



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL

City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555

June 5, 2013
5:30 pm

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CITY OF RIDGECREST

CITY COUNCIL REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY HOUSING AUTHORITY FINANCING AUTHORITY

AGENDA

Regular Council
Wednesday June 5, 2013

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Closed Session – 5:30 p.m.
Regular Session – 6:00 p.m.

This meeting room is wheelchair accessible. Accommodations and access to City meetings for people with other handicaps may be requested of the City Clerk (499-5002) five working days in advance of the meeting.

In compliance with SB 343. City Council Agenda and corresponding writings of open session items are available for public inspection at the following locations:

1. City of Ridgecrest City Hall, 100 W. California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
2. Kern County Library – Ridgecrest Branch, 131 E. Las Flores Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
3. City of Ridgecrest official website at <http://ci.ridgecrest.ca.us>

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None Presented

CLOSED SESSION

GC54957.6 Labor negotiations – UFCW Golden State 8; Police Employee Association of Ridgecrest (PEAR); and unrepresented groups of employees including Management, Mid-Management, and Confidential. Agency Negotiator Dennis Speer

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance – Peggy Spraker and Ron Adams
- Invocation – Rev. Thomas

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Received report – no action taken
- Other
 - none

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ronald Porter

- Referenced comments made by a Council Member regarding acquiesce to Supreme Court.

Dave Matthews

- Relayed information on the DAC meeting on Friday noon to 4:00 p.m. at Jawbone and Saturday from 8-4 at Carriage Inn.

Louis Renner

- Asked for information supporting articles in the News Review related to salaries and fee increases.

Charles Lansing

- Drugs and paraphernalia needs cleaned up near the schools.
 - Direction given to staff to follow up

Andy Anderson

- Expressed unhappiness in budget decisions cutting police/public safety.
- Not enough funds given to roads
- Lesser percentage of cut to parks
 - Mayor requested comments be made during budget discussion

Kurt Bryant

- Commented on News Review editorial.
- Expressed concern of revenue projections.
- Commented on spending issues of wastewater fund.
- Concerned about the published salaries for some employees.
- Commented on concerns of potential bankruptcy.

Chris Nicolson

- Easement to prevent trespassing at majestic sky court
- Road repair on south Sunland
- Accountability in gas tax shortage
- Justification of 100k parks director salary
- Status of redevelopment bond funds and litigation burden
- 500 block of Inyokern road dilapidated building removal
- Leroy Jackson park extension eyesore and garbage
- Street sweeper

Mike Neel

- Commented on clapping as a form of free speech
- Suggestion of adopting a resolution supporting the first 10 amendments of the constitution and read a copy of the City of Gun Barrel Texas resolution.
- Read scripture from the Bible referencing oppression of the poor.
- Commented on litigation against Dale Howard.
- Read motion and ruling of judge regarding the Dale Howard case.
- Recommended council fire the law firm and drop the lawsuit.

Jerry Taylor

- Commented on number of committee members and legality.

Howard Auld

- I've got your back came true for Barbara and Howard when they had a flat tire.
- Officer Mike Atkins assisted and protected them during the incident.
- Publicly thanked Officer Atkins.

Closed Public Comment at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation Of A Proclamation Honoring Ridgecrest Citizen John Cianni

Clark

Council presented a proclamation to John Ciani and the Ridgecrest Police Department presented a special plaque honoring Mr. Ciani

2. Presentation Of Employee Service Awards

Clark

Council presented years of service awards to employees who have reached specific milestones in their careers.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Approval Of A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting An Updated Emergency Operations Plan

Strand

4. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Regular Council Meeting Dated May 15, 2013

Ford

Items Removed for Discussion

- Number 3 pulled

Motion To Approve Item 4 of the Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Patin, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Item 3 Discussion

Mike Neel

- Asked how many Council read and understand the Emergency Operations Plan.

Ron Strand

- Explained the plan as a guideline which is required and useful in a disaster situation.

Mike Neel

- Encouraged Council and staff to read and understand the document.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked about emergency drills.

Motion To Approve Item 5 of the Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

5. Public Hearing And Approval Of A Resolution Establishing A Five Year Rate Schedule For The City's Sewer Charges **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Gave staff report

Mark Hildebrand

- Gave PowerPoint Presentation regarding Wastewater Rate Study Recommendations. *(Copy available in the City Clerk's Office)*

Lori Acton

- Inquired about the lifespan of a typical sewer system.
 - City Engineer responded

Chip Holloway

- Requested explanation of the single family rate.
 - Mark Hildebrand - complied

Lori Acton

- Reviewed scenarios with Mr. Hildebrand
- Scenario 1 does not add to the emergency capital and rates were raised for only repair and maintenance.

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Jason Patin

- Commented on the repairs needed at this time in addition to a new plant in the future. Need between \$80 & \$90 million to do both functions.
- Reviewed status of the wastewater fund which would have a shortfall in excess of \$50 million after existing loan is paid.
- If Council does nothing then will still be unable to fix the problem.
 - Mark Hildebrand – trying to get into the position to be able to borrow against the fund in future to complete necessary repairs and construction.

Dan Clark

- Asked for review of rate comparison of other Cities and read announcement that San Bernardino rates being raised from approximately \$6 per month to \$40 per month.

Jason Patin

- Clarified that it has been 17 years since last rate increase which has resulted in this level of increase and encouraged Council to not repeat this action again by raising the rates incrementally.

Dan Clark

- Researched concerns of a former Council Member of rates being unreasonable and that staff had not done their job.
- Reviewed the 4 types of sewer fees for capacity, inspection, connection, and availability.
- Outlined each fee and the increases implemented throughout the years.
- Asked citizens to consider whether the fee increase is reasonable considering there has been no increase since 1994.
- Reviewed previous presentation staff brought to Council in 2011, which Council chose not to follow.

Jim Sanders

- Reviewed loans currently owed to the wastewater fund.
 - Mark Hildebrand – responded
- Clarified that the loan is not being paid back by the increased fees but rather by the general fund annually.
- Reviewed scenario if the loan could be paid back by the general fund faster.
 - Mark Hildebrand – would only meet the reserve requirement quicker but would have little impact on the final outcome.
- Clarified that if Council found a way to repay the loan faster thereby not needing the rates at the level proposed, Council has the ability through the Prop 218 hearing to lower the rates.

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Jim Sanders (cont.)

- Commented on estimated cost of living and population numbers used in the calculation.
 - Mark Hildebrand – proposed rates would be higher if population growth rate is estimated too high because there are fewer people trying to cover the needed deficit.
- Believe there are several points that are estimated lower than needed.

Lori Acton

- Questioned what would happen if Council did not take necessary action now.
 - Mark Hildebrand – putting off from 2011 to now increase each fee increment by between 10% - 30%

Dan Clark

- Reviewed past fees increases.

Chip Holloway

- Referenced tour of Santa Maria wastewater plant which was built due to mechanical issue and their rates went up faster because of the urgent need and was required by the State.
- Looking at the same type of scenario if we do not plan ahead now and begin raising the funds needed to borrow for future.
- Do not want the State coming here to tell us how to solve our wastewater problems.

Mark Hildebrand

- Commented on the Prop 218 process and commended Council for their transparency.

Dan Clark

- Wastewater fees are exempt from vote process.

Recessed for 5 minutes

Mayor Clark requested a count of persons wishing to speak on the item and noted time limitations of 1 hour for total comment.

Public Comment Opened at 7:54 p.m.

Jerry Taylor

- Requested infrastructure replacement plan.
- Asked how citizens can monitor the progress promised without the plan.
 - Lori Acton – reviewed the request and cost to develop such a plan.

Chris Nichols

- Referenced Delano home and compared increases and requested Council actually repair something with the funds rather than just collect.
- Commented on large user participation.

Robert Eierman

- Commented on last issue regarding trash
- Reminded public that initiative process gives power to people to repeal increases.
- Commented on the approach used to raise the fees and prepare the public.

Ronald Porter

- Reviewed initial purpose of enterprise fund.
- Commented on burden of proof for legality.
- Referenced section 4 and capital improvements.
- Referenced section 6 for actual costs with engineers report.
- Stated the process by Council is illegal and presented document to Council.

Craig Stump

- Spoke on collection system and what would happen in a failure.
- Believes a rate increase is needed but requested emphasis is on the collection system.
- Asked Council to prevent future borrowing of the fund.
- Asked Council to repair as blockages occur rather than survey entire system.
- Commented on future plans of the plant.
- Asked council to explain why plant needs replaced.

Christina Witt

- Accepts challenge to put forth initiative.
- Commented on population fluctuation.
- Asked Council to consider tenants, senior citizens, and low income families.
- Spoke on tax increases and consumer goods increases.

Stan Rajtora

- Agrees with Jerry Taylor on capital improvement plan.
- Concerned about preparation to debt finance.
- Commented on the reserves
- Reminded Council of request for an independent oversight committee for the wastewater fund.

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Stuart Breil

- Objected to rate increase.
- Commented on rental rates impacted by increase.
- Commented on need for a plan.
- Opposed to fee increase without a plan.
- Commented on department of defense personnel not receiving cost of living increase in past 3 years
- Asked about naval base contribution.
- Requested Council not proceed without engineering study.

Jim Fallgetter

- Against a rate increase without a proper engineering plan.
- Referenced comments from Council Member Patin
- Commented on Council not having a study.
- Commented on public distrust of Council as a whole and recommended delaying action, doing a study, and returning with a plan.

Mike Neel

- Spoke on presentation and assumptions to base increase.
- Asked Council to consider fairness in their actions.
- Referenced staffing costs.
- Commented on line replacement and asked Council to be reasonable.
- Commented on cash reserve and stated is unreasonable.
- Recommended a 25% increase for 3 years then reevaluate.
- Concerned about legality and constitutionality
- Referenced Howard Jarvis litigation pertaining to wastewater loan.
- Considering an initiative.

Dave Matthews

- Spoke on attendance at last meeting and assumption that rates would only go up \$10-\$15 per month however looking at presentation the rates are going up to over \$30.
- Made comments pertaining to \$8 rate and possible refund.
- Commented on infrastructure committee meetings and Naval Base cooperation.
- In favor of replacing treatment plant because age and made parts obsolete.
- Not particularly happy with the rate but in favor.
- Suggest rounding to next highest dollar and err on conservative side.

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Renee Westalusk

- Asked for clarification of 'capacity'.
- Referenced conversation with former City Manager Kurt Wilson
- Asked Council about option of just replacing sewer lines without building new plant
- Asked how quality of life will be affected.
- Expressed concerns of the fund being borrowed again and asked for full transparency.

Joe Habermann

- Owner of multi-unit complex and increase to tax bill.
- Commented on comparison of Ridgecrest to higher cost areas.
- Commented on competitors and current adequate housing which affects rent ability of units.
- Concerned with equity on unit size.
- Las Vegas counts fixtures to establish their rates.
- Requested Council restructure how the rates are set and consider home size and number of fixtures in the home.

Liv Loscar

- Asked about the overlap of construction.
- Asked for turn-around time if lines need repaired.
- How far ahead do we need to plan.

Tom Wiknich

- Commented on council appearance while listening to comments.
- Spoke on number of fixtures and number of persons.
- Asked if rate structure can exceed 5 years.
- Suggested fixing a rate that would reduce after the plant was completed.

Andy Anderson

- Asked council for assurances that the wastewater fund would not be raided again.
- Requested Council give an absolute guarantee that the fund would not be raided again.

Christina Witt

- Read opinion letter regarding wastewater fee sent to City of Ridgecrest.
- Referenced wastewater loan and trust issues.
- Council has to compensate for lack of trust from past councils.
- Compared fee increase to same as asking boss for raise.

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Jim Fallgetter

- Concurred with Tom Wiknich about Council attitude during comments.
- Summarized comments made referencing engineering study, and council knowledge of rates.
- Referenced comments about citizens.
- Asked Council to do their homework and get more information.
- Made implications that council had other plans for the money and commented on lack of trust.

Jerry Taylor

- Agreed with Mr. Fallgetter on trust issues
- Commented this is about regaining trust of citizens.
- Mentioned number of letters received protesting the fee increase.

Ron Porter

- Reviewed additional compliance issues of Prop 218.
- Spoke on assessment as a building fund only, not maintenance fund.
- Commented on unlawful charges for homes on septic.
- Gave history of sewer plant fund.
- Referenced handout.

Closed Public Comment at 8:48 p.m.

Jim Sanders

- Appreciate comments received by public.
- Difficult decision for Council.
- Responded to comments of legality.
 - Keith Lemieux – number of procedures in the referenced sections that relate to various fees. Convinced consultant has followed legal process.
 - Mark Hildebrand – did not hear anything that concerns our firm.
- Council not experts in sewer collection therefore experts were hired.
- Find nothing questionable in the reports from consultant and are erring on the side of a lower rate which give some concern.

Lori Acton

- Understand the frustration with paying more fees but to be told am incompetent and have not spent time on this subject is incorrect.
- Spent many hours questioning staff and consultants on all the concerns brought forward.
- Can't go out and do things if we do not have the funds available.
- Asked if there is a way to set the wastewater fund as a special district assessment similar to a parks district assessment.

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Lori Acton (cont.)

- Council understands the trust issue and want protection of the fund.
 - Keith Lemieux – this is a fee and all funds collected are mandated for specific use.

Chip Holloway

- Questioned the fixture concept. Is a fixture cost captured in another formula for the connection fee?
 - Mark Hildebrand – can be used in sewer availability and in the connection fee to estimate the amount of flow and is a one-time connection fee.
- When a rate survey is done, it is strictly done by cost rather than appraised value of a community.
- Commented on scare tactics and accusations of stealing from the wastewater fund.
- Referenced letter regarding wastewater loan.
- Commented on former city manager actions.
- Commented on new council being beat up for actions of former staff members.
- Spoke on in-lieu franchise fee and engineers report.
- Council should not be punished for actions that were taken without council's knowledge.
- Commented on loan balance and asked public to stop validating that as a tool being used to discredit current council.
- Council did borrow from wastewater fund in past and each time benefitted the public by saving from going to private agencies and paying higher interest rates and brokers fee.
- Borrowing from wastewater fund is a smart move so long as it is publicly disclosed.
- Commented on rates outlined in report and costs to do minimal repairs to the system.
- Gave analogy of homeowner obligation to justify ability to pay mortgage and desire to build a mansion. Have to show increase in income to prove ability to pay back a loan.
- Council trying to build a history of ability to repay a loan to the bond council.
- Cannot deny that a 50 year old plant is on borrowed time.
- No problem with having an oversight committee.
- Feel to not do something tonight would be the most irresponsible thing ever done as a council member.

Jason Patin

- Apologized for inaccurate numbers when presenting scenarios.
- Commented on ADD and inability to sit still and asked public to please not misinterpret actions.
- Have a situation where rates have not been raised in 17 years and council is electing to fix the situation.
- Not happy about the situation because every council member will also have to pay these rates.
- Ok with taking the heat from the public even though this situation was created by inaction in the past.
- Need to move forward as a city, can't keep talking about what past council's did. If this council does something irresponsible then call us on it but don't blame this council for past issues not of our doing.

Lori Acton

- Asked for clarification of time needed to construct a new plant
 - Mark Hildebrand – confirmed 2 to 4 years and clarified the process for preparing plans and need to have funds available.

Dan Clark

- Read letters from Marta Meier and Raylene Dean.
- Clarified reason for increase is age of plant and capacity level.
- Referenced sewer management plan and components used to determine what needs to be fixed.
- Not certain city needs to spend millions of dollars to run cameras thru every line and suggested looking at the age and camera only those we think will have problems soon.
- Commented on State of California mandating trash and capability of Lahontan being able to do the same thing if we do not prepare now to be in compliance.
- Commented on the borrowing of wastewater funds during previous time on the council. Did not have a clue the funds had been moved and was frustrated in inability to read the budget. Hold previous council accountable for not making sure they had a budget that was readable but happy the funds are being paid back now.
- Commented on projects paid for by borrowing short-term from the wastewater fee.
- If any Measure 'L' funding is spent inappropriately then will resign and same goes for wastewater fund.
- Asked public to not blame new council members for things that happened in the past.
- Asked for motion

Motion To Approve A Resolution Establishing A Five Year Rate Schedule For The City's Sewer Charges Made By Council Member Patin , Second By Council Member Sanders . Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

Council Member Acton left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

6. Public Hearing And Approval Of Resolution Confirming The Annual Engineer's Report And The Assessment Diagram Connected Therewith; And Ordering The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Culp

Loren Culp

- Gave staff report

Public Comment Opened at 9:29 p.m.

Andy Anderson

- Asked for clarification of engineers report
 - Loren Culp - complied

Council Member Acton returned to the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Jerry Taylor

- Commented on rate being charged.
- Asked council to consider a different rate than LS1 for future lighting districts.
- Expressed hope that funds are being spent on contractor

Motion To Approve A Resolution Confirming The Annual Engineer's Report And The Assessment Diagram Connected Therewith And Ordering The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Made By Council Member Holloway , Second By Council Member Patin . Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

7. Discussion And Approval Of A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council And The Ridgecrest Successor Redevelopment Agency Adopting The Annual Budget For Fiscal Year 2013-14, Establishing Appropriations, Estimating Revenues, And Establishing The Policies By Which The Budget May Be And Shall Be Amended McQuiston

Rachelle McQuiston

- Gave staff report
- Draft budget presented for approval as printed but changes are still allowable.
- Reserve of \$65,000 available in this budget.

Rachelle McQuiston (cont.)

- Reviewed questions of wastewater fund and in-lieu franchise fee which is being paid back.
- Fee resolution will be forthcoming at future council meeting
- Responded to wastewater plant supervisor salary as being misquoted. Total is for both salary and benefits
- Spoke on documentation during the process. Provided what is legally mandated because pressed for time. Anticipate process starting earlier next year and providing more documentation.

Lori Acton

- Commented on water savings anticipated with meter size which will equate to approximately \$35,000.

Chip Holloway

- Questioned reduction to self-insurance fund.
 - Rachelle McQuiston - Not the retirement fund, have a cash balance of one million and will try to keep the reserve at that level. Premiums are set by CSAC
- Want to go out and find a different workers compensation administrator.

Public comment opened at 9:45 p.m.

Andy Anderson

- Comments on cuts to police/public safety at 20%
- Parks only cut 18%
- Need to recoup revenue loss and everyone took a cut but ask why Parks and Recreation were not cut the same percentage.
- Commented on City officials salaries. Needs to be addressed.
 - Chip Holloway – have discussed in closed session but legal issues. Did an analysis with consultant some time ago and is time to do again. Contracts and legal obligations prevent reaction right now but is on the horizon.
 - Lori Acton – are addressing the issue.
 - Keith Lemieux – subject to contract and negotiation and city manager has received instruction.

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Tom Wiknich

- Improved communication comments.
- Apologizes to Mr. Patin, did not know about medical condition.
- Comments on Measure 'L' and cuts to Police Department.
- Spoke on perception of without Measure 'L' would have to cut police by 17 positions.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – responded. Revamping process for next year and if not presented in a more understandable way is because did not have the time to prepare a base budget.
 - Dan Clark – reviewed the process and departments requested to present budgets without Measure 'L'.
 - Chip Holloway – would have to simulate a belief system that doesn't exist so long as you know Measure 'L' is there. Reviewed process of creating a simulated budget.
 - Lori Acton – should have presented a budget showing the reality of no Measure 'L' funding which would have shown a funded police department and no parks and recreation. Looking to make that happen next year.

Jerry Taylor

- Commented on what council could have presented.
- Current budget is not sustainable without Measure 'L'.
- Council has the challenge of showing what would have been done without Measure 'L'.
- Need to lean more on other organizations who are stepping up to help with Parks & Reaction.
- Commented on previous city manager hard decisions made to cut \$2 million.
- Commented on full time equivalents.
- Concerned about fees for Kerr McGee center which went down.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – in reviewing fee schedule, all department heads input. Director commented that fees were not being charged so fees have been adjusted to what is actually being charged and will be going thru the process to increase the fees.
- Reviewed fees for hall rentals and does not understand why not going after that revenue.
- Questioned increase to council salaries showing in the proposed budget.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – Council dynamics changes because some members take benefits and others do not, some have taken voluntary cuts while others have not.
- Commented on Council benefits package and costs to the City.
- Asked what Citizens are getting in the way of services. Narrative page is missing.
- Commented on lack of reductions to staff in Parks & Recreation.
- Commented on the compensation study that was performed in 2007.
- Municipality's salaries are generally inflated compared.

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Jerry Taylor (cont.)

- Think there are things that Council should understand more before adopting this document.

Dave Matthews

- Requested clarification on \$100k plus salary and what position it is for.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – clarified

Mike Neel

- Referenced summary of appropriations and asked about blank spots and certain line items.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – explained each line item questioned including Parks & Recreation, Police, and Engineering.
- Questioned Public Works Streets amounts from Measure 'L'
 - Rachelle McQuiston – reviewed offsetting revenue and costs additional Measure 'L' funding and partial Measure 'L' to Engineering to perform maintenance functions.
- Reviewed Parks & Recreation budget hearing discussions and suggested Measure 'L' supplemented police in order to not cut Parks & Recreation.

Jim Fallgetter

- Asked how much would be spent on repairing sewers.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – responded
- Asked if there was a plan on where the funds would be spent.
 - Dennis Speer – will have to bring in a consultant to run enough of the lines to develop a 5-year plan. Will not be capital project work done this year during the development of capital plan based on analysis of condition of lines. Will perform capital project work in year two.
- Thanked Mrs. McQuiston for working to get the budget process going earlier next year.
- Commented on personnel issues and article from newspaper regarding Wal-Mart and comments from Mr. Parsons. Suggested giving termination notices to staff members who have termination clauses. Asked if an economic development department is necessary.

Stan Rajtora

- Thanked Mr. Holloway for addressing question of independent oversight committee.
- Commented on council being part-time employees without expertise and suggested citizens who do have the expertise and willing to help.
- Referenced email to Mr. Speer regarding overhead expenditures and overhead revenues and where they came from.
- Concerned about wastewater fund and where the money is going.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – rates were set for previous year were not adjusted but will provide a full outline of where the revenues come from.

Stan Rajtora (cont.)

- Asked for breakdown of where people are being funded.
- Look forward to response and appreciate Rachelle's willingness to be open and honest.
 - Rachelle McQuiston – have reviewed with Mr. Speer and historically the fund was interpreted loosely but have taken measures to correct and can provide the breakdown of each employees allocation.
- Think having a group in place with expertise to be consultant would be in everybody's best interest.

Jerry Taylor

- Reviewed Parks & Recreation budget and salaries
 - Rachelle McQuiston – union did not receive increases 3 years ago when other did so during negotiations salaries were increased to catch them up with everyone else.
- Commented again about creating budget without Measure 'L'.
- Reviewed capital improvement projects and increased appropriations.
- Reviewed wastewater salaries increase.
 - Dennis Speer – overtime accounts for increase salary to plant manager due to vacancies at the plant.
- Labor costs seem to be increasing and not seeing actual reduction. Backstopping with Measure 'L' funding.

Closed Public Comment at 10:43 p.m.

Jim Sanders

- Not prepared to vote tonight, want to review new information
- Commented legal fee cuts which went to parks & recreation
- Cannot support this budget as is.

Rachelle McQuiston

- Commented vacation June 21 – July 9 and requested additional session be held before that time or after July 9. If a budget is not completed then a continuing resolution can be adopted.

Lori Acton

- Will need to do before June 17 unless via teleconference.
- This is living document that can be changed. Feel good with current budget and there are areas where funds are being saved and creating a reserve.

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Chip Holloway

- Agree with Mr. Sanders but do not feel delaying a vote would accomplish what I want to do.
- Only area to make additional cuts that would make a significant change would be Parks & Recreation
- Parks is mostly people but cutting people gets unions involved. Changes can be made later with people.
- Can delay or vote tonight.

Jason Patin

- Not comfortable with it and nothing in this budget moves us toward being independent of Measure 'L'.
- In 4 years cannot have 14 police officers funded by Measure 'L'. Have to generate a budget that does not fund Officers with Measure 'L'.
- Disagree with giving funds back to Parks & Recreation.
- Until we move in that direction then cannot agree with the budget.

Dan Clark

- Asked what adjustments would be recommended by Mr. Patin.

Jason Patin

- Start over and make cuts that should have been made.

Rachelle McQuiston

- Goals for next year is to look for other ways to increase revenues such as additional grants and should make the bottom line better next year and less dependence on Measure 'L'

Jason Patin

- Grants are not a fix to the budget, they should be bolstering the reserve.

Lori Acton

- Asked if this year, it is proposed to let go of Leroy Jackson for County and private entities are running programs. Next step is Kerr McGee sports complex and pool need to go and then would have the funds to support police. Taking in small bites will help keep programs running. Don't think cutting off at the knees is the way to go at this time. Public is aware we are doing this in stages.

Jason Patin

- Asked how much money is realized by eliminating Leroy Jackson.
 - Jim Ponek – explained staff and programs are being moved and will save \$75,000.
- Asked where the \$75,000 went.

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Dan Clark

- Not willing to eliminate the recreation program because will pay for it later if we don't take care of the kids.
- Can always make changes as updates come in from finance.
- If we can make an adjustment to get a 5-0 vote but have not seen figures that are drastically different from what we decided last meeting.
- Not happy with it, but not ready to start all over and am supportive of youth programs.
- Faced with large problem in four year, yes and willing to move in that direction over the next few years.
- Willing to make a motion and call for a vote at this time then revise as needed throughout the year.
- Commented on things council would like to see in the budget, but not feasible at this time.
- Will be on vacation in July.
- Will entertain motion to pass as presented and each month will review and make recommendations for adjustments as we go based on revenues.

Jim Sanders

- Throughout the budget process all council has compromised.
- Will not support a budget that does not include the original request for parks to cut \$220k and see savings go toward reserve.

Jason Patin

- Agree with Mr. Sander's comments
- All for youth programs and parents paying for it.
- Have heard organizations offer to help us at a lower costs and we still choose not to do this, instead we raise fees to the organizations.
- Think this is the wrong thing to do, especially when savings realized could be moved to Police.

Chip Holloway

- Only place left to get the money we need is from Parks & Recreation and Personnel.
- Suggested more money to streets from Measure 'L'

Lori Acton

- My goal is to taper down the amount of Measure 'L' funding is used for Police.

Motion To Approve Budget With Amendment To Take \$100,000 Savings From Legal Fees And Give To Police Department Rather Than Parks And Recreation, Additionally Release One Employee In Parks And Recreation And Not Increase Fees For Sports Organizations Made By Council Member Acton.

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No second to the motion was made so motion does not pass

Budget Hearing moved to the June 19, 2013 Council agenda.

Tom Wiknich – asked council to look at the expenditure approval rates for department heads.

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: June 18, 2013

Jim Sanders – cancelled meeting

Community Development Committee

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway
Meetings: 1st Thursday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M.; Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: June 6, 2013

Jason Patin – have not met

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Dan Clark, Jason Patin
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday Of The Month At 5:00 P.M., Council Conference Room
Next Meeting: June 12, 2013

Dan Clark – gave report of last meeting, Next meeting date moved to June 11, 2013 at 5:00.

Quality Of Life

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

Chip Holloway – have not met

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

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

Jim Sanders – no quorum so discussion only, no action taken

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Veterans Advisory Committee

Members: Jason Patin, Lori Acton

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday of the Month At 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

Next Meeting: June 17, 2013

Dan Clark – reviewed meeting and noted letter of support from Congressman McCarthy
Lori Acton – resigning position to Dan Clark

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Jason Patin, Chip Holloway

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

Next Meeting: July 3, 2013 at location to be announced

Chip Holloway – read director's report

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

- None

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Reported on CalRecycle compliance order which has been approved.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lori Acton

- Agree with wastewater oversight committee
- Emerald planet on u-tube highlighted the City of Ridgecrest

James Sanders

- No problem with wastewater oversight committee.
- Wastewater fund is a special fund which is governed by laws
- Comfortable with plan for wastewater fund and have a good path forward in terms of what we will be repairing and replacing.
- Have spent the last two weeks explaining my position and feel it would be irresponsible to keep kicking the can down the road.
- Applaud the staff and council for making serious cuts and cleaning up the budget and is a step in the right direction.

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Chip Holloway

- Congratulated Nathan and Amy for birth of baby and wished Cheeto and John good luck.
- Thanked council for what they are trying to do.
- Made announcements for event in Kernville
- June 29 auction and raffle for 2 communities one purpose which will support the Ridge Project and Moore Oklahoma

Jason Patin

- Congratulated Nathan and Amy for birth of baby and wished Cheeto and John good luck.
- Anxious to get budget done and think are making strides in the right direction. Thanked staff for their work and need to get it done.
- Mr Fallgetter comments are very disrespectful.
- Don't understand why we would have an oversight committee for wastewater because it is regulated but don't see anything wrong with it.

Dan Clark

- AB719 passed the assembly and will be heard by senate. Might get reduction in electrical costs.
- Read letter of appreciation from clergy and ridge project to Waste Management
- July 17 agenda need to appoint 2 members to Measure 'L' committee. Assigned Mr. Anderson to Lori and Mr. Patin's appointee is due.
- Cannot afford street sweeping at this time and commented that in Germany it is the law for homeowners to sweep their gutters.
- Passed out minutes from the last 50th Anniversary Committee meeting.
- Thanked comments from the community, understand the impact to people who are on a lower income. Difficult decision but necessary.
- Would not support a Wastewater Oversight Committee because of the requirements for staff time who are already stretched to the limits.

ADJOURNMENT at 11:43 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk