ohio to live so we lost the Mother Theresa of our community. She has done so much good in our community and we wish her well. Thanks to everyone to attended and appreciate your comments. Have a wonderful Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT at 11:05 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk