



**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**

**March 21, 2012
6:30 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 – 4:00 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

- ❖ *Council Member Morgan arrived during Closed Session*
- ❖ *Mayor Carter fell ill and left the meeting at 6:15pm.*
- ❖ *Mayor Pro Tem Holloway presided over the meeting*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA:

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

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

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PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None Presented by Public

CLOSED SESSION – 4:00 p.m.

GC54956.8	Real Property Negotiations: APN 343-014-07, A 12 Acre Portion, With Sunmark. City Negotiators Kurt Wilson And James McRea
GC54956.9(A)	Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. City Of Ridgecrest V. Benz Sanitation Inc.
GC54956.9(A)	Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. County Of Kern V. City Of Ridgecrest
GC54956.9(B)	Conference With Legal Counsel, Potential Litigation. Public Disclosure Of Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest.
GC54957	Personnel Matters – Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

- Closed Session – no reportable action was taken on the following items.
 - Sunmark real property negotiations
 - City of Ridgecrest v. Benz Sanitation, Inc.
 - County of Kern v. City of Ridgecrest
 - Undisclosed potential litigation
 - City manager evaluation
 - Labor negotiations for all represented and unrepresented employee groups.
- Other - none

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Imogene Snyder

- Proposed City saving money by adopting a policy as outlined by the speaker.

Tom Wiknich

- Requested agenda item of formal presentation of parks projects and Tax Allocation Bond funds.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Presentation** **Staheli**

Ken Pun of Caporicci and Larson presented the Annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to Council. *(A Copy of Power Point Presentation Available In The City Clerk's Office)*

Jerry Taylor

- Current revenue was funds from redevelopment agency have been included in these totals so the total deficit is approximately \$2.9 million.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Approve A Resolution Requesting Authorization To Enter Into Program Supplement Agreement With The State Of California, Department Of Transportation, Under Master Agreement No. 09-5385R And To Authorize The City Manager To Sign Said Agreement(s) For The Road Reconstruction And Rehabilitation Project On Downs Street From Drummond Avenue To Ward Avenue** **Speer**
3. **Approve A Resolution Requesting Authorization To Enter Into Program Supplement Agreement With The State Of California, Department Of Transportation, Under Master Agreement No. 09-5385R And To Authorize The City Manager To Sign Said Agreement(s) For The Road Reconstruction And Rehabilitation Project On College Heights Boulevard Between Javis Avenue And Franklin Avenue** **Speer**
4. **Approve A Resolution To Request A Change To The Functional Classification On South Sunland Street From Upjohn Avenue To Bowman Road (1/2 Mile) From No Classification To "Major Collector"** **Speer**
5. **Adoption Of The Amended Draft Recognized Obligations Payment Schedule Pursuant To ABX1 26** **Staheli**

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6. Approve A Resolution Amending Employer Paid Member Contributions To CalPERS For Unrepresented Employee Groups Staheli
7. Approve A Resolution Announcing Proclamations For The Annual Junior And Senior Bluejacket Award And Scheduling Date Of Presentation Ford
8. Approve A Resolution Announcing Proclamations Honoring Eagle Scout Recipients And Scheduling Date Of Presentation Ford
9. Approve A Resolution Announcing A Proclamation Celebrating The 100th Anniversary Of The Girl Scouts Of America And Scheduling Date Of Presentation Ford
10. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Regular City Council Meeting Of March 7, 2012 Ford

Items Removed from Consent Calendar:

- Item 5

Motion To Approve Consent Calendar (As Amended) Made By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Mayor Carter)

Item 5 discussion

Mike Neel

- 3 items on page 2 of schedule, line item 1, 2, & 17. Expenditures for parks and sports complex and Council have not approved these expenditures. Also an aquatics project that was approved. City is lying to public because Council never approved these items. Will be attending board meetings. This has been brought to attention previously and will be raised at other board meetings.

Chip Holloway

- Restricted by original TAB allocation and until it is rejected must put onto the list

Mike Neel

- This was not approved by Council

Steve Morgan

- It will be up to the oversight committee to review the original list we had at the time and let us know what can be done.

Mike Neel

- Will be asking the board to retrieve the documents

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Jerry Taylor

- This list is not giving authorization to proceed, only putting forth the plan to the oversight committee. Is not authorizing staff to execute any of the projects.

Chip Holloway

- We sold bonds for these projects.

Mike Neel

- Questioned why there are past expenditures on this list

Tyrell Staheli

- Those were anticipated expenditures and are not firm.

Mike Neel

- Seems strange that these were slipped in.

Motion To Approve Item 5 Was Made By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Morgan, Motion Passed By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, And 1 Absent (Mayor Carter).

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

11. Measure L Citizens' Oversight Committee Appointment Process **Wilson**

Kurt Wilson presented staff report to Council outlining 3 options to Council for establishing a process to seat the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure 'L'.

Steve Morgan

- No preference, either of the three. The fact that we have an oversight board is what is critical and do not have an issue with appointed or applications. Can still go back to the groups and see if they can put forth candidates.

Jason Patin

- Feels option 1 is pointless, doesn't make sense to have 5 Council appointees. Option 3 makes the most sense but feels it should not be put into specific boxes but who the community feels would do the best job.

Jerry Taylor

- Willing to delegate the selection of the panel to persons in the audience who are engaged regularly. One comment is a concern about Heritage being selected as a planned development with private streets, more inclined to more at-large applicants. Would rather get a lot of applicants and delegate to someone else to do the selection. Similar to the panel selected to review the trash proposals. Hope people like that apply.

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Jason Patin

- People who fall outside these boxes specified should have the opportunity to apply.

Jerry Taylor

- Would like to see a financial person such as banker on the committee to give that perspective.

Chip Holloway

- Is this assumed to be a 5 year appointment.

Kurt Wilson

- Assuming would be appointed same as other Council committees.

Chip Holloway

- Agree with option 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Wiknich

- Agree with comments on the third option, agree with heritage being less desirable as they are a private organization. Open application would be find and encourage other such as veterans organization.

Mike Neel

- Addressing theory of committee, search citizens who live in areas with bad streets. Was asked to consider the committee and would accept if 3 conditions met. Won't be on the committee. Asked what power the committee would have and the response was none. Committee has no power so don't know what they will actually accomplish.

Kurt Wilson

- Committee would serve a political function. Can exert political pressure on the elected body to not do anything other than what is expected

Keith Lemieux

- Committee is not an elected body and cannot determine how funds are to be spent. The purpose is to issue reports to public and keep public informed of what is going on.

Direction to staff: option 3 with modifications.

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Kurt Wilson

- Staff can initiate the application process

Steve Morgan

- Suggested changing the heritage suggestion to something broader such as banking or financial.

Jerry Taylor

- Agree with a business leader.
- Secondly, want someone with good financial background.
- Thirdly, want someone who is impacted such as a retiree.
- Finally, 2 at-large applicants

Jason Patin

- Anyone who wants to serve should have the opportunity.

Chip Holloway

- Want at least 3 technical areas and then 2 positions for members who bring value but may not fit into that particular category.

Jason Patin

- Get it but don't agree with putting it into a box. To say we want an oversight committee but want to control where they come from is a mute point.

Jerry Taylor

- All want a broad representation, so in terms of the announcements we are looking for people with these backgrounds or categories then use that information in the selection process.

Jerry Taylor

- We want these to be selections at large but are looking for disciplines such as banking, business, financial, or retirees.

Kurt Wilson

- Will begin the application process.

Jerry Taylor

- Strongly believe this should not be limited to persons living within the City because it affects people in the entire valley.

Chip Holloway

- Another layer to narrow the list before Council participates?

Jason Patin

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- No problem with that

Jerry Taylor

- Need to see the responses first. If there is an overwhelming response then yes.

Direction to staff given to proceed with application process as stated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Matthews

- Was questioning action taken at last Council meeting. In discussing with a member of the audience I realized had not read the resolution as passed. May want to talk with attorney and come back with questions.

Howard Auld

- Noted when the audit report was done there was no handout for public. Of interest is information on federal grant money. We've been trying to get federal funding. Also sounds like there will be another shortfall, is that cumulative? Each year increases. What is happening with that debt and should we let the City know what the situation is and try to get folks to join us in contributing to help resolve the situation. Been working with congressional representative McCarthy and if could get real leadership could go to him with requests for funding.

Kurt Wilson

- Two federal grants are ARRA and wastewater, transit

Steve Morgan

- Interested in a report from finance.

Mike Neel

- Significant past discussion of moving public comment to end of meeting. Encourage Council to take action to move public comment to the beginning of the meeting.

Renee Westalusk

- Wondered if there will be other cuts or other ways to save money brought forward at future meetings.

Kurt Wilson

- That is a continuing discussion.

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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: April 11, 2012

Jerry Taylor

- Special meeting date reviewed and worked with staff for a developer a workshop. Addressed handicap sign issue. Building inspector discussion is continuing. Projects such as safe routes to schools, street lane striping, and street lights.

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: April 5, 2012

Chip Holloway

- Announced next meeting date and will have discussion of the TAB projects for parks.

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: April 17, 2012

- no 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: April 5, 2012

- Jason Patin – announced schedule

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: May 14, 2012

- Chip Holloway announced schedule

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Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway, Jason Patin

Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.

Next Meeting: April 4, 2012 At Springhill Suites in the China Lake Room

- Chip Holloway announced schedule

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- None

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Kurt Wilson

- Independence Day is a Council meeting night.
 - Council agreed to cancel.
- April 4 Dennis Speer will be covering for Kurt

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jerry Taylor

- City continues to go through considerable financial issues, operating in a deficit, additional cuts need to occur somewhere. Staff is going to bring back budget recommendations for next year. One strategy that works for me is we need to cut 15-20% of budget so departments come in with 25% recommendations, which allows Council to set priorities. Wants options. Bluejacket awards this Saturday and will be attending.

Steve Morgan

- It is disheartening to me to hear certain comments when we refer to our budgets. Over the last few years, the Council has been spending down the reserve to maintain as many services as possible in the hope the state's budget would turn around and we could rebuild the reserve. We got hit with RDA which puts us in a worse positions. Council is working on the issues and need to be more forthcoming with numbers. When we talk about what we need to do, we need to have numbers available for the public. Going to try harder to do this. Comments we haven't been vigilant is not true. Have been trying to maintain as many services as possible without making cuts and now that time is over. We will deal with it and will need public's help. Disappointed with Mr. Neel because I want him on the committee, however he put 3 conditions forward therefore putting conditions on the committee before it even got started which is what the Council is accused of all the time. Asked Mr. Neel to be on the committee and cautioned him if not to badmouth it if he doesn't want to be part of the solution. Not proper to use the pulpit. Asked Mr. Neel to reconsider being on the committee. To members of the public as we go through the budget, wants public to be involved and give suggestions. No one will be happy but will get through it.

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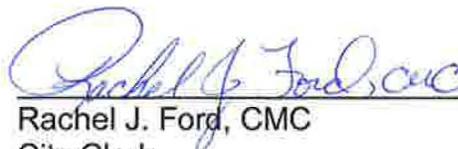
Jason Patin

- Application process discussed earlier, application does not have conditions for serving. If you want to serve the please come forward, but don't try to put conditions on the committee. As for the budget process, was stubborn in my views and as we go through the process need to get to where we have to be right now and get it over with. Employees are on pins and needles not knowing if they will have a job in a couple of months. Don't know yet, but let's get on with it. Cant rebuild until we get to the base. Want to see furloughs and cuts go away and think we can get there if dedicated and get to the position to rebuild again.

Chip Holloway

- Agree with Mr. Morgan, Mr. Neel needs to be on that committee. Has spent a great deal of time understanding the issues. If you have the courage. Don't disagree with anything said on the budget process. We have gone through the most devastating months since being on the Council but the public has not been directly affected. When the trash issue directly affected the public this place was packed. We have made sure the public has not been affected and have shielded them, convinced now that we cannot afford the level of services this community has come to expect. During last big budget cycle we were going thru BRAC. Recently thought would face another BRAC. Information now receiving may not be a BRAC until 2015 so this time will have to make some very difficult choices. Level of services has to be cut and pain shared across the workforce of the City. have to make difficult choices. Have taken a lot of criticism in past for balanced budgets that maintained services and saved positions, can only imagine the criticism will receive with this budget. Pain is coming and is sad and not fair. This problem caught up with us in 2012 but convinced that other cities in this county have more funds than we do such as Delano. Services are no sustainable unless we create new revenue streams. Don't complain when the level of services are not there anymore.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:35pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk