



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL
RIDGECREST HOUSING AUTHORITY
RIDGECREST FINANCE AUTHORITY**

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

**June 20, 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 – 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

➤ Item 11 pulled

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

None presented

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CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

- GC54956.9(A) Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. Active litigation: Squillacote v. Frid (S-1500-CV-276362 DRL)
- GC54956.9(A) Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. County Of Kern v. City Of Ridgecrest
- 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
 - Scollitea v. Frid – instructed attorney to prepare defense for Mr. Frid who was an active duty officer at the time of event.
 - No action taken on Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. County Of Kern v. City Of Ridgecrest
 - Labor Negotiations - Received report provided instruction regarding negotiations.
- Other
 - none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nicholas Coy

- Representative of veteran's advisory committee.
- Intend to have veterans stand down on October 5.
- Job fair agenda and VA representatives available.
- Asking businesses and individuals to assist.
- Identified need in Ridgecrest for veterans assistance.

Ron Carter responded

- Has forwarded information to Council Members.
- Mr. Wilson will be meeting with the committee.
- Thanked all committee members for their work.
- Serious problems for veteran's with the veterans administration
- Encouraged citizens to get involved.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Kern Council Of Governments Energy Partnership Presentation and Resolution to Ridgecrest City Council** Linda Urata

Linda Urata

- Gave PowerPoint presentation to Council regarding Energy Watch Partnership and requested Council to join the partnership.

Steve Morgan

- Noted that PGE and Edison is eliminating the programs Ridgecrest is currently participating with.
- Makes sense to work with Kern COG given the working relationship.

Jerry Taylor

- Agreed with Steve Morgan and supports the program.

Dave Matthews

- Has been saving energy his entire life and noted a lot of other energy sources whose prices are increasing.
- Thinks the

Motion To Approve A Resolution Entering Into The Kern Council Of Governments Energy Partnership Was Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Award A Construction Contract To Bowman Asphalt Inc For The Resurfacing And Rehabilitation Of The North And South Bound Lanes On Downs Street Between Inyokern Road To Ward Avenue And Authorize The City Manager To Execute The Contract** Speer
3. **Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Award A Construction Contract To Bowman Asphalt Inc. For The Resurfacing And Rehabilitation Of The North And South Bound Lanes On Downs Street Between Ward Avenue To Drummond Avenue And Authorize The City Manager To Execute The Contract** Speer
4. **Approve A Resolution To Approve The Proposal With The Engineering Firm Of Willdan To Provide Environmental, Design Engineering, And Construction Management For The City Of Ridgecrest On The Cycle 3 Federal Safe Routes To School Program** Speer

5. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Granting The Transfer Of A Non-Exclusive Taxi Franchise Speer
6. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The Application For And Acceptance Of The Department Of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Grant Assistance Program Strand
7. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Calling And Giving Notice Of The Holding Of A General Municipal Election To Be Held On Tuesday November 6, 2012 For The Election Of Certain Officers As Required By The Laws Of The State Of California Relating To General Law Cities Ford
8. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Requesting The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Kern To Render Specified Services To The City Relating To The Conduct Of A General Municipal Election To Be Held On Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Ford
9. Approve Draft Minutes Of City Council Meeting Date June 6, 2012 Ford

Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 pulled for discussion

Motion To Approve Item 9 Of The Consent Calendar Was Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

Jerry Taylor

- Questioned what match funds are being used with TAB funds not available.
- Asked how long bids are good for.
- Asked the amount of impact fees currently.
- Asked when the funds had to be spent.
- Asked why items 2 & 3 were not bid as single contracts.
- Quality control, what will be done differently from previous projects?
- Will projects be done this summer

Dennis Speer

- Funded in separate years and cannot combine the funds.
- Already approved consulting engineer who is aware of previous issues. Will continue to monitor.
- Will be completed this paving season.

Item 4

Jerry Taylor

- Asked for the timeline and specific identification.
- Can traffic impact be used?

Dennis Speer

- No matching funds required

Item 6

Jerry Taylor

- Concerned about use for overtime versus straight time.
- Statement that we do as much as possible on straight time.

Ron Strand

- Straight time would take away from productive time doing priority items.

Dave Matthews

- Referred to summary of what the grant would do and asked for clarification

Ron Strand

- Responded with overview of activities that officers and staff will conduct educating businesses and public.

Motion To Approve Items 2, 3, 4, & 6 Was Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Taylor . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

Item 5

Keith Lemieux

- Amendment to resolution language changing the term 'Grant' and 'Granting' to 'Approve' and 'Approving'

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

Item 7 & 8

Keith Lemieux

- Explained the timing issues involved with calling for the next election and certification of the initiatives from the June 5, 2012 election. Recommend amending resolution language to add 'effective 10 days after the vote is certified and directing city clerk to take necessary actions that will ensure November 6, 2012 election.

Jerry Taylor

- Clarified that Council is trying to move forward.

Motion to approve items 7 & 8 was made by Council member patin, second by Council member Morgan. *Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

ORDINANCES

10. Introduction And First Reading, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Relates To Conflicts Of Interest **Lemieux**

Keith Lemieux

- Gave staff report.

Public Comment

- No member of the public presented comments.

1. *Motion To Waive Reading In Full Of An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Relates To Conflicts Of Interest Made By Council Member Morgan , Second By Council Member Patin . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent*

2. *Motion To approve, By Title Only, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Relates To Conflicts Of Interest Made By Council Member Morgan , Second By Council Member Holloway . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent*

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

11. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Reciting The Fact Of The Consolidated General Municipal Election Held On June 5, 2012 Declaring The Result And Such Other Matters As Provided By Law Ford

Item Pulled pending receipt of certification of election results from the County Clerk.

12. Discussion And Approval Of A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting The Draft 2012-13 Budget (Continued From June 6, 2012) Staheli

Kurt Wilson

- Gave staff report updating past discussion and modifications made to the draft.
- PowerPoint presentation of the revised draft budget. *(copies are available in the City Clerk's Office)*

Jerry Taylor

- FY 11 year-end data has potentially misleading information due to not rolling into ISF funds. Specifically finance/IT page 25 and 174 year-end totals differ. Due to elimination of general government ISF funds being rolled back into the general fund. Costs have not increased.
- Page 27 – agrees with more paperless, asked by reproduction costs were going up. Initial cost for scanners and equipment.
- Police officer funding and cash flow between July and January. Anticipate latter part of calendar year will be most difficult, will have to evaluate and defer expenditures but if not feasible will have to come back to Council with other options.
- Understanding strategy is to spend as little as possible the first two quarters to stretch current funding until Measure 'L' funding begins coming in.
- Asked if the RACVB tourism district is feasible and doable. Staff has not been able to do the analysis and may come back with recommendation. Funding for ½ the year.
- Page 18 clarified salary increase in Council as loss of RDA the Council salaries have been combined.

Steve Morgan

- Requested more detail of how the numbers have been broken down by department. Clarified that one person's salary was being charged to multiple departments based on the functions individuals are performing.
- Reductions to salaries account for .10 percent reduction of the planner.
- Commended staff for the amount of attention taken to trying to make the budget readable for the public. Good budget that can be worked with as a living document. Not happy with the cuts but understand the necessity.
- Asked staff to put more emphasis on the quarterly reports.

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- Referenced chart in the back showing different positions and what portion of whom was being paid where. Asked for public review by Finance Director who gave example of city clerk salary breakdown.
- Requested public explanation of fund description chart. Methodology for attempting to show the overhead costs. Asked staff for brief overview of why the numbers appear to not balance. Staff complied, reviewing FY2013 Overhead Calculation chart. Bottom line unless changes are made is a projection of approximately \$600,000 general fund balance.
- If projections fall below anticipated totals, Council is to be notified immediately.

Chip Holloway

- Further review of the chart totals.
- The assumption of general fund reserve of \$600,000; proposed grant writer and lobbyist and 10% planner adjustment go back into the budget.
- Thanked staff for the concessions made that the public does not see.
- Comfortable moving forward.

Jason Patin

- Thanked staff for the work done on the new draft budget making it more understandable.
- Agrees with Chip Holloway to return the 10% salary cut to the planner.
- Would like to see the Lobbyist and Grant Writing stay in place.
- Asked for review of services chamber provides and if those services have been covered elsewhere. Nature of the work is the effects are not seen immediately.
- Reimbursement of unrepresented employees brought back when negotiations are completed.
- Parks and recreation department, concern about the medians and upkeep of the parks. Still have the department and obligation to maintain the parks, plumbing, clean-up. Want to see a plan of how that maintenance will happen without the additional funding.
- Based on closed session items, not in favor of approving the budget tonight.

Ron Carter

- Thanked staff for the work and hours they have done to make this a budget the public could understand.
- Would like to see the planner back up to 100%; grant writer and lobbyist add back.
- Vision of working with the chamber in a partnership and want it expanded to benefit local businesses and community.

Jerry Taylor

- Appreciate the suggestions to make the planner whole
- Staffing summary sheet, parks and recreation increased and want to know where the funds came from. Reprioritized and made changes and this proposal includes measure 'L' funding meets the language to provides for programs.
- Questioned where funding for Parks maintenance supervisor and director of parks and recreation came from. Kurt responded that changes made left a hole in programs but those met the requirements of the language in Measure 'L'. Approximately \$120,000 of Measure 'L' anticipated revenue would be used for youth programs. Has a problem with that.
- Asked about the assumption for Redevelopment administrative funding.
- Would like to continue grant writing with evaluation annually before continuing.
- Does not agree with hiring a lobbyist. Questioned assumptions for TOT and noted the department of defense direction is to reduce travel budgets by 30% so asked the number to be evaluated.
- Asked to take the benefit package away from Council.
- Suggested take a reduction to travel budget by 50%.

Public Comment

Jay Chun – President of Chamber of Commerce

- Relocation packages are being charged for now. Number of people are not willing or able to purchase the packages so looking to digitize the packages to lower the costs.
- Economic Outlook Conference will continue but will be single presentation by Chamber without the City.
- Lack of funding have reduced hours of operation and closed on Friday's.

Harris Brokke

- Commented about Notary Services – suggested City not compete with local businesses.

Doug Louck

- RACVB will be supportive of the relocation packages and will work with Chamber to assist if the tourism district gets through.

Stan Rajtora

- Requested clarification regarding positive outcome with union negotiations. Has impression that this is no longer the assumption. Kurt responded that the assumptions are that all employees will pay their portion of PERS.
- In-Depth review of revenue assumptions highlighting TOT; Wastewater Fund; Rentals.

Barbara Auld

- Asked for explanation of Measure 'L' breakdown.
- Expressed expectation that all Measure 'L' money was to be used for streets and police and disappointment that some money would be used for Parks programs. Kurt reviewed the portion proposed is specifically to keep children in organized activities and off the street.
- Referenced the Lobbyist and Grant Writer. Community is willing to support these two functions with community entity support and funding.

Tom Wiknich

- Reviewed the breakdown showing the Measure 'L' funding. Available on page 52 of the draft budget.
- Referenced the revenue side of the budget and would like Council action to review the revenue and fees.

Howard Auld

- Referred to the oversight committee for Measure 'L'. expressed surprise at the amounts going to various areas without the oversight committee. Steve Morgan reassured that these are staff recommendations but the entire process will be followed. Kurt noted that the sequence of events is unusual as these are projections of revenues we have not seen yet and the committee has yet to be seated. Timing for adoption of the budget is critical and in subsequent years the process will be more refined.

Paul Vanderwerf

- Council previously requested information of how activities would be affected. Rather than fee for service, Measure 'L' revenues being expended to the programs without knowing the effect to operations is concerned with the \$120,000 and how it is being spent. Want to see a direct impact through streets and police.

Jason Patin

- Majority want to make planner salary whole
- Reinstate lobbyist
- Reinstate grant writing
- Reminded community the budget is a living document and can be changed.

Jerry Taylor

- Does not have problem with grant writer or planner but does have problem with lobbyist and \$120,000 Measure 'L' recommendation.

Steve Morgan

- Grant writer at \$40k
- Lobbyist at \$45k
- Planner Salary \$15k
- Supports the three recommendations.

Chip Holloway

- Agrees with recommended changes and wants to go back to the community regarding lobbyist for future funding.

Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting The Draft 2012-13 Budget As Amended Made By Council Member Morgan , Second By Council Member Holloway . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 3 Ayes (Mayor Carter, Council Members Holloway And Morgan; 2 Nays (Council Members Taylor And Patin; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

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: July 11, 2012

- Steve Morgan – reviewed last meeting and announced next meeting including Bowman road project award.

Quality Of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin, Craig Porter, Carter Pope
Meeting: 1st Thursday Of Every Even Month At 12:00 P.M.; Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: August 2, 2012

- No Report

City Organization

Members: Ron Carter, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Christopher LeCornu
Meeting: 1st Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: Cancelled

- No Report

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: Cancelled

- Patin – reviewed last meeting presentation from COSMOT and Economic Development projects. Next meeting August 2

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: Cancelled until the start of the next school year.

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: To Be Announced

- Holloway – announced next meeting as July 11 at Heritage Inn

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- Steve Morgan – announced Holloway attending Kern COG meeting.
- Jerry Taylor – attended master plan and available on website.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Kurt Wilson

- Thanked staff who have endured the past few years. Specifically thanked department heads who redid proposals and finance team for the work they accomplished.
- Reminded Council of possible special meeting pertaining to the certification of election.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jason Patin

- Commended staff again for the ease of understanding with the budget.
- Thanked all citizens who put in time working to get measure 'L' passed.
- Went on police ride along and commends police department for their professional attitude. The reason we have a safe community is because of the police.
- Congratulations to all graduates.

Steve Morgan

- In the budget process, what's old is new again. Difficult cycles and appreciate everything staff has done and the sacrifices employees are going to make to finish off this budget. Difficult and not pleasant but is necessary. Work as a team to support each other. Thanked fellow Council members for working thru the process even though they don't always agree.
- This Saturday the community fireworks bingo at the Kerr McGee center. \$35.00 each for tickets. Community response to requests have been going well but still have an anticipated shortfall. Full-page add showing community individuals who have donated and asked public to thank them. If every citizen donated \$1.00 could continue the fireworks.
- June 30 is chamber of commerce casino night. \$25.00 per person. A lot of fun and opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbors.
- July 4 at desert empire fairgrounds, fireworks display. Having difficulty broadcasting the music so only people who will enjoy both music and fireworks will be those at the fairgrounds.

Jerry Taylor

- Will send donation check and will work with radio booster club.
- Requested update on Wal-Mart and what is city mandating for development.
- Requested report of participation of summer programs.
- Demand warrant approval on the agenda.
- Would like tourism district brought forward as soon as possible.
- Safe and joyous independence day.

Chip Holloway

- Thanked the Lions club for the fireworks event which is now the City's signature event.
- When you don't make a decision you in essence have made a decision. Grateful we have moved forward on the budget which is an educated guess of what may happen next year. Can always make changes as needs arise.
- Excited to talk about positive things in the community and begin to move forward. Have confidence in fellow Council and this living document.
- Referenced Mayor Carter's past comments.

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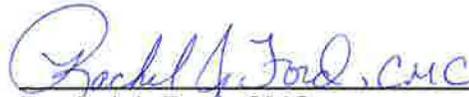
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Ron Carter

- The strength of this Council is once the vote is taken we move forward together.
- Thanked citizens who voted for Measure 'L' who have saved this city.
- Special thanks to the committee and the citizen's who walked. Did a great service to the city.
- Thanked staff. This was the most difficult and painful thing ever had to do as an elected official.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:34 pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk