



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL  
SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY,  
FINANCING AUTHORITY  
HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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

**July 17, 2013  
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 Pro-Tem Jason Patin; Council Members James Sanders and Lori Acton

Council Absent: Mayor Daniel O. Clark; Vice-Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway

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

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion Amending The Agenda To Add A Resolution Declaring Emergency Demolition Of A Burned Structure At The Kerr McGee Youth Sports Complex Made By Council Member Acton , Second By Council Member Sanders . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Council Member Holloway)

Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Sanders , Second By Council Member Acton . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Council Member Holloway)

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

## CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- No Report

## PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 6:10pm

### Phil Salvatore

- Seconded Council Member Acton's suggestion to reduce the Parks Director to a Recreation Supervisor and asked Council to revisit the issue.
- Discussion of proposed tax on vacant buildings. If initiated language could exclude single-family homes actively being sold or probate homes.
  - Jason Patin – currently being discussed at Infrastructure Committee and encouraged public to attend meetings to present ideas for the first draft.

### Jerry Taylor

- Agrees with suggestions made by Phil Salvatore and included recommendation to eliminate Parks Maintenance Supervisor and put parks maintenance function under streets division.
- Commented on state employee salary information which includes Council salaries.
- Commented on Council benefit package and priorities for the City.
- Asked about prioritization of youth fields. Exemplified football being allocated to soccer field which is different size.
- Inquired about an organizational structure for engaging programs being impacted today.
- Understands reaching out to local organizations but looking for structure.
- Encouraged looking at numbers and medians.
  - Council Member Acton – point of clarification about Council's engagement with sports programs, various organizations have been approached to take over certain activities.
- Mentioned attending a citizens group but has not seen City organize a group meeting to discuss the programs as a whole.
- Questioned where the leadership role was during the transition period?
- If money available for lights at Freedom Park, why are no lights at football field.
  - Jason Patin – is meeting with the various organizations and no employee was laid-off, only moved to other functions.
- Commented on ratios of staff to population.

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**Eric Bruin**

- Chairman of RidgePAC and reviewed purpose of the committee
- Addressed Council of pending environmental impact report on Ridgecrest Boulevard and funding.
- Reviewed requirements that are impeding progress
- RidgePAC is aware of the requirements and willing to support Council and assist with addressing those requirements.
- Encourage Council and staff to improve the road and do everything possible to get thru the process.

**Paul Vanderwerf**

- Commented on past CFR's and noted various declines in numbers on the reserves.
- Attended Quality Of Life meeting and asked about reorganization.
- Commented on General Plan chapter 6 and the need to develop a master plan for youth sports.
- Commented on difficulty getting involved with the reorganization.
- Commented on changes to sports schedules and lack of notification or participation with community.
- Asked Council about an Ad Hoc committee.
  - Jason Patin – no committee appointed by Council, only community members.

**Mike Tosti**

- Commented on articles in the news review about pulling a monument from the parks facilities
- Commented on breached contract from one youth program
- Read an Email from Mr. LaRue requiring persons to put in requests for the fields by Friday or they will remain unused until October.
- Commented on fields being used by football and fencing with permanent scoreboard. Soccer not allowed on the fields.
- Adults are using lower fields
- If fenced then won't be available for the public
- Memorial is being removed.
- If Mr. Ponek is set on tearing up the parks then should be removed from position.
- All parks are currently brown, not being maintained.
- No one putting in for the softball fields.
- Commented on lease packages available for teams to put in for the fields.
- Commented on statements from Bobby who put in for lease for maintenance and has not heard back from County.
- Each lease package requires a meter be installed.
- Something needs to be done, commented on \$33,000 maintenance contract for Kerr McGee facility.

Mike Tosti (*continued*)

- Suggested removing Jim Ponek from position and having a Recreation Supervisor.
- Commented community does not like Mr. Ponek and public has had difficulty with him.
- Commented on Burroughs High School agreeing to tournament.
- Again commented on \$33,000 promised by Mr. Holloway.
  - Jim Sanders – asked if the County Representative has been approached. City does not have control over much of what was commented on.
  - Jason Patin – spoke with Mr. Fisher today and he stated is fine today with where he is.

Closed public comment at 6:36pm

## PRESENTATIONS

1. **Employee of the Month** **Clark**
  - Council presented certificate of appreciation to Employee Of The Month Les Wood thru his supervisor Dennis Speer.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Approve A Resolution Authorizing The City Clerk To Place The Sewer Fee Increase On The Tax Rolls** **Speer**
3. **Approve A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign A Deferred Lien Agreement With Neil Christman For The South Warner Street Improvements Fronting The Remainder Parcel Of Tentative Tract Map 6221** **Speer**
4. **Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Authorizing The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign A Deferred Lien Agreement For South Downs Street Improvements Fronting The Ridgecrest Charter School** **Speer**
5. **Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Services Agreement With Willdan Engineering For The Preliminary Engineering Of A Traffic Signal At China Lake Boulevard And Bowman Road And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute This Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement** **Speer**

6. Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Service Agreement With, Willdan Engineering For The Preliminary Engineering Of Twelve Intersections For Signing And Striping At Various Locations And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute This Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement Speer
7. Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Service Agreement With Willdan Engineering For The Preliminary Engineering Of Seven Traffic Signal Modifications And Traffic Signal Timing At Various Locations And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute This Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement Speer
8. Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Services Agreement With Willdan Engineering For The Preliminary Engineering Of Drummond Avenue Widening Project Between Downs Street And Inyo Street And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute This Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement Speer
9. Approve A Resolution To Approve A Professional Services Agreement With Willdan Engineering For The Preliminary Engineering Of Street Surface Improvement Design On South China Lake Boulevard From Upjohn Avenue To Bowman Road And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute This Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement Speer
10. Approve A Resolution To Approve The Allocation Request For Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement And Service Enhancement Program (PTMISEA) Or Proposition 1b Funds To Purchase A New Security Gate And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Allocation Request And Accept The Funding Speer
11. Approve A Resolution Supporting The "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade" Strand
12. Approve A Resolution Authorizing The Application For And Acceptance Of The United States Department Of Justice, Byrne Program Grant Strand
13. Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgcrest City Council Increasing The Witness Fee Deposit For Police Officers Strand
14. Approve A Resolution Supporting The Parade Of 1000 Flags Ford
15. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Regular Council Meeting Dated May 15, 2013 Ford

Items Pulled From Consent Calendar:

- No's 2, 10, and 13,

*Motion To Approve Consent Calendar As Amended Made By Council Member Acton , Second By Council Member Sanders . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Vice-Mayor Holloway)*

Discussion Of Items Pulled From Consent Calendar

Item 2 discussion

Christina Witt

- Commented on AB3030 and cease and desist letter served on the City at the last meeting
- Read parts of AB3030.
- Commented on engineering study pursuant to new services.
- Mentioned legal defense fund.
- Commented on Prop 218 regulations and read select sections
- Stated citizens will fight the fee increase.

Phil Salvatore

- Commented on lack of engineering study showing deficiencies that need to be repaired.

Paul Vanderwerf

- Commented on attendance at infrastructure meeting discussions pertaining to the sewer fee increase
- Proposed \$100k cut from legal in budget may be premature.

Jim Sanders

- Concerns were explained previously and have no problem moving forward

Lori Acton

- Understands the concerns and the charges are for services being used now, not new services so am good with the action.

Jason Patin

- Attended infrastructure meetings and without the sewer lines in the equation, still have to build a new plant and for 20 years no citizen has had to pay for increases and feel this council is taking responsible action.

Item 10 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked why the need for another gate.
  - Dennis Speer – explained that this particular grant can only be used for security, not roads or other purposes. This gate will improve circulation and eliminate congestion in front of the mechanic bays and fueling station. Will be located on the west side of the facility.

Item 13 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked what government code was referenced and how the funds are used.
  - Paul Wheeler – provided a copy of the government code section from state. Responded to question of the fee deposit. Many times officers are sent to civil court and the person who subpoenas the officer has to pay the deposit. Raising the deposit will reduce the funds city has to pay for travel and time of the officer to attend and testify for non-city related civil court proceedings. Does not apply to criminal cases.

Motion To Approve Items 2, 10, And 13 Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Council Member Holloway)

**ORDINANCES**

**16. Adopt Ordinance No. 13-03, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Adopting Zoning Text Amendment No. 12-01, By Amending The Zoning Ordinance Definition Of "Family" As Follows: "Family" Shall Mean An Individual, Or Two (2) Or More Persons Related By Blood Or Marriage Or Legal Adoption, Or A Group Not To Exceed Six (6) Persons (Excluding Servants) Living Together As A Single Housekeeping Unit In A Dwelling Unit. Applicant: City Of Ridgecrest Planning Department**

**Alexander**

Dennis Speer gave staff report.

- Future grants to the city thru CDC or HUD could be affected if the ordinance is not adopted amending the language.

Public Comment

Dave Matthews

- Strongly opposes the adoption and suggest we do not need HUD

Jim Sanders

- Commented on planning commission action and this brings compliance with the County. Not redefining the family and no restriction to blood relatives.

*Motion To Waive Reading In Full And To Adopt By Title Only, Ordinance No. 13-03, An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Zoning Ordinance Text By Amending The Definition Of "Family" As Follows: "Family" Shall Mean An Individual, Or Two (2) Or More Persons Related By Blood Or Marriage Or Legal Adoption, Or A Group Not To Exceed Six (6) Persons (Excluding Servants) Living Together As A Single Housekeeping Unit In A Dwelling Unit made by council member Acton , seconded by council member sanders . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Vice-Mayor Holloway)*

*Requires A Second*

*Motion To Adopt, By Title Only, Ordinance No. 13-03, An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Zoning Ordinance Text By Amending The Definition Of "Family" As Follows: "Family" Shall Mean An Individual, Or Two (2) Or More Persons Related By Blood Or Marriage Or Legal Adoption, Or A Group Not To Exceed Six (6) Persons (Excluding Servants) Living Together As A Single Housekeeping Unit In A Dwelling Unit made by council member Acton , seconded by council member sanders . Motion Carried By roll call Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Vice-Mayor Holloway)*

*Requires A Second*

## **DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

### **17. Discussion And Appointments Of 2 Members To The Measure 'L' Citizens Advisory Committee For The Term Of Four Years Speer**

Dennis Speer gave staff report

Jason Patin

- Commented on application process
- 2 applications received from the members already serving on the committee.
- Disappointed more people did not apply.

#### Public Comment

Christina Witt

- Did not apply because the two originally appointed were doing a good job and to appoint new people committee would lose ground on the progress they have accomplished.
- Feel the two individuals are doing an excellent job.

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Paul Vanderwerf

- Looking for a variety and the two people have good varied backgrounds and supports them.

Jerry Taylor

- Thinks Council is seeing how the community is supporting the members who are currently on the committee.

*Motion To Appoint 2 Members, Scott Garver And Andy Anderson To The Measure 'L' Citizens Advisory Committee For Four-Year Terms To Expire July 16, 2017 Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Vice Mayor Holloway)*

**18. Approve A Resolution Declaring Emergency Demolition Of Burned Structure At The Kerr McGee Youth Sports Center.**

Dennis Speer gave staff report

Jason Paton

- Referenced people entering the structure and thanked staff for securing the building

**Public Comment**

Andy Anderson

- Clarified the insurance company is going to demolish the building.

Motion To Approve Resolution Declaring Emergency Demolition Of A Burned Structure At The Kerr McGee Youth Sports Complex Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 2 Absent (Mayor Clark And Council Member Holloway)

**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: August 20, 2013

Jim Sanders – no report

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**Community Development Committee**

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room  
Next Meeting: August 1, 2013

Jason Patin – no report

**Infrastructure Committee**

Members: Dan Clark, Jason Patin  
Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room  
Next Meeting: August 14, 2013

Jason Patin – no report

**Quality Of Life**

Members: Chip Holloway, Lori Acton  
Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Kerr-McGee Center  
Next Meeting: August 8, 2013 (Dark in June, July, December, and January)

Lori Acton – July 30 USA swimming meeting all day.

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

Members: Jim Sanders, Jason Patin  
Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee Center  
Next Meeting: August 20, 2013

Jim Sanders – no report

**Veterans Advisory Committee**

Members: Jason Patin, Dan Clark  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month At 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room  
Next Meeting: August 5, 2013

Lori Acton – No report

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

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.  
Next Meeting: August 7, 2013 at location to be announced

Jason Patin – read director's report *(Copy Available In The City Clerk's Office)*

**OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

None

## **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

### **Dennis Speer**

- Awarded 3 years ago funding for transit garage and Inyokern transit Hub. Funds have been deposited in the amount of 1.3 million dollars.
- Received McCarthy grant for wastewater treatment plant 3 years ago in amount of \$400k. Explained funding process thru the EPA. Can draw upon these funds now.
- Committees are not functioning at this time and not in compliance. Need two additional members to make appointments from planning commission.
  - Lori Acton – asked if 2 members had to be planning commissioners
  - Jason Patin – agreeable with planning commissioners and not burden other staff or bring citizen up to speed
  - Gave direction to Dennis Speer to proceed with appointments from planning commission.
- Request for direction in moving forward with parks benefit assessment district. Reviewed action taken by staff at this time. Proposals requested, received, reviewed, and interviewed. Staff have selected consultant but funds not allocated.
  - Jason Patin – prefer bringing to full council. want report provided that explains what a benefit assessment district means to the city and citizens. Ok looking at this as an option
  - Jim Sanders – would like to hear more information
  - Lori Acton – think it should come before council as discussion item.

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

### **Jim Sanders**

- Spoke on the tragedy with concession stand and look for responsible individuals to be caught and held accountable for their actions.
- Commented on furloughs for federal employees and need to project the impact to the city.
- Encouraged those on furlough to cut back and live within a smaller budget to avoid going deeper in debt and potential foreclosure
- Happy to see planning commissioners back on committees. Originally went along with the idea but will be nice to have other perspectives at meetings.

### **Lori Acton**

- Excited at the community businesses stepping forward with furlough Friday sales to help those with income cuts.
- Community is amazing, stunned by the fire but is a silver lining. Insurance will help cover and can build a nice concession stand. Community has supported the youth.
- Golf tournament for city 50<sup>th</sup> was a success

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Lori Acton (*continued*)

- Thanked community support during personal crisis with father.
- Asked for access to IT staff to put a meter on the website that will show progress on each street for citizens to see where Measure 'L' funding is going.
- Spoke on the comments received about overpaid salaries but no one ever talks about the 100+ employees who do not make the higher salaries and the excellent job they are doing.
- Commented that the staff recognitions and employee of the month certificate is for those employees who are in the trenches every single day serving the public.

Jason Patin

- Echo the comments about the concession stand.
- Will get the facility up to speed when TAB funding becomes available.
- Thanked citizens who made comments.
- Clarified a few comments made that are untrue.
- Reiterated that Mr. Fisher has been contacted and is happy.
- Comments about money being ripped out of the park, do not understand where that comment came from. To date, the money is not being taken out.
- Regarding the fence around the Leroy Jackson facility, that is not the City. Please remember once the County takes over the City no longer has control.
- Thankful no one was injured in the concession stand fire.
- Regarding the \$33,000 funds for maintenance. Contracts and collective bargaining agreements with unions must be adhered to. Cannot fire employees just to put a new contract in place.
- Commented that many times we (Council) hear good ideas but cannot do them because of binding contracts and agreement.
- Regarding salaries for staff, Council is working on a salary study so we can understand where our staff is in comparison to other comparable agencies.
- Asked citizens to speak with Council before making comments at the podium. Always willing to work with citizens. Ask us if you hear something because a lot of times what someone hears is not true. Asking ahead of time before making comments can help eliminate a lot of rumors.
- Asked for public to be positive with comments and follow up with Council to meet and try to find ways to fix the problems.
- Council families live in the community and are affected by what happens, same as the citizens.

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:41 pm in honor of Mr. Speer's mother who passed away**

  
Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk