



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

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

**June 6, 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 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**

- Pulled items 2 & 3 for revision pending election result changes.
- Added presentation of certificate of appreciation to Stafford Pest Control

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION**

- No member of the public presented comments on closed session items.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

- GC54956.9 (A) Conference With Legal Counsel; Existing Litigation; City Of Ridgecrest v. Benz Sanitation, Inc.
- GC54956.9 (B) Conference With Legal Counsel, Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure Of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest
- GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations – United Food and Commercial Workers Local 8 (UFCW); Police Employee Association of Ridgecrest (PEAR); Mid-Management Group of Employees (MM); Confidential Group of Employees (CO); Management Group of Employees (MG) – Agency Negotiator City Manager Kurt Wilson

**SPECIAL SESSION – 5:30 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- Closed Session
  - Ridgecrest v Benz – received report – no reportable action
  - Unidentified potential litigation – received report – no reportable action
  - Labor negotiations – received report – no reportable action
- Other
  - none

**PRESENTATION**

Council gave a certificate of appreciation to Stafford's Pest Control for their volunteer effort to maintain city medians.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Matthews

- Asked about the county of kern v city of Ridgecrest closed session item.
  - Keith Lemieux – city has not been served so no action in court. Talking to kern county about the matter and intention is to have something on the agenda soon. Action taken would be in public meeting.
- Spoke on disappointments from the election. Referenced an incident at his home today regarding the new smart meter and was told there was no option to opt out of the meter. Was quoted costs of \$75.00 to have the meter connected plus a \$10.00 charge for meter reader. Feels this is a form of extortion by the electric company. Ready to go to court with public utilities commission and asked public for support. Referred to dictatorships and the need to stop them.

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Aaron Miller

- Thanked Council for giving Ridgecrest opportunity to support public services with measure 'L' and thanked community supporters who voted for the measure.

Tom Wiknich

- Thanked people of Ridgecrest for voting and passing initiatives. Also thanked those who helped with the initiative.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Quarterly Investment Report Staheli
2. 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
3. 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
4. Approve Draft Minutes of Special Council Meeting dated May 14, 2012 Ford
5. Approve Draft Minutes of Special Council Meeting dated May 15, 2012 Ford
6. Approve Draft Minutes of Regular Council Meeting dated May 16, 2012 Ford

*(Items 2 & 3 were removed prior to approval of the agenda.)*

*Motion To Approve Consent Calendar As Amended 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.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

7. A Public Hearing Regarding The Formation Of Landscaping And Lighting District No. 2012-1; Tabulation Of The Protest Ballots Received Regarding The Proposed New Assessments; And Adoption Of Resolutions (1) Declaring The Results Of The Property Owner Protest Ballot Proceedings; And (2) Confirming The Engineer's Report For The Formation Of Landscaping And Lighting District No. 2012-1 And The Assessment Diagram Connected Therewith, And Ordering The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Speer

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report summarizing the actions taken previously and outlining the actions to be taken at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT 6:24PM

Stan Rajtora

- Last meeting discussion regarding the lighting and asked about lighting rating and cost.
  - Dennis Speer – proposed as LS1 at a higher cost.
- Asked city to protect homeowners and consider going to LS2 rate.
- Referenced cost summary of engineers report and administrative cost for city, county, and reserve. 25% seems high and should be reviewed.

Earl Wilson

- Represents astronomical society and would like to speak with engineer, asked if these would be full cut-off fixtures.
- Dennis Speer – these are limners which will shine down.
- Jerry Taylor – standard to the other lights in Ridgecrest.

*Closed Public Comment at 6.27.*

City Clerk with the assistance of consultant Jim McGuire opened the ballot received and tallied the amounts. Results were announced publicly.

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Declaring The Results Of The Property Owner Protest Ballot Proceedings Conducted For The Levy Of Assessments Related To The Formation Of Landscaping And Lighting District No. 2012-1, Commencing In Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Patin. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Approving The Formation Of The Landscaping And Lighting District No. 2012-1; Confirming The Engineer's Report And The Assessment Diagram Connected Therewith; And Ordering The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Made By Council Member Morgan, 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**

8. **A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Award A Construction Contract To Granite Construction For The Reconstruction Of The Eastbound Lanes On Drummond Avenue Between China Lake Boulevard And North Norma Street And Authorize The City Manager To Execute The Contract** Speer

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report

Jerry Taylor

- Glad to see this.

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*Motion To Approve Resolution Awarding Construction Contract To Granite Construction For Reconstruction Of The Eastbound Lanes On Drummond Avenue Between China Lake Boulevard And North Norma Street And Authorizing City Manager To Execute The Agreement Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

9. **A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Award A Construction Contract To Bowman Asphalt Inc For The Reconstruction Of The North And South Bound Lanes On College Heights Boulevard Between Franklin Avenue And Javis Avenue And Authorize The City Manager To Execute The Contract** **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report

*Motion to approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Award A Construction Contract To Bowman Asphalt Inc For The Reconstruction Of The North And South Bound Lanes On College Heights Boulevard Between Franklin Avenue And Javis Avenue And Authorize The City Manager To Execute The Contract made by Council member Taylor, second by Council member Morgan. Motion carried by voice vote of 5 ayes; 0 nays; 0 abstain; and 0 absent.*

10. **Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council For Real Property Donation To The City And Their Acceptance. Four Properties APN 456-040-04, 05, 07, & 08** **McRea**

Jim McRea

- Gave staff report

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council For Real Property Donation To The City And Their Acceptance. Four Properties APN 456-040-04, 05, 07, & 08 By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

11. **Approval Of A Resolution And Acceptance Of The Transfer Of Real Property Held In Public Interest As Approved By The Oversight Board To The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Successor Agency And Reviewed By The State Of California Department Of Finance (DOF) By Quitclaim Deed** **McRea**

Jim McRea

- Gave staff report

Jerry Taylor

- Trying to understand how the Aerosmith building is considered a city functional use.

Steve Morgan

- Referred to history of the building and purpose of building construction.

Jerry Taylor

- Thought the purpose was to be in the best interest of the city for public purposes.

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Kurt Wilson

- Current use is for solid waste removal which falls under health and safety. Action is to accept the property which oversight board has authorized and verified with department of finance.

Keith Lemieux

- Current business operation is not paying for the facility and this is necessary precursor to correct the situation so public is compensated for the use of the facility. Not necessarily going to liquidate, just transfer back to City holdings.

Jason Patin

- State has allowed public use properties to be reclaimed. Oversight board has determined this building falls into that category.

*Motion To Approve A Resolution And Acceptance Of The Transfer Of Real Property Held In Public Interest As Approved By The Oversight Board To The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Successor Agency And Reviewed By The State Of California Department Of Finance (DOF) By Quitclaim Deed By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 1 Nay (Council Member Taylor); 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

**12. Discussion And Approval Of A Minute Motion Authorizing The City Manager To Draft A Letter Of Opposition From The Ridgecrest City Council To The County Of Kern With Regard To The Carport/Sally Port Construction At The Kern Regional Office Complex Located At China Lake Boulevard And Coso Street Wilson**

Kurt Wilson

- Gave staff report

Jason Patin

- State and county do not have to go thru our approval process, asked what the facility purpose/use is.
  - Kurt Wilson – prisoner transport within the city.

Jerry Taylor

- It's ugly, had it been behind the building and not directly on china lake blvd. May also be used for parking.

Jason Patin

- Not sure this letter should be sent. Recommended discussing with county to make it more attractive.

Chip Holloway

- Spoke with supervisor McQuiston and is confident that action will be concerned and asked for more time. Should delay action and see if they will correct.

Ron Carter

- County requested planning commission send the letter, Council should support the planning commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Earl Wilson

- One item not included is the night lighting, particularly the north lights which distract when driving thru the intersection. Should also be covered at night. Also interferes with star parties held at Maturango museum. Made arrangements with maintenance at court house to have them turned off at night.

Dave Matthews

- Requested Council sends the letter showing dissatisfaction. Time is past to compromise.

Ron Carter

- Hoping to send a letter at the same time and include the lighting issues.

Jerry Taylor

- Would like it to move forward.

Chip Holloway

- Can we bring back to next Council?

Jason Patin

- Will not support a second letter.

Steve Morgan

- Feels city manager can create a letter that expresses Council concerns. Wants to move forward.

Chip Holloway

- Has confidence in county moving forward and requests our letter support the planning commission and encourage cooperative assistance in taking action.

*Motion To Approve Authorizing The City Manager To Draft A Letter Of Opposition To Kern County Supporting The City Planning Commission Letter Of Opposition Pertaining To The Carport/Sally Port Construction Located At The Superior Court Complex At The Corner Of China Lake Boulevard And Coso Street And Affirming City Of Ridgecrest Desire To Meet With County Officials To Negotiate A Solution To Make The Visible Portion Of The Structure Acceptable To City Residents Was Made By Council Member Steve Morgan, Second By Council Member Jerry Taylor. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 1 Nay (Council Member Patin); 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

13. Discussion And Possible Appointments To the Measure 'L' Advisory Committee

**Wilson**

Kurt Wilson

- Gave staff report

Jason Patin

- Asked when a safe time to form the committee

Jerry Taylor

- Spoke on the draft budget and would like to give others the opportunity to apply who may have held back before the election.

Jason Patin

- Agrees with Council member Taylor

Keith Lemieux

- Reviewed the regulation pertaining to establishing the committee and suggested at a reasonable time thereafter to make the appointments.

Jason Patin

- Suggested another 30 day extension for more applications

Ron Carter

- Would like for applicants to speak to Council.

Jerry Taylor

- Suggested two meetings from now.

Kurt Wilson

- Requested process for interviewing applicants

Ron Carter

- Suggested special informal meeting.

Kurt Wilson

- Reviewed the process. Reopen application process, schedule applicant meeting.

Harris Brokke

- Suggested all nine applicants participate and not limit to five. Quorum of the members.

Keith Lemieux

- Have to follow the measure which sets the advisory committee at five. Possible additional interested persons could attend the meetings.

Tom Wiknich

- Asked for intended goal for businesses to begin collecting.
  - Kurt Wilson – anticipate October 1 but the state board of equalization will set the time.

14. Discussion Of The Process Of Giving Staff Direction During The Standing Council Comment Agenda Item Taylor

Jerry Taylor

- At last Council meeting Council member Morgan requested a special meeting which did not occur. Would like to state that silence from other Council would indicate concurrence.

Keith Lemieux

- Council comments are equivalent to public comment. Because topics are not agendaized, staff ability to take action is limited. Concurrence to set a special meeting is not prohibited in the brown act. The direction and following action is dependent on the topic. Requesting items be placed on the agenda at any point in the meeting is appropriate.

Jerry Taylor

- Requesting that in future other Council speak up so we don't assume concurrence.

Keith Lemieux

- Establish a section for future agenda items which allow the opportunity to place items on the agenda.

Steve Morgan

- Intended purpose is to move information forward. In using Council comment to request staff direction, I understand there are times that it may not be possible and am lenient. For the most part, staff does not forget and I have gotten city manager approval to speak directly to the staff. Don't care if it goes to committee as long as the information is taken care of. Will support that staff is doing and has done for a long time a very good job to do the best they could to move our requests forward. We also have requests for information issues and are hoping once we are settled again that those issues will lessen. Right now we are in turmoil, chasing our tails on fire for several months. I respect the efforts even though sometimes I can be un-yeilding. There is some frustration and really appreciate if a staff member, with approval of city manager, calls me to discuss when they can get to my requests. I believe staff is doing great work and I know in Council giving direction is like trying to chase a rabbit down a hole.

Dave Matthews

- Not uncommon to have future agenda items and would not hurt to have a section on the agenda.

15. Continued Discussion And Council Consideration And Adoption Of Proposed Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 Staheli

Kurt Wilson

- Gave staff report highlighting changes resulting from the recent election. Made suggestions and examples that Council could consider to reorganize staff rather than layoffs. Staff does not have a comprehensive recommendation for expenditures of the additional anticipated sales tax revenues.

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Jerry Taylor

- Have questions that should be brought forward. Does not have a problem with bringing back a revised draft budget that includes Measure 'L' so long as the time is not too long. Citizen and public concern is the police officers. Have a cash flow because of the revenue not coming until January. Still looking for overhead number split and percentage cuts for positions and the funds affected. Not prepared to pass this evening but looking for commitment to pass this month.

Jason Patin

- No problem with reviewing again with new numbers. Agree with meeting additional times to get it done.

Steve Morgan

- Don't want public to get false impression that measure 'L' is cure-all. Still have an issue with unions before budget approved. Need to balance our books. Once public committee is in place, need to review how to divide up the funding and create processes. Agree it needs to be done before the end of June and if need multi-night sessions then in agreement. Requested Council target dates tonight

Chip Holloway

- Draft budget was ok from understanding the situation but not the services to be provided.
- Would like to see grant writer/lobbyist back into the budget
- Would like to see unrepresented employees made whole and equal to other employees, repay what they have already paid.
- Purpose of measure 'L' was to protect public safety and a fund for infrastructure of 1.5 million. Want to see definition and tracking for measure 'L' for accountability.
- Funding or financing to replace the AS400 system.
- Have to get union resolution done.
- Committed to finishing by June.

Jerry Taylor

- Clarified 1.5 million funding from pavement management study assumes redevelopment funding of 15 million

Jason Patin

- Start all employees at the same time paying the PERS contribution.

Steve Morgan and Jerry Taylor both available last week of June, preferably earlier in the week.

Kurt Wilson

- For the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> can keep the agenda light so primary focus will be on budget.
- Will send parts to Council as they become available so they can begin reviewing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Wiknich

- Requested Measure 'L' funding breakdown be simplified for public to see.

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Stan Rajtora

- Requested all information made available to Council also be made available to public.

Gary Charlon

- Provided a book to each Council members and recommends they read it as it pertains to budget cuts and the boomerang effect. Budget cuts are a global issue, which are affecting other counties as well as the United States and California. This budget is not going to be easy and measure 'L' will not solve all the problems. Also provided a Stanford university study of pension plans, which have a trickle-down effect to the budget. Projections included in the study interest earnings and up to 20% of the budget will be dedicated to pension plans in future.

Barbara Auld

- Want to be sure Measure 'L' is assigned and used for what is proposed. Would like to know when the meetings are held so public can attend. Would also like to know when the advisory committees and oversight board meetings are held.

Jason Patin

- Previously requested a simple breakdown of the cuts made and comparison between last year and this year so we can understand the cuts being made.

Jerry Taylor

- Gas tax salary and benefits, why the increase.
  - Tyrell Staheli - Elimination of furloughs and reallocation of staff wages
- Wastewater labor at \$700k
  - Tyrell Staheli - 3 unfilled wastewater employee positions
- Understand we have a large overtime in that area but a 40% increase in labor. Doesn't make sense and would like this type of question answered.
- Gas tax went down
  - Tyrell Staheli - Loss of revenue and TAB funding.
- Self insurance down, workers comp, etc.
  - Tyrell Staheli - Premium reduction
- Referenced human resources redistribution and not hiring 1/2 time staffing.
- Looking for more details and overhead cost sheets. Appreciate Council patience. Cuts made were necessary; reality is do not anticipate any RDA funds for roads. Appreciate the budget not assuming the funding.
  - Tyrell Staheli - That is correct.
- Will there be an impact to those who signed up for programs.
- PERS share percentage is 8% for non-sworn and 9% for sworn.
- Maintenance Supervisor proposed reduction
- RACVB is currently budgeted at \$50k, there is a plan coming that will

Jason Patin

- What was put together in the agenda is fine and is broken down simply so do not need to do more. Good with this document. If we were to go with this today, would like to know how it affects each department.

## DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Infrastructure Committee

Members: Steve Morgan, Jerry Taylor, Craig Porter, James Sanders  
Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room  
Next Meeting: June 6, 2012

- Jerry Taylor - Meeting next week, reviewed agenda items to be discussed.

### Quality Of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin, Craig Porter, Carter Pope  
Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Of Every Even Month At 12:00 P.M.; Kerr-McGee Center  
Next Meeting: June 7, 2012

- Jason Patin - Not met.

### City Organization

Members: Ron Carter, Jerry Taylor, Lois Beres, Christopher LeCornu  
Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room  
Next Meeting: June 5, 2012

- Jerry Taylor - Not met

### Community Development Committee

Members: Steve Morgan, Jason Patin, Christopher LeCornu, James Sanders  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room  
Next Meeting: June 7, 2012

- Steve Morgan - Meeting tomorrow

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

Members: Ron Carter, Chip Holloway, Ron Strand  
Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Of Odd Numbered Months At 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee Center  
Next Meeting: July 9, 2012

- Ron Carter - Canceled until the start of the next school year

### Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.  
Next Meeting: June 6, 2012 at Location to Be Announced

- Chip Holloway - Director's report read and copy is on file in the clerk's office.

**OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

- None

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Kurt Wilson

- Updated Council on balance of underground utility fund.
- Happy posthumous birthday to Harvey Rose

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Ron Carter

- Thanked all volunteers for Measure 'L'. volunteers worked hard, nights and weekends, and have saved this city. have been working on this over a year and the past few weeks were horrendous and personally thank them from the citizens and Council. Had this not passed it would have been awful for our community. Appreciate the citizens coming forward for the advisory committee, if anyone else is interested it is available on the city website and in the clerk's office.

Chip Holloway

- Also thanked volunteers and citizens for their efforts to get measure 'L' passed. Been trying to solve this problem for 16 years and a lot of people who deserve credit. Know the trials these volunteers experienced going door-to-door in these weather conditions.

Jerry Taylor

- Also thanked volunteers for their tremendous efforts. Council committed to maintain the boundaries measure 'L' in intended. Would like information for wastewater relative to ability to move forward on contract with the base. Would like update on sewer line inspection for sewer rate discussions. Will still be hard times for a while and appreciate everyone's help in getting thru it.

Steve Morgan

- Thanked community for passing Measure 'L' and I do pledge. Some things said about certain members over the past few months and inferences made in initiative makes you think it wasn't worth it. One inference was that no roads have been worked on. Read an extensive list of all roads that have been worked on since 2006 to present. People think streets have not been done and those making statements that Council wasn't doing anything. Just because we don't brag about these things doesn't mean things are being done. Ridgecrest is now the only city with term limits so when we go to kern cog without experience, we will lose. Listed local events and encouraged public attendance. Remembrance of those who gave their lives on this date in 1944.

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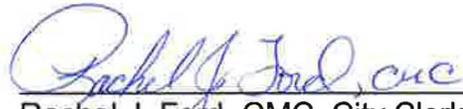
Jason Patin

- Thanked volunteers for their enormous efforts and support of Measure 'L'. parks maintenance and the recent two medians volunteers want to see a plan developed to do more projects like this. Mr. Matthews mentioned we should not compromise, but there are times when an issue is outside the scope of our authority, we have to hope the group in charge is willing to compromise with us. Congratulations to all graduates and good luck on their future endeavors. Great staff and school board at the schools. Light the world on fire.

Ron Carter

- Thanked those who attended the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT in honor of Mary Lewis at 8:18 pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk