



**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 5, 2012
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 for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

CALL TO ORDER at 5:30pm

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Ronald H. Carter; Vice-Mayor Jerry D. Taylor (via Teleconference); Council Member Chip Holloway; Council Members Steven P. Morgan and Jason Patin

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Dennis Speer, City Clerk Rachel J. Ford, City Attorney Michael Silander, and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add:

GC54956.9 Conference With Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure Of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest.

Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Holloway, Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent (Council Member Taylor), 0 Abstain.

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None presented

CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations – United Food and Commercial Workers Local 8 Golden State; Unrepresented Employee Groups Confidential; Mid-Management; and Management. Agency Negotiator Interim City Manager Dennis Speer

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GC54956.9 Conference With Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure Of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest.

REGULAR SESSION

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- ❖ Closed Session
 - Labor Negotiations – received report – no action taken
 - Undisclosed potential litigation – received report – no action taken

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Auld

- Thanked outgoing council for their work these many years.

LEAVING OFFICE COUNCIL COMMENT

Jerry Taylor

- Appreciate opportunity, on travel with Navy. Congratulations to incoming elected official. Many challenges and wish all the best as they move forward. Wish exiting council the best as they retire. Will do best he can for this country and community.

Ron Carter

- Will miss staff, public has no idea how hard they work to meet the needs of the citizens. Doing more because of cuts but stayed and worked with citizen in positive manner. Wish all the best. Met many people and has been a great run. Appreciate colleagues from past. Worked with Mayor Auld and is great to see him in the audience. Appreciate this community, great community to live in. Have raised my sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren in this community. Appreciate new mayor and council, have every confidence in them. New people coming in are honest and positive. Enjoyed the campaigns and opportunity to get to know the new people. Have fun and run with it. Thanked colleagues, most important thing achieved are their friendship. Will be available to them to help whenever needed. Hope new members will become great friends. Hope council will continue to work together and encouraged community to come forward and help the council. Be positive, helpful, and supportive to all elected officials.

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Steve Morgan

- To incoming and remaining council, parting gifts of guidebook and bookmark from the Regan library. Presented wife and daughter with flowers for her many years of support. Cannot do the duties of council without the support of family because you are taking a large portion of time from them. If truly dedicated to the cause you will miss birthdays and holidays. Nicole (daughter) only knows her father as "Councilman Morgan". Presented daughter with a necklace given to him by first city clerk Pam Bartlett. Presented flowers to his wife whom he referred to as his 'Rock'. Related a story of a Christmas card received from his family, which said 'whatever you decide we'll support you.' Dorene has seen, more than anyone else, the heartaches and pain he has endured. Most of the time he let a lot of the pain go, but was never thought of in a poor light by wife Dorene. Dozen roses presented to Dorene. To the community, in 1996 Steven Morgan received 2593 votes and became council member for first time. Related the votes for successive years. Takes great pride in the accomplishment of pleasing 50.1% of the people, not going to be able to please 100%. Have given everything I could to the community for 16 years. To John McQuiston whom I have known for many years, at his retirement last week it dawned on me that not only do we share a common goal for this community, but share a common background and can listen to individuals and know if they were really dedicated or just mouth pieces. That distinction is hard to come by. Listed several community members that he has worked with closely who were dedicated to putting in hard work. Couple of terms as Mayor dealing with the trash issue and the California east kern clean air basin, which has saved us great sums of money. Battling with individuals on the west side of the Sierra Mountains that each individual council member has done is so important to the community. List of successes goes widely unnoticed. Spoke about the EDA grant and their trip to Washington D.C. for the business park, which is a success every year moving forward. Spoke on trash and measure 'L', mentioned Measure 'Q'. Incoming council has a great cushion to work with from additional funds and other issues resolved. New council needs your (community) support. Work with them. Listed past council members who are honorable and hard working individuals, thanked them for their efforts. To the staff, God love you. Even during the most difficult times, we continued to work as a team. It was difficult in times of furloughs and letting some individuals go, but staff continued to work well with me and never felt that staff did not trust the efforts being made. Level of trust and cannot thank staff enough. Meant a lot that you were able to have those conversations with me. In closing for those on incoming council, interesting book by Mary O'Hara Devereau called navigating the badlands. Changes in technology and economics and recommend council get the book. Spoke on readiness and read excerpt from the book. Read some thoughts to ponder and live by. God Bless everyone from staff to Council and community.

CITY CLERK

- 1. Approve A Resolution Receiving The Report Certifying The Results Of The General Municipal Election Of November 6, 2012** Ford

Motion To Approve A Resolution Receiving The Report Certifying The Results Of The General Municipal Election Of November 6, 2012 Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

- 2. Installation Of Mayor Elect And Council Members Elect; And Nomination And Selection Of Mayor Pro-Tempore And Vice Mayor For Two-Year Terms To Expire December 2014** Ford

- City Clerk Rachel J. Ford administered the Oath of Office to newly elected officials.

Nomination for Mayor Pro Tempore

- Chip Holloway nominated Jason Patin and James Sanders seconded the nomination.
- Chip Holloway moved for nominations to be closed, second by James Sanders

Motion To Approve Council Member Jason Patin For Position Of Mayor Pro-Tempore Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Abstain (Council Member Patin), 0 Absent

Nomination for vice mayor

- Jason Patin nominated Chip Holloway and James Sanders seconded the nomination.
- Jason Patin called for nominations to be closed, second by Dan Clark.

Motion To Approve Council Member Marshall 'Chip' Holloway For Position Of Vice Mayor Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Clark. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Abstain (Council Member Holloway), 0 Absent

PRESENTATIONS

- 3. Presentations To Elected Officials Who Are Leaving Office In 2012** Ford

- Rachel Ford presented leaving officials with plaques from city employees

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- Romeo Agbalog of Senator Jean Fuller's office and on behalf of Senator Kevin McCarthy's office presented leaving officials with flags flown over the state and national capital buildings.

4. Merit Award Presented to Ridgecrest Police Sergeant Justin Dampier for Exceptional Service Strand

Chief Ron Strand and Council presented a meritorious Service award to Sergeant Justin Dampier.

5. Presentation Of The Kern Council of Governments Energy Action Plan Speer

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report

Linda Urata & Jeff Caton

- Presented PowerPoint to Council and public. *(Copy Available In The City Clerk's Office)*

Lori Acton

- Asked if inventory was the same as an audit.
 - Same procedure but not third party audited

James Sanders

- Requested clarification of the 2020 projections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Wiknich

- Asked if usage went down from 2010 to current and asked for clarification of carbon footprint going up while usage has decreased. Asked representatives to watch and make sure the numbers used are accurate.

CONSENT CALENDAR

7. Approve A Resolution To Award A Construction Contract For The Safe Routes To School Cycle 8 Project To Cen-Cal And Authorize The Interim City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute The Contract Speer

8. Approve A Resolution To Approve The Agreement With The Engineering Firm Of Willdan To Provide Construction Management For The City Of Ridgecrest On The Safe Routes To School Cycle 8 Project Speer

- ~~9. Approve A Resolution To Approve The Agreement With The Engineering Firm Of Willdan Engineering To Provide Construction Management For The City Of Ridgecrest On The Safe Routes To School Cycle 9 Project Speer~~
10. Approve A Resolution To Award A Contract For A Professional Services Agreement With LSA & Associates, An Environmental Firm, For An Environmental Reevaluation Of The West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project From Mahan Street To China Lake Boulevard And Authorize The Interim City Manager To Enter Into A Professional Services Agreement Speer
11. Accept And File A Non-Housing Due Diligence Report Prepared By Pun And McGeady LLP Parsons
12. Approve Draft Minutes of Council Meeting Date October 3, 2012 Ford

ITEMS REMOVED:

- Item 9 eliminated
- Item 10 pulled for discussion

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

Item 10 discussion:

Jason Patin

- Asked what changed and why doing this again
 - Requirements are the report must be within 3 years so need to reevaluate the report.
 - Program construction dollars has changed over the past 3 years. Looking at 8.5 million dollars. Original funding was not given to us in the program year but now have the assurance of KernCOG that the funds will be delivered in the 2013-14 year.

Chip Holloway

- Been successful in the past but this funding was originally given to those cities that had projects on the shelf that were shovel ready. We are now higher on the list. Calculated risk but without the update we will not receive the funds or authorization to construct.

James Sanders

- Asked for clarification of scope of the review.

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Lori Acton

- Will this be a mitigated negative declaration and because we have already done the report, it would behoove us to finish with the same firm.

Dave Matthews

- This is the third or maybe the fourth time to do this. Would behoove us to put pressure on the State to try and changes these requirements. Asked if this funding going into construction of Ridgecrest blvd.
 - The funds encumbered will come from TAB funds.
 - There is a strong desire to do CEQUA reform, which will improve this process.

Motion To Approve Item 10 Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

13. A Public Hearing And Adopt A Resolution Approving The Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Action Plan Which Amends The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 5 Year Consolidated Plan (Fy10-15) Regarding The Kern County Community Development Block Grant Program **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report

PUBLIC HEARING

Dennis Young

- Understood they applied for transportation, was not notified that this was inappropriate. Asking Council to not take the \$75k and allow club to expand the building and improve horseshoe pits and basketball backboards. Great need in the community. Ask not to approve as submitted but consider alternatives for boys and girls club in the community.

Ashley Young

- Gave scenario of youth being left alone at home and what the boys and girls club offers to the youth highlighting professional staff, hours of operation, low cost dues, and programs and their focus. Listed notable citizens who belonged to boys and girls club. Gave percentages of club benefits.

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Sawyer Chrisman

- Spoke on what happens at the club including sports, discussions, homework, and community involvement. Indicated improvements members would like to make to equipment and new member drives.

Dennis Young

- Spoke more on what happens in the club, giving youth a place to belong and encouraging them to give back to the community. Just found out about this today and apologized to council for not being better prepared. Spoke on combined social activities and invited community to come observe and participate. Announced function on December 14 and again asked council to

Dana Allaway

- Board Members are asking why they were not given a chance to present to council and stated these funds are necessary to bring the club to a higher level. Asked why the board was not given the chance to clarify their need.

Dave Matthews

- Not here to weigh the worth of the boys and girls club but did relay growing up in the depression and being left at home alone yet learned how to give back to the community. Understands these are different times so not questioning the need for the club. Will question the expansion of the horseshoe pits, which do not belong to the club but to the senior center. Feels the senior center is being pushed out so asked for definition of what belongs to the club and what belongs to the seniors.

Trish Miller

- Confirmed that the club does not want the senior center but has a good relationship between the seniors and the club. Looking to improve a city building that is leased to the club. Does not consider the city as a source of income. Asking for the opportunity to receive funds to improve a city facility and willing to collaborate with the city on the use of the grant funds.

Mike Neel

- Spoke on the proper role of government. How does your role as a legislature relate to the oath you took this evening? Government is not a babysitting service to the community and this service should be provided by the parents. Many times parents opt out of their role as parents and questioned if this was helping the parents slough off their responsibility. Asked what the best use of the funds would be and reminded that government should be limited to providing utilities and infrastructure along with legislation rather than stepping across the line of funding special interest groups. If parents want their children to be taken care of in this manner then perhaps they should be funding the effort.

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Drew Heinlein

- Knows Mr. Neel who is a wonderful person and understands Mr. Neel's statements. Requested public be provided documentation for this grant. Is not personally decided on the issue when looking at the role of government however is an employee at the club and prior to becoming an employee thought it was just a babysitter service. Experience now has changed the opinion. Support youth are getting at home and school is not at the level they need and thru the club have seen improvements. Agree with Mr. Neel but also torn between the club and understands their view. Asked council to supply more information including minutes or transcripts where this was discussed.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Dan Clark

- Spoke with Mr. Poteet and the eligibility criteria were outlined. Six categories allowed and the funds are funneled thru the county. Rejected in because the county did not deem that the request did not fall under one of those six categories. Next requests must fall within those categories.

Lori Acton

- Informed public that the club was self-supportive, not the government. We the City asked the club to submit for CDBG funds and several times, they have been rejected. The \$75k on the table for them, they are willing to meet the guidelines and rehab the building. Discussed the role of government and comparison to crime prevention. Would like the original \$75k to be given to the club if they bring a qualifying project forward. Mentioned pocket park, ADA compliance, and street lights. Suggested original \$75k goes to the club and the remaining balance to the ADA.

Dan Clark

- Communication line was broken with the elimination of RDA and City will work on reestablishing the communication.
- Outlined the areas allowed for CDBG grants.

Jim Sanders

- Asked for clarification of how the funds were supposed to be used.
 - Transportation and computers but the application was rejected.
- Asked about the Pocket Park
 - Metcalf West original project plan but the project did not develop because of the elimination of the redevelopment agency.
- Appreciate comments from boys and girls club members and hope they continue to thrive. With that being said during these tough budget times, have a problem committing \$75k to the club when there are other areas that the City is behind on with infrastructure. Asked for clarification of application process.

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- One application, which identifies many projects.
- Would like to look at other infrastructure projects for the funds.

Jason Patin

- Asked if there was a time issue preventing bringing this item back.
 - Application is supposed to be submitted by Friday and Mr. Poteet has agreed to extend a few days to reapply. Council can direct staff how to expend funds and staff would need a detailed project description and cost estimate to accompany the application. If the information could be given to the secretary in a timeframe acceptable to Mr. Poteet, we could submit an amended application.
- If funds were coming from the general fund, I would agree with Mr. Sanders but this is a community development grant and if the club can provide a proposal to improve our facility then would like to see the funds committed to that project. The club is not a babysitter but a self-sustaining organization that is leasing our building and if we can provide a better facility for them then I do not have an issue with this.
- Would like to understand how big the issue of ADA compliance is and how urgent these projects are. What is the impact of taking this amount of funding from the ADA compliance?
 - Project had to have at least one phase that was ready to construct, we have had an ADA plan for several years and each year we tell them we are moving forward but one day they will ask to audit our plan.
- Jason recommends moving forward with staff recommendation with commitment from council that we consider any plan the club brings forward.

Jim Sanders

- Has no problem with the funding if it is to improve a public facility.

Lori Acton

- Asked if Measure 'L' funds could be used for ADA compliance.
 - These funds are to be used to replace non-compliance handicap ramps.

Chip Holloway

- See the nexus with Measure 'L' but do not believe it would pass the criteria promised for Measure 'L'. this is an amended 5 year plan, which has been amended repeatedly. There is nothing that says we cannot move forward with the plan as proposed, and then submit an amended plan again.
 - Would need to wait another year and these funds were promised 3 years ago.
- Have already spent \$100k on the facility. Argument of limited government is a good argument. Thanks to the state, we are going to inherit more criminals that are being released. Number one goal of government is public safety and this is an exorbitant cost to the city. a few years back I thought teen court was a waste of government funds but in this year, alone we have had 78 youth turned around. In favor of allocating funds to support this organization and improve the facility,

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however there is a concern with both the senior building and the club's building. May need a special council meeting or give council direction to the city manager to get us by until the 19th meeting. Understand the time constraints and not convinced that the deadlines are real.

Dan Clark

- Bob Poteet stated that when the application is submitted with general outlines rather than specifics, he would accept it. Shared different approach as a senior and the dire needs of the senior center. Strongly suggest we look at the capital improvement plan for the senior center including paving, sidewalks, painting, roofing, tile, etc. suggest we look at that as a project. Additionally would like to allocate \$5k funding for the medians. Suggest \$95k to club to improve their facility. Measure 'L' can cover concerns with ADA compliance. Have been blessed with TAB allocation funding and Measure 'L' for infrastructure and need to look at community for a balance.

Lori Acton

- Likes the suggestion. Measure 'L' should be able to cover ADA. \$95k for boys and girls club; \$5k for medians, and balance to Senior Center.

Jim Sanders

- Asked for detailed plan for the \$95k proposed for the Boys and Girls Club. As long as the funds are going to the public building then in agreement.

Jason Patin

- Has a concern that none of staff suggestions are being considered. Will this put us in a bad position for ADA compliance?
 - Measure 'L' funding is there to do street work and ADA compliance qualifies for those funds.

Chip Holloway

- Asked Mr. McRea about administrative costs for each cut of the funds. Revenues were eaten up in administrative costs in the past.

Lori Acton

- One cut of 10% regardless of how we split it up in the projects. Amended plan would rehab 2 city buildings and improve medians. Using Measure 'L' for ADA compliance is a proper use of funds.

Jason Patin

- No problem with proposal if the CDBG funds are used to improve a city facility but not supportive of using Measure 'L' funding for ADA compliance. Suggest using other grants or funding mechanisms for ADA Compliance.

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Lori Acton

- Feels that is a good idea. Use CDBG for community development and seek out other funding sources for ADA compliance.

Chip Holloway

- Bad public policy to make these decisions without vetting it. Support the concept but without more in-depth information cannot support it. Think we can buy 2 weeks to vet this issue.

Dennis Speer

- Support the recommendation of submit the general categories application and then detail the specifics in the next few weeks. Can submit with categories with estimates.

Jason Patin

- Without the ability to move funding around within the categories then not in, favor of the proposal. If we give someone a budget of \$200k then they will spend it whether they needed it or not. Feels it is irresponsible to submit without firm numbers.

Dan Clark

- Explained where the numbers came from for the ballpark figures. Challenge tonight is to get something submitted by Friday.

Lori Acton

- Council agreed the original funding should go to the Boys & Girls Club for the City facility. The figures are in the capital improvement plan from 2011 for the senior center facility. While the decision is quick, it is still moving in the right direction for community development.

Motion to amend and approve \$95k to club, \$200k to senior center, and \$5k for the arts council Ridge project

Motion pulled and item adjourned to December 6 at 4pm.

14. Budget Status Presentation

Speer

Dennis Speer

- Gave PowerPoint presentation to council. (copy available in the Clerk's office)

Lori Acton

- Have to have a reserve and a combination of cuts and using some funding while leaving a reserve is preferable. Prefer scenario 1

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Chip Holloway

- Agrees with Council Member Acton. Hate making these decisions at this time of year because it usually means cutting people. Support Mr. Speer coming back with a plan that follows scenario 1.

Jason Patin

- Support scenario 1 also and need to make the tough decisions now to ensure a better future for the City. may not agree with the plan on how we are going to get there but we all agree we need to do it now and not count on one time funding. Need to get the budget in line.

Jim Sanders

- Agree we need to have a reserve so scenario 1 is preferable.

Lori Acton

- Not fair to staff when jobs are threatened and constantly waiting for the other shoe to fall. We have to have a reserve and bring the budget in line.

Dan Clark

- Concur with the need for a reserve. As scenario 1 has been presented, do you want to amend it or alter it?

Lori Acton

- Ok with scenario 1 as presented.

Jason Patin

- So long as the cuts are presented to us before being made.

Chip Holloway

- Navy travel is being cut so may need to review the TOT revenues, may not be an accurate number.

Andy Anderson

- City cannot continue to operate with a zero general fund reserve. Problem foreseen is that general fund needs to be brought to a level where we can operate for at least a year without state funding. Federal government will cut the free monies and the state will look to local governments to make cuts. Need to reevaluate services and make cuts within every department and extraneous services that city currently support. Need to do it now and cannot have staff sitting around waiting for the other shoe to fall.
- Measure 'L' funds were promised for streets, police and safety. Cautioned using it for sludge fund and asked council to leave it alone except for streets and public safety.

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Jerry Taylor

- Questioned the 1.2 million shortfalls per year given the loss in revenues.
 - Assuming kern county settlement for RDA is used against expenditures and revenues we would still have 1.2 million shortfalls for next year.
- Wastewater loan is short term and the \$575k reserve is is not really a reserve but a loan from wastewater fund. Has to be paid back.

Barbara Auld

- Measure 'L' talk makes me nervous. Money should go for streets and public safety.

Mike Neel

- Thanked Mr. Taylor for reminder on the wastewater loan. \$575k needs to go back to the wastewater fund where it was loan from. Keep the money where it belongs to prevent people being ripped off and having to pay higher property taxes.
 - Wastewater fund has not been increased on assessments for property tax in 20 years.

Howard Auld

- Cannot keep cutting people or will not have staff left. Have to go where the money is and need to get Kevin McCarthy on our side. Give him a plan with substance. Become pro-active, not re-active. Leave wastewater alone and go where the money is.

Doug Lueck

- Correct that approximately 30% reduction will happen with travel cuts from the Navy. Spoke on the new tourism district, which will promote the community and will do everything possible to keep travelers and revenues coming to this community.

Chip Holloway

- Initial loan from wastewater was paid back. this \$575k is a different loan that was taken to backstop bills the community refused to pay.

Motion To Support Scenario1 As Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent

15. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving Budget Amendment #2013-02 Increasing Appropriations And Estimated Revenues In The Annual Budget **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report

Chip Holloway

- Asked if recommendations would be reviewed by council. moved to approve.

Jason patin

- Asked if the scenarios would be carried on in future years.

Lori Acton

- Senior center requires \$35k. do we receive monies for maintenance from the county? Is this our portion of the maintenance?
 - Yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Neel

- Questioned Item 3 \$85k for lobbyist passed pre measure 'L' and others now being told have to be cut.
- Questioned item 4, decrease in salary planned but is now added back in with ISF fund.
- Commented on salary cuts
- In future, need to cut expenditures.
- Commented on Item 5

Dan Clark

- Went on record stating that inconsistencies with city manager and finance director can result in items being omitted.

Andy Anderson

- Questioned where the funds would be coming from and can these be reconsidered and changed.
 - This is going to come back to council for review and cuts to be approved.

CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion To Approve Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendment Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

ADJOURNMENT to December 6, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.



RECONVENED Meeting On December 6, 2012 At 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Present: Mayor Clark; Council Members Acton, Sanders, Holloway, and Patin Were Present

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

13. (Continued) A Public Hearing And Adopt A Resolution Approving The Fiscal Year 2013-14 Annual Action Plan Which Amends The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 5 Year Consolidated Plan (Fy10-15) Regarding The Kern County Community Development Block Grant Program
Speer

CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Dennis Speer

- Deadline for submission of the application has been extended to January 16, 2013.

Dan Clark

- Spoke on procedures for public comment allowing an additional public comment time. All council in favor of additional public comment. Jason patin reminded the item would be opened again in January for further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Salvatore

- Dismayed at an effort to use Measure 'L' for non street repair items. Mentioned the Mr. Taylor had been working with county to take on the full funding of the senior center. Feels like a betrayal of everything public tried to do regarding Measure 'L'
 - For verification, a statement was made that Measure 'L' monies could be a nexus for handicap access, not a decision of the council and was only a point of discussion.

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Lori Acton

- Was using the statement as a clarification point, not a commitment of fund. Was not intended to be considered a commitment. Only working with CDBG funds.

Tom Wiknich

- Transparency is communication with the public. The only way the public knows what council is doing is by the agenda. This particular issue is CDBG money. Most people did not pay attention until a new proposal was covered last night without giving people the opportunity to think about it and look into it and give input. Last night when new proposal was put forth, it looked like it would move quickly when public could not have input. Need to have transparency and need to remember to put it out to the public. Mentioned the process and then going in a new direction without giving public the opportunity to speak on the new proposal.
 - Dan Clark – assured this would not be standard operation but was time sensitive and all members were shocked by the time constraints.
- Believe what staff recommended was decent. There is a backlog of projects for streets including \$1 million for ADA compliance and this \$300k could move toward that compliance. Cannot go backwards on ADA compliance, should be a number one priority. Persons in wheelchair with no access from the bike paths to sidewalks and having to go back several homes on rough road to get back onto the sidewalk. Preference4 is to keep emphasis on ADA compliance.

Andy Anderson

- Spoke on item 13 presentation on the city budget. Referred to past budget discussions. Request council postpone approval of budget amendment until next council to give new council and public time to read the material. Spoke on Item 14 budget transfers. Cutting potential general fund reserve just to get to the end of fiscal year. City has not lived within its means for many years. Had reserve in 2006 of over \$2 million dollars. Referenced graph from 2007 to 2016 and the current trend. Reviewed various totals from reference material. Asked what will happen next year. Should not continue to live beyond our means.

Scott Garver

- Measure 'L' committee was to have individual expenditure code with quarterly reports on the revenues and expenditures. Spoke on deliberations of utilizing measure 'L' items being used to backfill items that would show on these reports. Spoke on the literature used when Measure 'L' was approved which included public safety. Voters did not vote for nuance, only for moneys to go into certain columns. Public is now paying these funds and expect them to be used in the manner promised. In 5 years will have to vote on the funds again and if public sees the usage could affect their vote. People are entitled to reflection on how this will appear and whether it is done in a legitimate way and council should consider this when deliberating the use of the funds.

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Chip Holloway

- Spoke on the 'Network of Useless Information'. Many times public gets to witness council in real time making discussions on the fly and statements made end up in the 'Network of Useless Information'. Does not mean the information is accurate. That discussion never went to the point of a motion. The item would have had to come back to the public.

Dan Clark

- Comment for the purpose of clarity. 45 minutes prior to next Measure 'L' meeting staff and Mayor will sit down with committee to discuss collaborative working process. (add to agenda for measure 'L' meeting)

Dennis Young

- Spoke on CDBG funding source and purposes. Community Development funding is the only source that non-profit organizations like the boys and girls club can come to the City and request funds that do not impact the general fund but improve the community. In spirit, block grant money is annual requests that help with exercise mats, lighting, and playground equipment. Qualifications are getting tighter and transportation was not allowed. the CDBG funds are designed to do exactly what the club is asking of the city.

Jim Rachels

- Comments of the 'Network of Useless Information' inspires statements on the CDBG funding. While most of the things prior councils have done are technically correct, does not necessarily make them right. Was an opponent of Measure 'L' because was convinced it would be diverted away from roads and cops? Was disappointed when Mr. Taylor feigned surprise when the budget swiped away a large portion of funding right away. Public is frustrated with council taking money away from roads and cops. Here to express disappointment in continuation of what appears to be deception. Do not doubt that council could justify that funds are used appropriately, but have not convinced public. Every time money is diverted to something other than roads and cops then the network of useless information is lit on fire. The appearance of inappropriate action is there. Council's job is to manage the political appearance and disappointed that council has systematically eroded their viability.

Barbara Auld

- Is the measure 'I' in a separate account in finance so when it is spent it shows? How is the bookkeeping done on Measure 'L'?

Dan Clark

- If no one else wants to speak about community development block grant then public comment will be closed.

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Mike Neel

- Read portion of the community development block grant staff report. spoke on this recommendation being within the scope of the grant because it affected all homes in the community. All people will benefit from the staff's recommendation that staff studied and worked to put together. Staff is paid to do this work.

Jim Rachels

- Choice of using the money on a legal requirement and not using for ADA compliance that could cost the city in future fines. Asked council to consider moving the senior center to county control.

CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Clark

- Asked council pleasure since not under the gun to develop a different plan.

Chip Holloway

- County staff recommends working with our staff to analyze the ramifications of what we are trying to pursue. Misconception this pot of money may not be as big as originally thought due to federal strings being attached. Actual outcome may not be as great as originally thought. Would like to see the net return after RFP's and EPA Impact reports and other federal requirements. Staff recommendation may make more sense once the information is seen.

Jim Sanders

- Makes sense to take time and do it right. Good perspective from council member Holloway may not get as much out of it. Would be better to take back and get information then bring back to council.

Lori Acton

- Asked Mr. Speer if staff was aware of boys and girls club interest in a different project when putting this proposal together.
 - Kern County staff placed the money after the pocket park was denied.
- County does not want and cannot afford the senior center so that discussion is not open. While county did not pay a maintenance fund, but \$44k was set aside for maintenance fund and need to research this item.
 - At this time, maintenance is not included in the parameters of the grant.
- Would like to know what our return is on these funds. Asked if there were alternatives for ADA compliance.
 - TD Article 3 funds but competing with ourselves. We could make applications for handicap ramps at the expense of additional bicycle lanes.

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Jim Sanders

- Asked about plan for ADA compliance and if it would aid in getting other grants in future.
 - We are required to have and perform and ADA transition plan. We submit annual reports of progress. State appears to be moving toward wanting to see our document and if we are not in compliance, they can stop our funding.

Lori Acton

- Asked about qualification for burdensome requests.
 - As long as we are progressing then not penalized.

Jason Patin

- Proper way to proceed at this time is to let county and city staff to work together to develop plan numbers and bring back for public input.

Dan Clark

- City has spent years working on capital improvement plan. If you going to say the staff recommendation are more important, then I can respect that statement, but feel we have worked for several years to develop senior center proposal and willing to put a proposal from boys and girls club on the agenda as well. Feel the same about the arts council project. Feel the capital improvement plan has been revised to the point of being as accurate as possible. Support comments received but think council needs to make a decision. Excited about opportunity of doing something for the seniors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Organization

Members: To Be Appointed December 19, 2012
Meeting: 2nd Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: December 18, 2012

- None

Community Development Committee

Members: To Be Appointed December 19, 2012
Meetings: 1st Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: December 6, 2012

- None

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Infrastructure Committee

Members: To Be Appointed December 19, 2012
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: December 12, 2012

- None

Quality Of Life

Members: To Be Appointed December 19, 2012
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 December 19, 2012
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 December 19, 2012
Meetings: To Be Announced
Next Meeting: To Be Announced

- None

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: To Be Appointed December 19, 2012
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: at location to be announced

Chip Holloway

- Reviewed the RACVB directors report *(Copy Available In The City Clerk's Office)*

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- None

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Finance director recruitment – 5 qualified applicants and will begin interviews next week.
 - Council directed city manager to move forward with interview process.
- Executive search forms responding to the RFP for city manager – listed responders who are interested in conducting the recruitment for a new city manager. Asking for direction from council for proceeding on recruitment.
 - Council agreed to proceed with in-house recruitment and not expend the funds for an outside recruitment firm

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Chip Holloway

- Last night was supposed to be a ceremonial meeting. Will personally miss Mr. Carter, Morgan, and Taylor who represented more than 50 years of experience. There will be times when we will want that experience and corporate knowledge back. after 7 first council meetings, this is the first one with such a volatile issue and I commend new council members for the way they handled the situations. Right now, the people love you and as time goes on less people like you. Quoted statement from friend who was former council member. If we as council can have a professional discussion and disagree with each other without disrespecting each other and leave as friends, then we will be successful. Looking forward to the new team. Wish everyone happy holidays.

Jason Patin

- Welcome to new council members and Mayor. Excited and optimistic of the direction we are headed. From last night's passionate discussion, we should take away that everyone cares. Passion never changes, those who left have the same passion as the day they were sworn into office. Steve Morgan and Mr. Carter helped me tremendously and we are here to help each other. Spoke on a trip with Steve Morgan and Chip Holloway to Sacramento and the relationships they have developed over the years and how they are respected. One comment about public comment, council always want public comment but tonight we were on a specific topic and it is respectful to focus on that topic. When the time comes to discuss Measure 'L' then I want 100% of the people to participate, same as this topic. Be respectful of the people who are here to speak on a particular topic.

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James Sanders

- Agree it has been a fun 24 hours. Tremendous honor to serve the city and grateful for the opportunity. Look forward to working with fellow council and the public. Encouraged public to bring concerns or comments to him. All members have the best of intentions, will make mistakes but asked public to be patient. Look forward to direction council will go and expect great improvements.

Lori Acton

- Interesting first 24 hours. Clarified that measure 'I' funding was not on the table but only used as an illustrative purpose. Thank you to those who voted to give the opportunity to serve the public.

Dan Clark

- Humbled and honored to be elected as the first elected Mayor. Goals for the future include November 2013 50th anniversary of City of Ridgecrest incorporation. Invite entire public to get involved in the celebration organization and participation, including members of the base as they are a big part of the community. Ran my election on truth and transparency and will not Welch on that. Public will be kept in the loop on decisions of spending money. Asked public to give new council members the chance. This council has not done anything to lose your trust, give them a chance. We are here to serve you. I am not a confrontational person and will treat you with respect and ask the same of the public. Door is always open. Have a relationship with Council that is positive, and let us move forward.

ADJOURNMENT on December 6, 2012 at 5:21 p.m.


Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk