



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

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

**February 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

ADDED: Need arose item, GC54956(b) Liability Claim Of Kern County. Potential Litigation needs to be considered tonight.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- No member of the public presented comments.

CLOSED SESSION – 5:00 p.m.

GC54956.8 Successor Redevelopment Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation for sale. Matrix Building; City Corporation Yards; Business Park; Kerr McGee Youth Sports Center; and Civic Center. Agency Negotiators City Manager Kurt Wilson and Public Services Director Jim McRea

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

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- Closed Session
 - Liability claim by Kern County. Received report. No reportable action taken.
 - Real property negotiations. Received report. no action taken.
 - Labor negotiations for unions listed. Gave direction to Kurt Wilson to act as negotiator regarding certain matters. No further report
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sophia Merck

- Regarding upcoming WEMO meetings, Council was active in past and established CAPA.
- Community working with BLM regarding WEMO
- Has asked if CAPA is still active and been told nothing official.
- Asking Council to send member to next meeting tomorrow night which is the last meeting.
- Provided meeting information and paper regarding WEMO
- Jason Patin will be attending.

Paul Vanderwerf

- Thanked Council for support of fundraiser on February 4
- Spoke on past Saturday's basketball fundraiser.
- Next topic is concussion management
- New law passed AB25 setting standard for concussion management and we are still falling short in our community. Not using school facilities so fall short of meeting the standard.
- Gave history of child injury resulting in the law.
- Requested we require the facilities outside schools follow the regulations.
- Spoke on business licenses for non-profits. Is working with other non-profits and chamber of commerce to get other non-profits to take out business licenses.

- Spoke on possible penalties in the municipal code for agencies not taking out business licenses.
- Population has greater impact on tax revenues. Need better resources to understand our situation.

Dave Matthews

- Spoke on Dick Lewis passing away. Classified as Valley Pioneer and was owner of the homestead café.
- Services at 11am Saturday at the Masonic lodge.
- Wished condolences to family.

Jack Noyer

- Is a licensed business consultant
- Would like to know if we have a risk management fund and is the walmart indemnification a real necessity after years of mitigation.
- Wal-Mart is 415 billion dollar organization and we have trouble meeting payroll so why are we indemnifying Wal-Mart?
- Sounds like developer's remorse. They are watching community and stalling. Observation from a member of the public.
 - Keith responded that indemnification was on property we own thereby making us a target if there was a problem.

Howard Auld

- Presented a program of self-help for City of Ridgecrest financial problem.
- Number of households in Ridgecrest and surrounding area listed.
- Self-help suggestion is each household making a \$200 or more contribution to raise funds for City finances.
- Additionally business firms in Ridgecrest contributing at a level of \$500 each
- Non-profits or churches could also contribute.
- Presented different totals based on contribution rates.
- Ridgecrest financial recovery team will begin working with community members to begin this type of program.

Mike Neel

- Mr. Ponek has an indoor pool coming courtesy of free enterprise.
- I am designated as community leader because of a letter received.
- Presented Council members with letters and photos showing City armored personnel carrier given to local cities from law enforcement office.
- Noted particular case of person imprisoned for taking pictures of the vehicle in action.
- Point is any agency receiving federal aid is considered a principle of the federal military. Do we want undue federal influence on local police force.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Update Presentation to Council from Waste Management

Council heard a PowerPoint presentation from Sandra Pursley of Waste Management updating on the status of the residential rewards program, Recyclebank, which begins March 17. *(Copy available in the City Clerk's office)*

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval Of A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) Letter (KER#100513 And KER#100517) With Kern County For The Construction Of CMAQ Projects - Bowman Road From Jack's Ranch Road To Mahan Street And Mahan Street To Downs Street Speer
3. A Resolution To Approve A Contract In The Amount Of \$50,334 With The Software Firm, RouteMatch For The Design Of A Turn-Key Flex-Deviation Fixed Route Management System And To Complete Design Software Services For The City of Ridgecrest on the Automated Demand Response Transportation Management System Speer
4. A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Supporting (ACA), An Amendment To The California Constitution Lowering The Voter Threshold To 55 Percent For Local Transportation Sales Tax Measures Morgan
5. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Regular City Council Meeting Of February 1, 2012 Ford

Items pulled: Jim Fallgatter asked for item 3 be removed for discussion

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

Jim Fallgatter

- Asked if these funds could be used for any other purpose. Seems spending a large sum of money to create this system. If can use these funds for something else, we are beyond what we really need.

Dennis Speer

- These funds can only be used for transit. Background of why moving to deviated fixed due to low fare box ratios and Kern COG recommendations to move to deviated fixed and away from dial-a-ride. If we don't comply we can lose the \$300-\$500 annually for street repairs. Mandate to receive these funds is to first take care of transit needs. We are closely watched by Kern COG as we progress closer to the required.

Jim Fallgetter

- If Council has reviewed and feels we need this custom software when money is short then so be it.

Jason Patin

- Understand these funds have to be used for transportation and asked if there was a less costly software available.

Dennis Speer

- We already have part of the software and this will compliment the current system.

Jerry Taylor

- Wish there were no unmet needs.
- Frustrating that those funds we used to spend on roads we now have to spend on busses. Change federal law.

Motion To Approve A Resolution To Approve A Contract In The Amount Of \$50,334 With The Software Firm, Routematch For The Design Of A Turn-Key Flex-Deviation Fixed Route Management System And To Complete Design Software Services For The City Of Ridgecrest On The Automated Demand Response Transportation Management System Was Made By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

6. **A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Declaring Certain Real Properties Surplus To The Needs Of The City And Authorizing The Disposition Of The Properties** **McRea**

Jim McRea

- Gave Staff Report requesting property be declared surplus by Council to provide opportunity to Council to consider sale or lease of the property at a later date. Outlined the specific property location and interested companies use of the property.

Jason Patin

- Certain agencies have to be offered the property before we can put it for sale. Ultimately it could be offered to another company.

Kurt Wilson

- Not at that stage yet, only beginning the process to declare surplus.

Dave Matthews

- Is the animal shelter part of this to be moved?
 - Jim McRea responded northern strip of the property with no impact to shelter
- With regards to wastewater treatment plant and the past location of the plant, still a question of whether we can rebuild at the City location. Will this impact those plans?
 - Jim McRea stated the initial study would be south of former wastewater facility so no impact within the 10 acres.

Jason Patin

- New technologies of wastewater are more compact.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Of Ridgecrest City Council Declaring Certain Real Properties Surplus To The Needs Of The City And Authorizing The Disposition Of The Properties Made By Council Member Morgan , Second By Council Member Taylor . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

7. Approve A Resolution Placing A General Purpose Sale Tax On The Election Ballot Of June 5, 2012 **Wilson**

Kurt Wilson

- Gave Staff Report citing current economic conditions for the City agency. Unprotected funds now taken by the state. Council already cut over 3 million from budget in past totaling 17% however full services are still expected within the community. This item if passed by the voters would help maintain status quo. Majority vote and includes an oversight committee to ensure funds are spent as the studies indicated community preferred. Also includes a five year sunset.

Jerry Taylor

- Supports this measure

Tom Wiknich

- Wording of section 1 question can we remove 'pot-hole' and just say street repairs? Also suggest 'other City services' be removed since not defined.

Jack Noyer

- Agree with Vice-Mayor. Ship is sinking without RDA funds.
- Why are we not going back up to 8.25% since it went down? Referenced Palmdale and other cities that already pay more. Arvin and Delano are paying the 8.25%
- Recommendation to go up to 8.25% rather than 8%. Argument is we paid it for some time and nobody complained. Funds should go to support personnel.

Jim Fallgatter

- Support this measure and getting a vote of the people. Agree some of the wording should be corrected as suggested by Mr. Wiknich

Howard Auld

- Speaking for Barbara Auld who fully supports the increase and strongly urges every citizen to support this increase.

Renee Westalusk

- Supports the $\frac{3}{4}$ increase in sales tax and suggests that the consequences be quantified to the public.

Al Huey

- Opposed to any tax increase

Brian Waterman

- Agrees with Mr. Wiknich with regard to wording. Not in favor of any tax increase due to issues both recent and in past with streets. When times were good we didn't do anything about the streets. Am in favor of only increasing something when public knows exactly what it will be spend for, in this case a general purpose does not earmark for specific issues.

Keith Lemieux

- Is for general fund but will be pledged for the purposes identified. There are political implications in not spending as pledged and oversight committee would bring that to public attention.

Jerry Taylor

- Clarified that if items are designated it requires a larger majority vote.

Bill Folden

- In favor of improving our town.
- Not in favor of improving the police force. Have a marvelous force now.
- Need to be crystal clear in what the tax will be going toward.

Robert Eierman

- Oppose any new tax and although would appear headed for tougher times than in past am not comfortable with record City has with spending money appropriately. Have a tough time getting behind giving more money and not seeing results City wants. During better times money was not spent on roads so hard to imagine that during tougher times it will be spent in that way. There are definite things the money could be used on, this City's record does not substantiate giving more money.

Mike Neel

- Asked this be run in full for voters to see.
- Mentioned letter received from City outlining essential City services the money will be spent on. Asked why we do not have the resources to pay for these essential City services.
- Reviewed sections of the staff report and resolution. Doesn't understand how this can be a general tax when several areas delineate 3-4 specific areas the money will be used to support and includes the oversight committee. Discussed audit requirements
- Reinforces statements that the money will be spent of these special things rather than general fund tax.
- Spoke on instances that have degraded community trust.

Steve Morgan

- City attorney has gone to great lengths to word this ordinance. Some people will continue to oppose this no matter how it is written. Voters will once again have the chance to help themselves. We intend to spend this on the items the community has asked for. This is my 4th time down this road and I honestly did not want to do this again.

Jerry Taylor

- Point of clarification, since there are already items on the ballot the cost to add this item on the ballot will cost the City \$2-3 thousand dollars.
- Clarified the order requested by citizens with roads, police, services, and lastly parks.
- Need to be able to provide police and dispatchers and equipment at an adequate level and when redevelopment went away public works lost funds for matching funds to fix our streets. I do want to keep the pool open and not turn the water off on the grass.
- Plead to the public to support this so we can continue to provide services and safety. As a special tax, this would not pass and have tried it and failed. Trying this way in the attempt to keep this City solvent and provide funds the state cannot take away from us.

Jason Patin

- Opposed to increasing tax and supports increasing the tax base so we don't have to do this to the people. It is up to the people and while I'm not in favor I do not have a problem putting this on the ballot to let the people vote for them. Without the redevelopment funds it will be harder to continue.

Chip Holloway

- This is my third round with this item. General tax argument is frustrating and feels the percentages to pass a measure should be reversed between general and specific tax measures. Gave statistics on voter turnout and requirements. If you do the math it is ludicrous. Cost to repair streets goes up when people are saving money by not taxing. Trying to be open and honest of where we want this money to be spent. Am supporting this.

Ron Carter

- As community we need to pass this, need more police officers. Have cut them throughout the years because we did not have the money. Need to support them so they can keep us safe. Los Angeles did not maintain their officers and now gang problems are out of control. State is releasing prisoners and we need to give our officers the tools they needs to keep our community safe. Spoke on road needs which will not happen unless we pass this measure.

Jason Patin

- This is the one tax the state has not figured out how to take. An opportunity for the tax dollars to stay local and opens us up to other funding mechanisms as a self-help community.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Placing A General Purpose Sales Tax On The Election Ballot Of June 5, 2012 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

8. Update On Fiscal Emergency And decisions regarding Proposed Solutions
Wilson

Kurt Wilson

- Gave staff report mentioning people attending tonight. Size of deficit City is facing and the short length of time to resolve. Staff has spent the last two weeks trying to squeeze out as much as possible. Three scenarios, the easiest is to do a flat across the board cut; then looking at individuals and third the organization as a whole. Making decisions based on priority. The most painful and impactful but the most effective is to look at the organization as a whole. Our hope was to walk in with a list that solved the problem. We still did not get there with the ugly scenarios. With a level of uncertainty in the middle of the year does not help. Spend hours daily going over each aspect of the legislation.

Jerry Taylor

- Reminded public there is a 900k deficit with very little time left in this budget year. The number grows daily. Not easy for the employees or the public. This budget has to be balanced and it will not be pretty. We don't have the final numbers so some people will leave without knowing yet what will happen.

Jim Fallgetter

- Don't know what you are talking about. Right now feel there is a major cop-out. Telling us now we are up against the wall when everyone knew what governor brown was doing. I don't know who you've gone to do get your list but from what I understand you haven't talked to your department heads who have the experience to find out what you should do and what they would recommend.
- At 5:00pm was the first time the Council heard the plan astounds me. If Council makes a decision based on information received so recently that affects lives and families and the future of our City. Don't appreciate being told tonight that there are going to be hard times. Should have had contingencies in place. Is it possible people could cut hours or salary cuts? Can we not water the grass? I will be extremely aggravated if you make a decision tonight until you check with the key people to see what they would recommend.
- You just approved a consultant to Washington and people like RACVB who are bringing people to town. We may not have a City planner or a community services manager to help these people. Let's make really sure you know what's been done behind the scenes to ensure you are making the right decision. Please meet with City manager and ask the hard questions. This isn't a one man decision and while you've been here two years be some of us have been here 50 years. I would like to know you have explored the basic options available.

Lois Beres

- Believe there has to be a lot more thought than a two hour meeting. You will be devastating families and our City. Why not everyone take a part time job. Don't devastate entire departments. When we need them we would have to go find people. I want to think that every possible thought has gone into it.

Tom Wiknich

- Asked why Council member Morgan is off the dais
 - Keith Lemieux – because his wife is involved so he is abstaining.
- Asked that public comment be reopened after we actually find out what you are going to do.

Jack Noyer

- Related past banking history. Has volunteered his skills in past. Related water district recent layoff issues. Agree with Mr. Fallgetter with public needing to know the facts before a decision is made. Loyalty sometimes prevails over logic, you have to take your time to assess and analyze. What happens if we are overdrawn at the end of the year? We borrow money then go to voters and ask for funds to pay it back. These employees deserve more. Understand the brown act restrictions make it difficult for Council to meet and discuss.

Matthew Alexander

- Assured Council the staff is aware of the difficult decisions Council is facing. Related history with the City as planner. Reviewed BRAC and general plan update. Informed yesterday that the planner position may be recommended for elimination. Behind in housing element. Need to implement the general plan and need a new zoning ordinance. Hazard mitigation plan needed. Is willing to modify the contract and reduce hours. Quoted figures for a consultant. Believe that by modifying the employment contract would be effective and equitable for the City.

Brian Waterman

- Reluctant to be critical of the Council. Understand government and how they operate. If we don't take care of ourselves here, there are other issues with the country falling apart. Agree with the people who spoke that this item is questionable and suggest the details be given so we can understand. Encouraged the audience to come up and ask questions.

Bill Folden

- Is there a way the tax increase go into keeping people's jobs?
 - Jerry Taylor – tax was being considered before RDA went away but the amount the public is being asked for has gone up. Probably should be higher but based on polling it probably would not pass.
 - Ron Carter – tax increase would not have an effect on this year's budget.
- Understand that, but the planning of the Council could have been more decisive when the RDA did arrive. If not crystal clear on what it is being used for then what greater opportunity to sell the increase to public. This is what we need to do to survive. If we don't have a nice town and quality people to answer questions, why would anyone want to bring their company to Ridgecrest? As an elected official, it shows stamina if willing to go forward and find solutions to come up with a better plan. Think Mr. Wilson is a talented young man with a good Council behind him, but we need to re-group and find a better plan. I believe if we sell it properly then the people will buy it. If you take the time to show genuine concern about the employees then you will be able to sell it.

Bob Smith

- Have concerns about what could happen in the next couple weeks. Have known since this came up what could happen. When the RDA went away, I started making plans to protect my family. I would resign my position if we could keep one officer on the road until we decide where the tax will come from. More important to me to know the City is protected.

Manuel Farmer

- Know almost everyone who works for the City. people here are volunteering to take cuts to help each other out. How much is City manager willing to cut to save someone else? Decisions made in this City made me have to lay off 17 people, isn't easy and had to take a lot of cuts to save what I could. Everybody who works here and runs this City were willing to stand up and give a little bit of what they have this City would be better off.

Jim Davis

- Local businessman with local business experience. Commend Council for the tough decisions they are about to make. Fairly new to Ridgecrest, a little over six years. Are we really turning over every rock and self-helping? You can cut hourly employees and management salaries. I cut 10% management salaries in bad times. You have to have police protection. You don't want gangs from LA. Do what is necessary. Capital improvements can be rolled. If you put people out of jobs you don't have an efficient running organization. Do what you have to do. Are you turning off unused lights, supervising purchases, keeping status of inventory. If you don't have a City staff, what do you have? Everybody is working hard because they care about the City they live in and the people they work with. Don't just prepare a hit list. You save more by cutting salaries and lengthening the workweek than cutting 5 employees.

Howard Auld

- Cant express how saddened I am with this turn of event. No surprise how much I have worked to get finances for this City. the writing on the wall has been obvious for at least 3 years and we just can't cut any more. You are heading down the road of having a City manager and City clerk to carry on. Take this to citizens who must take ownership. Would guess that 90% of the citizens have no idea what is happening tonight. Time to take this to the community and they will rise to the situation. The only way this City can survive is when the whole community takes ownership of what is happening right now.

Dave Matthews

- Retired for 16 years with a moderate income and worked to get myself in that position. Sitting here trying to envision as an employee if this was facing me what I would prefer. Lose my job or have a part time job. The answer is easy. I prefer the part time job. When I first moved here, there was an economic downturn and was unemployed for six months. A young family, new house, and children made it tough. Had I not had some savings I would have lost my house and had to move. Think we should explore putting City on part time basis for remainder of this year and see how things shape out.

Jerry Taylor

- The reason you did not see this Council come it with specific cuts is because of contract and union issues. Mr. Wilson will talk to the unions. These ideas are appreciated and validate what this Council has been thinking. We do have to plan for the inevitable. Can't take some functions to part time such as police services and this puts the burden on the remaining employees. Apologize for the format but we do need to go back to our employees thru Mr. Wilson. Wish we could do it and poll the employees but our hands are tied. I understand what cuts are like and have already lost a lot of staff and those left are trying to maintain services. Trying to find ways to keep this City whole.

Chip Holloway

- Frustrating because we want to talk with the employees but our hands are tied by legal issues. Similar to trash, we started down one path and as we went the rules kept changing. Same position with RDA. Having to make long-term decisions based on information that no one can tell us is valid or legal. State has bigger lawyers. Our employees have been suffering for years; they have already been forced to work with less and are the most underappreciated workforce in this community. City has been shielded from the ramifications because the employees we have kept the citizens satisfied. Each department head can make a case of why positions are important. Every day we don't make a decision we put another potential job at stake and cause more emotional strain on the employees. If this was just a math problem it would be simple. People who are not engaged think it is just math. There isn't a person on the preliminary list who hasn't suffered abuse, been a mentor, or helped me solve a problem. We are losing \$7000 per day which will increase the number of people affected. For 14 years I've heard we have to run the City like a business. The process the City manager used is the only process that could be used. You have to look at the integrity of the organization to protect the whole. I can't take a poll. We could save the integrity of this organization by going into debt. When you put names to the numbers it isn't a math problem anymore. We will lose 20 years of progress trying to get back up to speed. We have a lot to think about.

Jason Patin

- We tried to make decisions and we will be giving a recommendation for City manager to move forward on certain items. I was given the current list today and it isn't enough time. I don't want to move forward in pieces which would devastate a lot of people. Until we have a decisive plan we should not take any action.

Jerry Taylor

- Next year's problem is \$1.9 million. Could accuse us of being ostriches in hoping redevelopment would be saved. We also thought prop 22 would protect us. The problem we are faced with on borrowing is we have already done that and are on a repayment plan. It is tough for everyone. I do not want to close any parks or turn off sprinklers. We do need to turn over every rock so we can make this place better for all of us. I appreciate everyone being here and wish we were further along and will be holding a special meeting before the next Council meeting in order to move forward. We want to maintain the quality where people want to live.

Jason Patin

- We heard this tonight and had two hours to look it over. Want more time to be absolutely sure that the decisions we are making now are the best ones. Once the ball starts rolling you can't undo them.

Jerry Taylor

- By having a special Council meeting we will be able to move forward. Something needs to start, doesn't necessarily mean it will happen.

Ron Carter

- There is no way we can avoid eliminating positions and staff has been asked to look at everything before cutting any positions. I am a supporter of recreation and community. I have made the position that I am willing to let all of that go in order to save jobs. Staff has done everything they can and we are looking at everything we can cut to save a job. We have staffs who are my friends. Some I consider part of my family and I do not want to tell a friend or family member they do not have a job. This is the most difficult thing I have ever worked with. Was part of the school district for many years and the past few years had to make serious cuts and lost teachers. Water district has gone thru the same process. Every City and local government is going thru this. Would like to borrow as much as possible so no one loses a job. There are no easy solutions, but please do not go away thinking we have not looked at every possible scenario or been as creative as possible. Appreciate tonight's comments and are open for any suggestions to cut \$900k.

Kurt Wilson

- Thanked everyone for comments and suggestions. There are limits that exist when
- Enter into negotiations with bargaining units to modify existing MOU's
- Delegates City Manager to identify least impact positions
- Eliminate funding to chamber of commerce and RACVB

Jason Patin

- Does not agree.

Jerry Taylor

- Need to start the process. Do not have information from bargaining units to make a decision. Asking for information from bargaining units before moving forward.

Motion to give direction to City Manager to Enter into negotiations with bargaining units to modify existing MOU's, identify least impact positions, and Eliminate funding to chamber of commerce and RACVB made by Council Member Taylor, Second by Council Member Holloway. Roll Call Vote of 2 ayes, 2 nays (Council Members Holloway and Patin); 1 abstain (Council Member Morgan) and 0 absent. Motion does not pass.

Council Member Taylor amended the original Motion to give direction to City Manager to Enter into negotiations with bargaining units to modify existing MOU's and identify least impact positions.

Ron Carter

- Requested Staff look at borrowing money to help resolve the budget deficit left by the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency.

Jason Patin

- Need to continue to look at all other options.

Motion To Direct City Manager To:

- *Open Negotiations With All Employee Groups*
- *Look At All Other Options*
- *Look For Borrowing Option.*

Motion Made By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstain (Council Member Morgan); And 0 Absent.

10 minute break

DEPARTMENT AND 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: March 14, 2012

Jerry Taylor

- Looking at turning off street lights to cut costs without compromising safety. Not just the power but the lease of the poles

Quality of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin, Craig Porter, Carter Pope
Meetings: 1st Thursday of every even month at 12:00 p.m.; Kerr-McGee
Center
Next Meeting: April 5, 2012

Chip Holloway

- Has not met

City Organization

Members: Ron Carter, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Christopher LeCornu
Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room
Next meeting: February 21, 2012

Jerry Taylor

- Did not meet and at this time has not scheduled meeting

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: March 8, 2012

Jason Patin

- Announced next meeting

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: March 13, 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: March 7, 2012 and location to be announced

Chip Holloway

- Read Directors Report from last meeting (*copy available in City Clerk's office*)
- Cheryl McDonald met with trainers at BLM corrals and is documenting the process of how Mustangs are transformed from wild horses to usable friends and partners. Doing photography and workshops to bring more tourism to Ridgecrest.

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

None

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Kurt Wilson

- Thanked members of staff who are forwarding recommendations daily.
- Meeting with all employees tomorrow to discuss more.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jason Patin

- Thanked Tyrell and Mr. Wilson who have been working incredible hours on this issue. Just feel we are not ready to move forward, which is not due to lack of effort on staff's part. Leaves staff hanging a little longer but want to get it right the first time.

Steve Morgan

- Asked Mr. Lemieux for a written document expressing what I am going to be facing when I participate in the next meeting that we discuss this. I do not care about my personal safety at this point. I punted tonight, and I've made decisions over my time here that I regretted and this is one of them and I will not do that again. I know my fellow Council members and I have always had the best intentions and are not perfect. As we go thru the process to stem the tide with our employees, with the community and each other, the idea of that everyone must contribute is key. I can only hope that contribution will be relatively temporary. We in Ridgecrest can do what we can do for ourselves and can hope that our state rights its ship so we may get back to normalcy. I appreciate greatly all the work and all the effort that I have shared with City staff over my many years. I am not blind to the fact that we are more than likely going to have to let some employees go but as few as possible with everything we can do and should do and need to do. Would like to thank mayor carter for allowing me the last word tonight for those who are not used to seeing me this way I am trying to remain calm. I will be making an appointment with Mr. Wilson to go over legitimate budget items.

Jerry Taylor

- Appreciate the participation tonight and understand the frustration but did not have all the information to move forward tonight. Have to balance the budget and do need to move forward. Look forward to anything else provided by Mr. Wilson and staff that can be sent directly to email. Cannot exchange the ideas with fellow Council but can work with Mr. Wilson.

Chip Holloway

- This will be a painful experience but we are going to try to do the best thing for the whole. Perhaps now that some people understand how serious this is, we will get more engagement from the community. Some of the things proposed will create scenarios that will be unappealing to try to attract people to move to our base. Once you stop the momentum you spend more dollars trying to rebuild and I hate to see us throw everything away to get to that magic number.

Ron Carter

- Thanked everyone who came this evening. Appreciate those who made comments. As a community we need to find a way to increase revenue if we don't want to lay off staff. We've tried 4 times and community wasn't willing and now at the point to make the hard decisions. Appreciate everyone's understanding.

ADJOURNMENT at 10:21 pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk