



**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**

**May 16, 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**

**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**

- Add a need arose item litigation Ridgecrest v Benz existing litigation to closed session.

*Motion To Approve Agenda (As Amended) 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.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION**

No member of the public presented comments.

**CLOSED SESSION – 5:30 p.m.**

GC54956.9(B) Conference With Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation – Public Disclosure of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice the City of Ridgecrest.

GC54956.9(A) Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. County Of Kern v. City Of Ridgecrest

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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
  - Conference With Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation – Public Disclosure of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice the City of Ridgecrest
    - Report Received, no reportable action taken.
  - Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. County Of Kern v. City Of Ridgecrest
    - Report Received, no reportable action taken.
  - 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
    - Report Received, no reportable action taken.
  - Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation. City Of Ridgecrest V. Benz
    - Report received, no reportable action taken.
- Other
  - None

### PRESENTATION

Council gave a special presentation to William Morse of Pest Masters of a certificate of appreciation for their generous offer to maintain the weeds in medians on Downs Street to alleviate the workload of the reduced staff.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Neel

- Spoke on government, citizens, and the trust of the people.
- Read a memo from the Redevelopment Agency attorney regarding wastewater franchise fee that was given to former director of finance James Winegardner.
- Spoke on the study referred to in the letter as not being done yet charges were taken against the advice of the attorney.

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- Referenced the long term loan and the current and future condition of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Referenced other uses of the fund as a loan to the solar field.
- Indicated these action of abuse and misuse of public funds cause lack of trust from members of the public.
- Spoke on the use of public member's time to weed medians as a lack of foresight on the council's part.

### Manual Farmer

- Referenced the waste management contract includes maintaining the medians, asked if this was being followed.
- Questioned if city was aware that weekly loads of Ridgecrest trash is going to palm desert.

### Jim Fallgatter

- Feels we need Measure 'L'.
- Referenced the advisory board that is being established to ensure the funds are used in the manner promised.
- Asked council to look at a way council can further reassure the public that the funds will be used only for what is being asked for.
- Encouraged public to vote for Measure 'L'

### Henry Wilson

- Expressed support for Measure 'L' and encouraged public to vote for it.
- Gave example of limitations the public have with volunteer hours and how at some time the City has to pay for some services.
- Gave examples of PACT functions including weed abatement and graffiti abatement.
- Referenced another city that the public did not help with and the city went down and had to try and rebuild.
- Encouraged everyone in the community to step up and help the city.

### Barbara Auld

- Been living here 67 year
- Strongly supports the Navy
- Strongly supports Measure 'L'

### Al Huey

- Theoretically in favor of the sales tax.
- Application wise is against Measure 'L'
- Referenced past council's actions of saying one thing and doing another.
- Spoke on campaigns and promises made but how things change after obtaining the office campaigned for.

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- Referred to past years when city funds were more fluid and how funds could have been spent wiser.
- Referred to newspaper article putting all department on the same plain and feels departments with programs such as parks & recreation should be able to support themselves.
- Referenced the medians and past decision for landscaping without plan to maintain them in the future.
- Based on lack of foresight and abuse of trust in past is opposed to the Measure 'L'.
- Spoke about an article interviewing the City Manager.
- Asked council to understand that advisory committees do not have to do what council says.
  - Steve Morgan – let public know that a different sales tax was put forth in past and Mr. Huey opposed it.

Harris Brokke

- Encouraged public to stop living in the past and look to the future
- Supports Measure 'L'

Barbara Auld

- Reassured council that there are people in the community who support the council on Measure 'L'

## CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Request Of The Ridgecrest City Council For Authorization To Apply And Accept A Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Through The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Within The California Department Of Parks And Recreation Strand
2. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Award A Construction Contract To The Lowest Responsible And Responsive Bidder In The Amount Of \$80,534.00 To High Desert Construction For Bike Rest Stations On Bowman Avenue At Downs Street, China Lake Boulevard, And Gateway Boulevard And Authorizes The City Manager To Execute The Contract Speer
3. A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting A Sewer User Charge For District Fund 20455 For The 2012-2013 Fiscal Year Speer

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4. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest, Acting As Successor Agency To The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Agency Adopting And Approving The Successor Agency's Proposed Administrative Budget Pursuant To Health And Safety Code Section 34177(j), And Authorizing The Successor Agency To Enter Into An Agreement With The City Of Ridgecrest For Reimbursement Of Financial, Administrative And Operational Services Pursuant To Health And Safety Code Section 34171; And Making Other Findings In Connection Therewith

**Wilson**

5. Approve Minutes of the Regular City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Housing Authority/Financing Authority Meeting of May 2, 2012

**Ford**

Items pulled – 1 & 3

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

Item 1 discussion

Jerry Taylor

- Asked what is being done to help guide off road riders within the city limits

Ron Strand

- Currently working with BLM to provide routes and land use for off-road vehicles.

Jerry Taylor

- Appreciate what is being done. Are we going for a grant for signage and route?
  - Ron Strand – yes, currently working on a route and future meetings involving the county, residents, and BLM.

Jerry Taylor

- Are we establishing a legal age?
  - Ron Strand – yes, each agency is cooperating.

Jason Patin

- Signage is being discussed and ideas will be brought to council.
  - Ron strand – trying to stay ahead of the curve as more BLM areas are closed.

Dave Matthews

- Comment for study group implementation, need to consider the WEMO plan, which may re-designate the route.
- Did city of Ridgecrest get a grant for 2011-12 and is the amount similar.

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- Ron Strand – yes we did and the amount is established by our request.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked if maintenance of the equipment was included in the budget
  - Ron strand – is a year by year basis.

Mike Neel

- Asked what type of equipment we have received.
  - Ron strand – a trailer to house equipment, a quad and a motorcycle. Requesting a 4x4 truck. Do have one but was purchased thru DERMO and fixed up with business donations.
- Spoke on the continued maintenance for equipment that is used in dirt and rough terrain.
  - Ron Strand – no used daily. Used to respond to complaints from citizens for dust control. Recited last year's statistics. Purpose is to respond to the needs of the community. Spoke about used quads received as donation from California City and goal is to replace with newer equipment to reduce service maintenance. Experience to date is the maintenance cost is not a large amount.
- Encouraged council to budget in an amount for the cost to service the equipment.
  - Ron Strand – have a responsibility to the citizens and can't do it in a crown Victoria. The cost to repair a motorcycle is less than for a street car. Have a line item in the budget for vehicle maintenance and this grant augments the general fund costs.

Carol Vaughn

- Has a concern about head injuries and permanent life cost for permanent disability.
- Referenced emergency and trauma room experiences dealing with motorcycle injuries and would not want to see an officer hurt in this way.
- Long term disability is costly and heartbreaking.
  - Ron strand – referenced 3 recent fatalities that police is trying to reduce by having the equipment to enforce regulations within city limites.
- Asked Chief to consider if this was the best place for officers to be.

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Requesting Authorization To Apply And Accept A Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Through The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division Within The California Department Of Parks And Recreation Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

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### Item 3 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Referred to page 21 of agenda and summary listing multiple family residents paying \$96.00. should be \$96.00 per living unit, summary is misconceiving.
- Referred to page 23-24 and sentence including all fee structures. Feels the comma should be semi-colons. Asked for clarification.
  - Dennis Speer – charge of \$120 on non-dwelling building on a residential structure. Example of garage with a bathroom being charged.

Howard Auld

- Understood there is a charge for commercial which is not shown on the staff report.
  - Dennis Speer – shown on the resolution and is based on a formula.

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting A Sewer User Charge For District Fund 20455 For The 2012-2013 Fiscal Year By Council Member Taylor, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

## DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

6. **Approve A Resolution Designating The City Of Ridgecrest Voting Delegate And Alternate For The League Of California Cities Annual Conference Ford**

Nominations were made by Council as follows:

- a) Chip Holloway as delegate
- b) Ron carter as 1<sup>st</sup> alternate
- c) Jerry taylor as 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Designating The City Of Ridgecrest Voting Delegate And Alternate For The League Of California Cities Annual Conference 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.*

Reconvened to adjourned meeting of May 15, 2012

7. **Continuation Of Budget Workshop Discussions And Adoption Of A Resolution Approving The Draft Budget For Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Staheli**

Kurt Wilson

- Gave introduction and staff report. PowerPoint presentation given. (copy available in the city clerk's office)

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- Highlights of proposed changes include moving parks maintenance to public works department which matches the majority of most city structures.
- Elimination of department head position and replacing with a manager position.
- Elimination of two maintenance worker positions.
- Elimination of furloughs for employees
- Revenue for boys and girls club building and senior center building are outweighed by the maintenance expenditures such as replacement of large appliances.
- Proposal considers relinquishing both of the properties or change the provisions to remove the costs from the city. possibly changing title holder.
- Working to augment staffing shortages with volunteer services such as welfare to work.
- Will attempt to review revenue sources but presentation does not take into account the administrative portion.

Tyrell Staheli

- Reviewed slide showing breakdown of hours for FY2011 which is last full year of data available.
- Comparison of reallocation of the full time equivalent positions and breakdown of hours.

Kurt Wilson

- Noted that the data is raw data and does not include actual work hours or function but if implemented will attain the needed dollars to balance but there will be an impact to services.

Tyrell Staheli

- Continued reviewing the PowerPoint slides.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked if the cost of not operating a building would cost.
  - Tyrell Staheli - The costs listed are overhead cost to the building with no wages added. Services only.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked if the cost was actual post solar or is the number carried forward from past costs.
  - Tyrell Staheli – will have to review. Is possible the solar is not accounted for in the utilities. Will pull the utility bills and compare.

Tyrell Staheli

- Continued review of the PowerPoint presentation slides.

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- Revenue and expenditure costs for each facility not including administrative costs.
- Administrative costs reviewed

Kurt Wilson

- Proposal does not maintain same level of services, but result of council requests. Council may now review.

Jason Patin

- Staffing has been cut down to 12. Asked if maintenance in public works would receive additional funding.
  - Kurt Wilson – the positions would stay funded are only being moved to another division.
- Confused because the presentation doesn't give a comparison to last year.
- Telling me there will be cuts and reallocations that will result in cuts to services. When will I see that information.
  - Kurt Wilson – can have it ready by next council meeting.

Jerry Taylor

- Agree with Mr. Patin. Would like to see this information and not willing to wait until next council meeting. Willing to schedule another meeting earlier.

Chip Holloway

- Concerned that nobody knows the answer to the revenue numbers while we decimate parks and recreation. Need to make decision quick but don't know how to get to the revenue number or perhaps a graduated plan to help protect programs for this season which starts in two weeks.

Ron Carter

- Concern with parks and recreation is I need to know what programs are being kept and which ones will be cut. Doesn't make sense to get rid of a program that is generating revenue. Can't approve a budget until I know what will be happening with this department.
- Kurt Wilson – original program included cuts to revenue producing programs so we have gone back to this proposal and need to do more work to get the information.

Chip Holloway

- The option proposed for the senior center and boys and girls club could also be applied to the sports complex. Asked staff to look at that.

Kurt Wilson

- Is a possibility that parks and programs may be closed completely depending on the numbers.

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Chip Holloway.

- Parks and recreation works enormous time that is not reflected in the budget. We may find that we are not only decimating the program but destroying the culture of the program and won't be able to replace. Asked staff to take that into consideration. Asked why the parks maintenance was taken out of public works previously. This is a unique department with a positive relationship with the community.

Kurt Wilson

- Still have the option to fully fund but would need to alter the priorities previously established and the other departments would have to cover the cuts.

Chip Holloway

- Just want a full breakdown of the programs and want to know how difficult it would be to bring them back up later.

Steve Morgan

- Reviewed the actual cuts proposed of 2 maintenance workers and 1 cultural affairs coordinator. How many people will be let go total.
  - Tyrell Staheli – 3 full time let go and 2 positions reduced.
- Apparently may close Kerr McGee center another day and possibly close Piney pool. Council needs to hear those things when we reconvene to discuss these issues again. Still have to have summary session and revenues. Public has been asking questions, want to see a clear chart of what positions have been eliminated, who has been adjusted, where we were, where we may be, as we go thru the process. Don't understand this enough and will need a lot more understanding and hopefully will get that.

Ron Carter

- Would like to see cost to maintain facilities if we shut everything down; want to look at the revenue side completely, what programs are bring in revenue and what is the staffing for those programs. Would hate to cut a revenue program due to staffing cuts and then find out we need the money. Would rather look at the deficit programs to cut rather than revenue programs. Don't want to make the mistake of cutting a position and then lose the program that is making money.

Chip Holloway

- Asked what rate of pay was used.
  - Tyrell Staheli – includes all full-time payroll for the projects.
- Have you scored a specific number to cut from this department?
  - Kurt Wilson – began with a citywide number and allocated based on council priorities. Once council weighs in then expect changes and will go back to make adjustments.

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Jerry Taylor

- Numbers represented are in a normal budget report so will be able to see the same numbers in the proposed budget. Going back to assumptions was to take people off furloughs and have employees pay their pers contributions. Balance the budget. This report represents a budget that stays within those parameters. Council wants to understand what program will be lost. Exampled wanting to know the utilities and what will be on or off. Can they continue to mow the grass and fix the sprinklers? Are we going to be able to afford this. One suggestion is if we give back the ball fields we have less maintenance needs and is not a revenue generator. Not willing to go all the way to post election to have the discussion of level of service. Not afraid to balance the budget. The pool is funded or not in terms of utilities? Rents and concession numbers reviewed. Swim lessons create revenue and open swim does not. Hope fellow council wants to bring this back. has been over a year since doing this budget. Should be able to understand what does or does not make money. Don't want to brown out a park because don't have the money to put it back. operate the programs we can operate that makes money. Don't understand why we aren't prepared to bring more detail forward tonight.

Steve Morgan

- Need to look at the contract is the property was donated with certain expectations, may be able to lease it but may not be able to sell it. Need to have that information.

Jerry Taylor

- If there is additional revenue then needs to go to things that have been underfunded for a long time.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Wiknich

- Agrees with comments made and added comment about salaries and administrative costs. Labors should be allocated into the programs at a ratio to get a full understanding of what the program operation costs are.

Dave Matthews

- Whatever happens in the department, don't want to lose Mr. Ponek. Concerns are directed to Mr. Wilsons presentation regarding the senior center. Forgot when the transfer took place. Approximately 2001. Mentioned transferring ownership and asked council to expand on the idea. Ownership to who?
  - Jerry Taylor – proposal to County.
- Building was constructed under health and human services for seniors. NARFE has been meeting in that building for years but are now required to meet in the Kerr McGee center and have to pay a fee. Have records in that building and no where to store them. Would like that group to meet back in the center again.

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Sound center was installed by a member of NARFE and want to make sure it stays a public building for use of seniors.

Jim Fallgatter

- Asked for a review of the project hours slide and clarification of the comparison slide.
  - Tyrell Staheli – comparison is from 2011 totals rather than 2012-13.
  - Kurt Wilson – one slide are annual totals and the second is weekly.
- Appears that the totals of the 2013 are going up rather than going down. totals reviewed. Hearing about losing programs, don't understand where the large loss of staff will be but charts show we will still be staffed. When taking people off furloughs we got more hours back. if we think programs as they occurred this year were carried out in an acceptable way then looks like next year will not be a large cut of programs. Don't want to see summer programs cut and looks like the numbers are there to support the programs.
- Can we increase fees in areas or generate new fees? If something isn't generating fees, can those fees be increased?
- Hope to retain Mr. Ponek's expertise. Are we looking at all highly compensated people? Are they also chipping in?

Jane McClellan

- Feels going about the problem wrong. Great building in the Kerr McGee center and a public with very little to do. Can turn programs into a money-maker. Suggested ideas for raising fun. Use the building to entertain young people. Charge fees to entrants and have functions like dances, etc.
- Realizes there is a serious budget problem but can still make money in town by utilizing the parks and recreation department and create new revenue programs.
- Confused why nobody is talking about ways to raise money.
- It is hard to get a hold of council members. Have left messages and received only one response from Mr. Taylor.
- Urge those in charge to look at ways to make money. Important you don't box yourself in.

Paul Vanderwerf

- Confused about the actual costs. Understanding the light structure at the parks is confusing. What are the costs of programs and what is being passed on thru fees. Advocate that groups should provide fees and city should not be subsidizing.
- Related story of taking students to ball game. Wanted to rent the gymnasium at \$150 per day but was told would also have to have 2 staff at overtime which increased the cost to a point that it was not reasonable. Program did not develop. What is our five year plan and goals? General plan addresses how many parks and facilities we should have but we do not have a good review of what is there and how is it being used.

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- What are all the costs, fixed; variable; overhead etc.
- Community is willing to get involved but need a comprehensive approach. Will have missed opportunities without a full understanding of all programs and facilities.
- Limited information is confusing. Different groups will assist if they fully understand the costs. Don't have enough information to understand the cost for a program.

Howard Auld

- Appreciate Steve's comment of the responsibility to the Kerr McGehee Center donation.
- Would like to see the shortfall of finances to bring a program to break even.

Barbara Auld

- Asked why would we have an empty building. Referred to city hall being on Balsam Street. Was a business incubator that grew viable businesses. If we have the building with utilities then could be used for rent. Let other businesses rent the building and pay the city for the facility.
  - Jerry Taylor – reassured that council is not talking about a permanent extended period of time building, only at times when not in use could have savings by not staffing.

Dan Clark

- Council is in my thoughts and prayers for the decisions they have to make.
- Can play with numbers and justify each program which will be a horrible experience. Public safety needs.
- Referenced mention of teen court. Need to look at the vision and goals of the program rather than cuts. Keep youth involved. Would rather drive on a bumpy street because kids being incarcerated because we do not have programs to keep them involved.
- Cutting parks and letting police go then we will develop a gang oriented community.
- Can't lose Mr. Ponek, all the positive programs for the kids of the community are a shining star. Keeping our community safe is the most important job the council has. Teen court is not the only silver bullet we use to keep crime down in our community.
- Understand this will be a horrible decision but keep in mind we need to keep what we have to benefit the largest number of youth we can. Keep the focus on positive involvement for our kids.

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Carol Vaughn

- Agree with Mr. Clark, if we do not take care of the kids we won't have a positive community in the future. People rely on the facilities for the youth as a place to go and things to do. Programs are more important than the roads. If I have to choose between the tires on my car and a child going to jail or college then I choose programs. It's the people's job to make the programs continue. Use private entities, increase volunteerism. A lot of people who would like to help. People complain about roads because they see it every day, if given a choice they would choose programs.

Jim Fallgetter

- Applaud the better readability of the presentations and appreciate it.

Gwen Jensen

- When children were small, parents prepared the ball fields and snack bar, should not be up to city completely.
- Wrong in the comments about the senior center. Almost 92 years old and had granddaughter bring me to talk to you. Bakersfield did not help build the senior center. It was built by a grant when seniors were meeting in various churches and the knights of Columbus. Many seniors helped work with Delores green to get a grant to build the facility. Mr. Matthews was correct about the speaker system. City council was meeting on panamint street. Later moved to balsam. County had nothing to do with the building and when they took over was when John McQuiston was running for office. Asked why this senior center was under the City rather than Bakersfield. We made our own menus and approved by a nurse. Carol Chandler was a city employee who worked with us. Used to hold fundraisers to help support the program like spaghetti dinners and a booth at the fair. Had to come here and let you know the truth.

MikeNeel

- Reviewed the numbers presented, appropriations are well over the revenue numbers so not a lot of thinking and micro-managing which program generates what is not necessary. Reality is that police and parks get the most money. Programs won't keep people from becoming gang members, parents keep kids from being gang members. Let the people be responsible. Look at the numbers and decide, do you want to get rid of policemen to keep two people in parks? Courage, resolve, and decidedness is what the people elected you for. Lost TAB funding over arguments of one ball field. If you do this in the budget again you can kiss Measure 'L' goodbye.

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Sean Benson

- Staff reviewed the effects of this proposed budget today. Have a listing prepared. Reviewed cultural affairs functions that will be impacted by the loss of one position. Everybody does more than what is written on the paper because we want the programs to be successful. Spoke on the volunteer background process and the people involved in the volunteer work for the programs. By losing a director and positions the programs will suffer. All work together to make the programs work, if you lose one person you will lose parts of several programs. Spoke on the number 4 and why it works. Maintenance going to public works will take away the staffing to do hall set ups and tear downs for meetings.

Dave Matthews

- Don't want council to lose sight of the overall picture. When growing up, the kids cleared the fields. The concern expressed opposing the programs is that gangs will start coming in. In past the term gang had a different meaning. Problem here as mentioned by people at different times they would rather drive on bumpy streets than see programs cut. Recalled a recent statement at the podium of a person coming to town and deciding not to live here because of the condition of the streets. Need to keep proper balance.

Jerry Taylor

- Reviewed page 49 of the proposed budget. Savings is \$167k. Supportive of park and recreation programs but is irresponsible for council to not balance the budget. Need to be cognizant of not only the comments made here but also of those who vote. Challenge is we are already on the edge with not backfilling police officers. Need to maintain those levels of service. When discussing roads am referring to repairing before costs go up. What I see here, I am not ready to make decision because I don't know what level of service we are keeping. Total work hour capacity will only be a 5% drop. Will be function reallocations. To get police whole would have to cut more. Glad pool is still open, want to look at the functions. Generating revenue, sell more hours. Have to look at what programs are here. Am in favor of keeping the programs full and understand the importance of programs such as swim lessons that saves lives. We have to do our due diligence and balance the budget. These are hard decisions and are in very hard times. Believe we need to do our due diligence and complete this process. Understand the ball field has to stay a ball field, just looking at a creative idea like transferring the program to other groups to save the revenue generating programs.

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Jason Patin

- Need to find creative ways to help generate money to keep the programs. Facilities are used by the high school and other public groups. I know what is said about the facilities. Referred to family members working with BRAC and not once did anyone refuse to come work in Ridgecrest because of the streets but did ask about the facilities we had to offer. Not an option to have a completely brown community. Have to also look at private industry, asked staff to put a program together for other private groups to help with the maintenance issues.

Steve Morgan

- Agree with the last two speakers because previous council's have done exactly what has been suggested. Have tried programs in the past and held dances thru private organizations. They all failed, but could work this time because we have a more sincere need and better foundation. Have no problem getting a kid to volunteer to DJ and charge the kids entry fee and refreshments. Liability and success must be known. Cannot do something if it is not profitable. Related personal experience with businesses. Just as committed to having meetings to work this out. Pleased to see that this is the most passionate conversation we have had about any department in 20 years. Referred to the penny jars and parks and recreation was last every time we did the activity. If public is now giving a change in attitude, it give council a different perspective. Council will still balance the budget and it still won't be nice. If people want to get together and have fundraisers, I'll participate. History repeats itself, willing to do all this again and if we figure out how to raise money we can save more of the department. If we can figure out a way to lease the ball fields, which has been tried before, the bottom line is they knew they could not come up with the dollars because it is expensive. If we can figure a way to do it now we can save more parks and recreations. I don't like being the bad guy but sometimes it is necessary because of the obligation we have to the community. Spoke about Jim Ponek. Don't think anything heard tonight is new. Its all been said before in meetings and in Jim's office. Previous council's and city managers, nothing new has been said tonight. Council did try these things and they didn't work, but we tried. Would like to know in terms of miles of street the past 5 years, how many miles we have oiled, sealed, chipped, paved, etc. I guarantee, of 126 miles of streets, with non-action at least 60 miles or one-half have had some type of surface repair, some have been done several times. Would like to get off the belief that we have not done a lot on the streets. In the last 16 years all major streets have had some type of repair. Can do the same with parks and recreation. We can do it together but not going to be pretty for this budget cycle. Have cut 12 staff members total in the discussions so far, will talk about all of it when we wrap this up. It is tough because I have worked with these people for a long time.

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### Chip Holloway

- Would like staff to go back 5 years and look at the gap between revenues and expenditures and how we have closed the gap. Three major programs are sponsored. If we had programs which generate more revenue than the problem is solved. Understand the staff of parks and recreation are upset. More customer contact than any other department. You have to get on board and at least try this for the City's and public's sake. Nobody knows what will happen when we do this, if you aren't part of the solution then the programs will be dead on arrival. Have to try this approach, may have to go down and can build back up. Not willing to cut programs and people until I know the ratio is correct. Gotta have the numbers. If we have to supplement a lease or have other business sponsorship then may be able to make it work.

### Jason Patin

- Not talking about businesses giving us money but businesses taking over certain functions like medians.

### Ron Carter

- If we are not careful our actions will have a negative effect on the community. Been an educator entire life and if community does not have positive structured programs for youth they will get into trouble. Police have more work to do. Cannot set up the youth for failure. People looking at the community, they ask how are the schools and we have one of the best school districts in California. We have the best quality of teachers. Affordable housing, activities for adults and youth is what people ask about. Not one person asks how are the roads. Need to be very careful what we cut or don't cut. I know the dedication of the parks and recreation staff who are totally dedicated to this city and the citizens of the community. Referred to \$50k budget from past to work with programs and events. Related San Diego high school who hired Bob Hope and other performers to come in and they got the funds they needed to build their football stadium. Asked Jim Ponek to go over the budget and bring something to council with new ideas. Same scenario as police stating that gangs will go up. Fine line to cross. People won't be happy with the decisions we have to make. Still need more money in the reserves and need to generate new revenues to save the community. Don't want to make these cuts because we will go over that fine line. Will fight to prevent that but need parks and recreation to come up with creative ideas. Need to do a parks and recreation district which won't help right now but will bring in revenue we need to offer more programs. Referred to Lancaster/Palmdale recreation programs. Appreciate the input and support and ideas we have heard. Work together and do what we need to do to balance the budget and the parks and recreation district. Respect the parks and recreation staff being here to support the needs of the community.

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Jerry Taylor

- Some people will lose their jobs and others salary, city manager is doing what he can to reduce the overhead costs. We will do what we have to do.

**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 – did not meet, attended the police, pact, and explorers volunteer function

**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

Chip Holloway

- met and reviewed the same items discussed tonight. Took no action. Reviewed the parks and recreation plan and will bring to full council once the state decision on TAB funds come in.

Jason Patin

- people have asked about the parks plan coming to full council and it will happen when we know if we have funds to spend and how much.

**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 – no meeting scheduled

**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

Jason Patin – received report from Gary Parson of projects. Announced meeting.

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### 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 – announced next meeting cancellation

### 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 – announced next meeting.

## OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Steve Morgan – Kern COG tomorrow night and will sign contract for new executive director and last meeting as chair for the board.

Jerry Taylor – desert mountain division meeting, septic tank law from 2000 will go into effect and need to be prepared regarding connections to sewer system. Need report of impact.

## CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Kurt Wilson

- Difficult process for a lot of people. Everyone looking forward to a resolution and getting everything in place. Difficult time for staff to be unsettled.
- Summary of requests made over the past few days for staff to bring back to council.
- Wished Stephanie Forshee good luck on her new ventures.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jason Patin

- budget process is ugly and do not enjoy it, but not in a hurry as long as we get it right. Last time we rushed it and want to go over everything to be as fair as possible in the cuts and still get a balanced budget. Want to finish by July 1 and get it right. Heartfelt appreciation to Kurt and Tyrell and the rest of the staff who have spent many hours responding to our questions and requests. Thank you to all the city staff for going above and beyond. None of us wanted to publicly cut our benefits and we have all done it voluntarily the same amount as the employees.

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Jerry Taylor

- we are here to set policy, do not believe my benefit package should be the same as a full time employee. Believe we should set the tone. Have personal level experience of what the employees are going thru. Doing what I can to maintain the level of service without cutting and we need help. We are trying to control cost which is our responsibility to the public. We have a general fund reserve of zero which is not good business. We are here to provide services for the citizens that includes utilities. Need to right-size and balance our budget. Want citizens to understand is we have passed a budget and declared a fiscal emergency almost a year ago. This is about passing a budget as soon as we can because we are using money we do not have. Not easy but has to be done. Need to show the citizens we are living within our means and we do need help.

Chip Holloway

- want to thank staff and apologize for what is rolling downhill. Really get frustrated with the public who do not have respect for what you do. Because you are a city employee you get lumped together with others like the city of Bell and it is a shame. The lack of empathy and sympathy from our community is embarrassing. Trash sounds good right now because we at least had money. The draft budget as it is, it's hard to get creative. Any levity here does not mean we are not taking this serious. Not a council member here that doesn't want to get the budget problem solved. I told parks and recreation that we are probably going to have to go down to the basics and then build back up. Its hard to accept reality, but have to believe we can do it and all come together to get this done and be better for it in the future. Committed to getting a budget that we can afford.

Ron Carter

- thanked the staff, in California when the revenues aren't there, the people who suck it up and make sure it keeps going are the employees. Its sad when the employees have to make up the deficit. True for the school district and the city. employees are making up for the deficit. I'm embarrassed when asking a question late and find out the employee is still working. Employees are giving up time with their families and the public don't see that. We will have a balanced budget no matter how painful. Agree with Jason to do it right. Remember last year's budget had some of the same people criticizing because we did it too fast. Have always had a balanced budget and will continue to do so and to do the best we can for the citizens of this community. People want to come here with their negative comments, shame on you. We need to be positive.

Steve Morgan

- thanked the citizens who signed up to be part of the measure 'L' oversight committee. Read the names. Challenged the council to try to have a special meeting on May 31 to continue this discussion. Read article in the news review

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about candidates for first district supervisor. Challenged the news review to describe to the citizens why the paper is endorsing the man running against John McQuiston after saying John McQuiston was one of the best supervisors we have had. Spoke on Mr. Wiknich and other campaigning for Measure H & I and an ad in the swap sheet quoting statistics on term limits. Challenges tom Wiknich to a public forum on may 30 in council chambers to hear both sides. Wants to have a debate about the term limits. Mr. Wiknich wants to take away the public ability to vote for council members.

**ADJOURNMENT at 10:00 pm**

  
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Rachel J. Ford, CMC  
City Clerk