



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL

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

**February 20, 2013
5:30 pm**

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. 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 Daniel O. Clark; Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Patin; Vice-Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Council Members James Sanders and Lori Acton

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Dennis Speer; City Clerk Rachel J. Ford; City; City Attorney Keith Lemieux and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add a need arose item:

Approve a resolution authorizing letters of opposition to senators and representatives regarding sequestration.

Motion To Add A Resolution Authorizing Letters Of Opposition To Sequestration And Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Sanders . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None presented

CLOSED SESSION – 11:30 a.m.

- GC54957 Personnel Matters – Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Interim City Manager
- GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice the City of Ridgecrest.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Personnel Matters – no action taken
 - Potential litigation - continued
- Other
 - Measure 'L' committee discussion included 2 resolutions pertaining to procedures and request budget information from City. in agreement with scope of the committees review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Curt Bryan

- Spoke on wastewater fund loan

Dave Matthews

- Announced National Engineer's Week and American Institute of aeronautics 50th anniversary dinner.
- Asked Council to review traffic problem at Sierra View and Las Flores avenue during student arrivals and departures from Las Flores Elementary School.

Barbara Auld

- Related similar experiences as Mr. Matthews.

Tom Wiknich

- Requested Council to review revenues and fees during upcoming budget hearings.
- Requested Council review Parks programs including direct and indirect costs.

Jerry Taylor

- Suggested public comment be a part of the mid-year budget review.
- Urged Council to begin setting goals and holding budget discussions.
- Asked Council to use comment time to give staff direction for the budget.

Paul Vanderwerf

- Gave personal analysis and comparison between the trials the Lakers Basketball team has endured and the losses and challenges the City has faced.
- Encouraged transparency with the budget.

Mike Neel

- Read letter to the editor regarding the Civil Suit between City of Ridgecrest and Dale Howard.
- Urged Council to drop Civil Suit against Mr. Howard.

Closed at 7:00pm

Mayor Clark Introduced the new Director of Finance, Rochelle McQuiston.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Approve A Resolution Authorizing A Proclamation In Honor Of "Motorcycle Awareness Month" And Presenting The Proclamation** Clark

Mayor Clark announced presentation of proclamation in May.

Motion To Approve Resolution Authorizing Proclamation For Motorcycle Awareness Month Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

2. **Employee Of The Month Award** Clark

Dennis Speer spoke of the many ways Loren Culp is involved with City functions and the implementation of the Employee of the Month award.

Council presented a Certificate Of Recognition to City Engineer Loren Culp who was selected by peers as the Employee of the Month for the City of Ridgecrest.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. **Approve A Resolution Of The City Of Ridgecrest Successor Redevelopment Agency Approving The Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule 13-14A** Parsons
4. **Approve Draft Minutes Of The Regular Council Meeting Of February 6, 2013** Ford
5. **Added Approve A Resolution Authorizing Council To Sign Letters Of Opposition To California Senators And Representatives Pertaining To Federal Sequestration Threat** Holloway

Item 3 pulled by Mike Neel

Motion To Approve Items 4 & 5 Of Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Acton , Second By Council Member Patin . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Item 3 discussion

Mike Neel asked about the payment structure and increase to cost.
Gary Parsons outlined payments and explained increase to cost as interest payment.

Motion To Approve Item No 3 Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

6. Appointments to Council Agencies, Boards, and Commissions Ford

Lori Acton nominated:

- Tammy Miller to Handicap Appeals Board
- Pat Brokke to Personnel Board
- Jerry Taylor to Construction Appeal Board

Motion To Approve All Nomination Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

ORDINANCES

7. Approve Ordinance No. 13-01, Second Reading and Adoption, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Municipal Code With Respect To Agencies, Commissions, Boards, and Committees Lemieux

Keith Lemieux

- Gave staff report, mainly cleanup cutting out references to redevelopment agency, brings consistency with city manager and changes personnel commission appeals being final decision to be consistent with city manager.

Public Comment

- None presented

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(Ordinance – cont.)

Motion To Waive Reading In Full And To Adopt By Title Only, Ordinance No. 13-01, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Municipal Code With Respect To Agencies, Commissions, Boards, And Committees Made By Council Member Patin, Second Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

Motion To Adopt, By Title Only, Ordinance No. 13-01, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Municipal Code With Respect To Agencies, Commissions, Boards, And Committees Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll-Call Vote 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Organization

Members: Dan Clark, Jim Sanders

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: March 19, 2013

Jim Sanders

- Reviewed budget status discussion.
- Presentation will be posted on website and encouraged Council Members to review.

Jason Patin

- asked about the status of the gas tax fund.
 - Dennis Speer – adjusted budget of December 16 anticipated Measure 'L' funding, however adjustments made to preserve Police were reduced by \$500K leaving a deficit in the gas tax fund for streets.

Dan Clark

- Recapped Measure 'L' funding received to date from which 97% has been spent on public safety.
- Anticipates another projected receipt this month which will change the numbers.
- Concerned about managing cost and City has suspended all overtime and travel.
- Revenues are decreasing which leads to major concerns within the adjusted budget.
- Real concerns for the current budget and the projected budget for next year.
- Has requested a financial narrative at every Council meeting so we have a better idea of the projections for revenues and pending deficit.

Community Development Committee

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: 1st Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: March 7, 2013

Jason Patin

- Announced next meeting

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Infrastructure Committee

Members: Dan Clark, Jason Patin
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: March 13, 2013

Dan Clark

- Announced next meeting

Quality Of Life

Members: Chip Holloway, Lori Acton
Meeting: 2nd Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: February 27, 2013 (Dark in June, July, December, and January)

Chip Holloway

- Announced next meeting
- mentioned County Parks And Recreation meeting immediately following Quality of Life meeting.

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

Members: Jim Sanders, Jason Patin
Meetings: 2nd Monday Of Odd Numbered Months At 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee Center
Next Meeting: March 11, 2013

Jason Patin

- Met yesterday and focus of discussion was school violence and drug use
- Reviewed the success of Teen Court, which tries to work with at-risk youth.

Veterans Advisory Committee

Members: Jason Patin, Lori Acton
Meetings: Every Monday as needed at 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: February 25, 2013

Lori Acton

- Announced next meeting.

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: March 6, 2013 at location to be announced

Chip Holloway

- no report

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Lori Acton

- Attended Jawbone Canyon meeting for Off Highway Vehicles and discussed revenue generation. Goal is to partner with BLM and hold collaborative discussions.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- No report

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lori Acton

- Praised the Interim City Manager and welcomed the new Director of Finance. Council is asking for a lot of information in a short amount of time and thanked both for stepping up.
- Sequestration is looming large, is very scary. Has friends on Navy ships that cannot come home and salaries are being reduced.
- Citizens are stepping up to offer help to Council during the budget hearings. There are a lot of good ideas and out-of-the-box thinking. Encouraged other members of the public to contact Council and offer their assistance.
- Council is working hard to seek out new avenues of revenue.
- Received a call from a citizen who did not leave return contact information. Asked her to call back.

Jim Sanders

- Looking forward to regular budget discussions.
- Facing a tough situation and Federal Government action is needed or things will get worse.
- Military base is large employer and a 20% cut in pay will equate to reduction to local spending.
- Thanked Chip for the letters going to Washington DC opposing the sequestration.
- Need to have discussion of when to hold budget workshops and looking for suggestions from fellow council members.

Chip Holloway

- Asked Mr. Speer about strategic planning session timetable.
 - Dennis Speer responded that the idea was to have a City Manager in place before establishing a strategic plan.
- Asked to hold preliminary discussions to help Council deal with 2013-14 budget.
 - Dennis Speer reviewed the six-step process which includes audits and analysis to show what we are capable of doing rather than just what we want. The budget is a part of a strategic plan. Budget workshops are important to developing the strategic plan. New finance director is in agreement that we provide a complete budget document and once developed it will bring transparency for the Council and public. Would like to give the Director of Finance time to do it right so we do not have to do it over. Director is scheduled for training on our existing system so she can extract the information from the system for the proposals and budget preparation. She has been asked to work with the Assistant Finance Director to come back with cuts for this fiscal year. Would like to allow enough time to learn the existing software and put into a transparent document before holding budget hearings. Finance is currently working on identifying cuts that still need to be made in the FY13 budget. Need to give her enough time to do it right.
- Congratulated Loren Culp and thanked staff for coming up with way to recognize employees. Would like to see a reward program for City employees who identify significant cost savings.
- Sequestration letter, felt hypocritical putting the letter together because as Council we will be required to cut \$227K and already know we will have to cut more. I disagreed with the method of taking all the cuts from the defense department.
- Encouraged public to go to Chamber Of Commerce to sign letters of opposition to sequestration.
- Mentioned Mr. McQuiston and thanked him for his efforts as former supervisor with the undergrounding of digital 395.

Jason Patin

- Disagree with strategic planning session delay; Council needs to keep moving forward. Would like Council to get together to envision where this Council is headed. Suggest moving forward with a discussion to envision where we are headed which may assist staff with putting together their projections for budget. Asked council for input.
 - Jim Sanders and Lori Acton concurred.
 - Dennis Speer – Budget strategy discussions. The basis of a discussion in a workshop should include Department Head projections for their departments.

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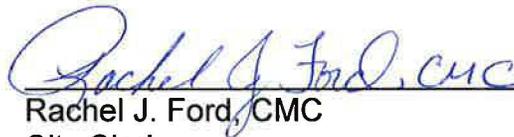
(Jason Patin – cont.)

- Want to discuss goals for the City, which is a strategic plan.
- Sequestration, if it happens, will result in a 20% reduction of pay and means families will stop spending money and reprioritize where they will spend and ultimately equals less tax revenue for the general fund. Letters must be completed by Friday.

Dan Clark

- Congratulated Loren Culp for selection by his peers as Employee Of The Month. Exciting to be able to acknowledge and recognize employees who are doing a good job.
- In 2012 money was shifted from Wastewater Fund to street maintenance due to gas tax shortage. Requested Director Of Finance to red flag action when Council shifts funds temporarily in anticipation of certain revenues, making the action better to track. When we shift the money waiting on revenues and then the revenues do not come in as projected, we get accused of consciously borrowing money which is not the case.
- Asked to go over the budget in detail monthly.
- Looking forward to Economic Development Outlook Conference tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:50pm



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk