



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
RIDGECREST CITY. SUCCESSOR AGENCY,  
FINANCING AUTHORITY, AND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

City Council Chambers  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, California 93555

October 2, 2013  
5:30 p.m.

**Pursuant To California Government Code 54953 (B) (1) An Additional Call In Location Has Been Established For Council Members Who Will Attend This Meeting Via Teleconference At 313 Joyce Ave., Long Beach, MS. 39560**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Added to the Agenda: Presentation of funds from Southern California Edison  
Removed from Agenda: Item No. 1 as duplicate action.**

*Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION**

- None presented

**CLOSED SESSION**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| GC54956.9(a)  | Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, William Dale Howard v. City Of Ridgecrest Case Number 1:12-CV-01232-AWI-JLT |
| GC54956.9(a)  | Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation, Eva Balfour v. City Of Ridgecrest, Case No. S-1500-CV-280015 LHB            |
| GC54956.9 (a) | Conference with Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Carolyn Shields, Claim No. 13-09  |

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GC54956.9 (a) Conference with Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Kurt Wilson, Claim No. 13-10

### **REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- Closed Session
  - Howard v. Ridgecrest: No action taken.
  - Balfour v. Ridgecrest: No action taken.
  - Claim of Carolyn Shields: Claim denied.
  - Claim of Kurt Wilson: No action taken, but direction given to staff.
- Other
  - None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 6:43 p.m.**

Renee Westalusk

- Thanked council and staff for letters to save staples
- Request of council to write letters to congress explaining harsh impact of government shutdown in the community.

Robert Leuck

- IWV Youth sports and asking for status on equipment reimbursement.

Jennifer Platz

- Ridgecrest Charter School traffic issue at intersection of Upjohn and downs.
- Asked for city to watch the traffic when school is let out.
- Walking children at risk from people driving dangerously and not following signs.
- School not willing to put crossing guards at the intersection.
- Asking for Council help to prevent students at Ridgecrest Charter School from being hurt. (760) 384-9111

Christina Witt

- Left turn sign was a start
- Exemplified incident that happened yesterday.
- Suggested moving the crosswalk because of new apartments.
- Suggested barricades for preventing left turns.
- Agrees that more needs to be done to protect the children
- Blatant disrespect from drivers.

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Jerry Taylor

- Hope in solving the problem please do not put stop sign at church street
- Suggested dynamic crosswalk with flashing sign
- Agree with proper safety and water based paint does not last so needs to be repainted
- Suggested safe routes to schools for sidewalks that are non-existent
- Church and Upjohn Street also missing sidewalks.
- Spoke with resident on Upjohn, north side, east of Downs Street, who are looking for a dedication.
- Asked for future agenda item to discuss how to handle interaction with public for items coming to council with the elimination of committees.
- Look forward to city manager advertisement for vacancy being filled by interim at this time.

Dave Matthews

- Glad Staples is continuing, spoke with person and then read the following day they would be staying open.
- Citizens need to support them as best as they can.
- Regarding traffic situation and other school situations.
- Las Flores school problem exists during drop-off and pick-up of students
- Questioned if school district was providing transportation for students to ease congestion of traffic.

Mike Neel

- Distributed photos of Dale Howard property.
- Read report of points from the lawsuit.
- Read excerpt from Dale Howard statements in the local newspaper.
- Agrees with Mr. Howard's statements.
- Spoke on constitutional rights, property rights, and liberties.
- Read list of names of persons involved in the lawsuit.
- Asked God to end the actions and uphold citizen's property rights.
- Spoke on freedom.

Public Comment Closed At 7:08 P.M.

### ACTION ITEM

1. Adopt A Resolution Appointing Steven P. Morgan As New City Council Member For Vacant Seat Speer
  - Pulled as duplicate action.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

2. Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Notice Of Completion, Authorizing The City Clerk To File The Notice Of Completion And Authorizing The Release Of Retention On The Downs Street Project Phase I Between Inyokern Road And Ward Avenue Speer
3. Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Notice Of Completion, Authorizing The City Clerk To File The Notice Of Completion And Authorizing The Release Of Retention On The Downs Street Project Phase II Ward Avenue To Drummond Avenue and Phase III Downs Street at Felspar Avenue ADA Ramp Speer
4. Adopt A Resolution To Approve The Professional Services Agreement With The Engineering Firm Of Hall And Forman Inc. To Provide Construction Management On The Traffic Signal At The Intersection Of Upjohn Avenue And China Lake Boulevard And Authorizing The City Manager Dennis Speer, To Execute The Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement Speer
5. Adopt A Resolution To Accept Funding From The Transit System Safety, Security, And Disaster Response Account Under The California Transit Security Grant Program (CTSGP) For A Security Camera System At The Corporation Yard And Authorizing The City Manager, Dennis Speer Or His/Her Designee To Execute All Actions To Obtain CTSGP Funding Speer
6. Adopt A Resolution Approving A Proclamation Honoring Constitution Week Ford
7. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Regular Council Meeting Dated September 4, 2013 Ford
8. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Special Council Meeting Dated September 10, 2013 Ford

Items Pulled from Consent Calendar for discussion:

- Items 4, 6

*Motion To Approve Consent Calendar (As Amended) Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway)*

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Discussion of items pulled from consent calendar

### Item No. 4

Dave Matthews

- In the past has supported this project but now urging City to not install traffic light because now spends less time going thru that intersection than those with lights.
  - Steve Morgan – given frustration with lights on China Lake Blvd., the lights will be sequenced properly once all are installed.

### Item No. 6

Christina Witt

- Agrees with Mr. Neel with regard to the Dale Howard property
- Spoke on forefathers.
- Spoke on fourth amendment.
- Spoke on vehicle violations.
- Spoke on constitution.

*Motion To Approve Items 4 And 6 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway)*

## DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

### **9. Nomination And Appointment To Fill A Vacancy On The Planning Commission** Ford

Rachel Ford

- Presented staff report

Dan Clark

- Nominated Wade Tallman

### Public Comment

- No comments were presented by the public.

*Motion To Approve Wade Tallman As Planning Commissioner Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway)*

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### 10. Presentation Of Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

McQuiston

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented staff report
- Spoke on negative fund balance
- Asked council to consider future training

Steve Morgan

- Regarding wastewater, asked for explanation of negative balance and how long it will exist.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – explained that early payment of the loan will not help the fund balance; only new revenue will help the balance. Would like it cleared in 5 years. Borrowing did not affect the fund balance, but the historical recording of revenue is what shows the negative fund balance. Overall affect is 4.2 million
- Asked about any other negative fund balance issues council should be concerned about.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – no, reduction has gone from 4.2 million to 2.0 million due to unanticipated revenues received this year as a one-time receipt. Current budget is assumed based on actual expenditures where last year was based on a conservative estimate. Do not foresee other one time revenues being received. Will show in-depth projections at next council meeting.

Dan Clark

- Asked for clarification on wastewater debt, gas tax, and unanticipated revenues.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – recapped negative fund balance resulting from reversal of claimed revenues that were backed out while expenditures were not backed out.
- 2.1 million Unanticipated revenues, can council put into reserve.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – cannot have a designated reserve while a negative fund balance exists. Have a 'soft' reserve to prevent spending the reserve. To make the negative fund balance positive, each year more revenue is received then the difference pays down the negative fund balance.
- General fund increases 2.1 million over expenses not counting wastewater fund, why only a \$900k reserve.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – some funds were carved out such as police vehicles that were not funded.
  - Dennis Speer – approximately \$600k outstanding obligations from last year that have not been billed yet.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – can make the reserve higher.
- Goal is to make reserve 2-3 months of expenses. Will sit with Rachelle to discuss.

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*Council Member Acton left the meeting.*

Jim Sanders

- Requested clarification of negative fund balance and wastewater loan.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – until the negative fund balance is paid down then will continue to show on our records but not for 30 years, only until we realize new revenue that exceeds the 4.2 million. We got cash which is recorded as revenue and had an increase in revenue. Cash affect is the loan which hits the balance sheet. Cash will be paid back over 30 years. Fund balance affect is not the same. Had to take all of it in one year so the only thing that will create a positive fund balance is revenue higher than expenses.
- Asked if City was running at a deficit
  - Rachelle McQuiston – every year we budget expenses equal to or below our anticipated revenues. Have cash in the bank, only the equity that is negative and eventually will go positive. Good on cash and good on revenues over expenses.
  - Dennis Speer - General fund carryover is based on cuts made by council with two obligations equaling \$600k still waiting to be paid.
- Clarified that the City does not have a cash flow problem.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – correct.

Steve Morgan

- Requested better presentation for public understanding
  - Rachelle McQuiston – will provide at next council meeting.

Dan Clark

- Requested breakdown of \$600k obligations.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – fire services, building fees, and software licensing.
- Want to put as much of one-time funding into reserve.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – city is solvent with cash in the bank and able to pay the bills.

Public Comment opened at 7:57pm

Dave Matthews

- Requested clarification of the fund with negative fund balance.

Carol Wilson

- Stated to council the country was founded on Christian principle and opening prayer should be to God, not other deity.

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Jerry Taylor

- Asked council to consider presentation for citizens that is understandable to lay persons.
- Suggested in simple English rather than accounting language for general public.
- Being solvent is not obvious to the common citizen, suggested PowerPoint that is simplified to show the balances.
- Asked where city is at by department and account lines.

Renee Westalusk

- Asked how long there would be a negative fund balance
  - Rachelle McQuiston – Hoping no longer than 5 years as revenues climb.
- Questioned revenues.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – reviewed revenues versus expenditures for wastewater and transit.

### **11. Continued Discussion Of A Strategic Plan For FY 2013-14**

**Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Reviewed discussion from October 1, 2013 special meeting

Special meeting date scheduled for Saturday, October 26 beginning at 9:00am to create mission and vision statement, and establish core values. Location tentatively scheduled for Kerr McGee Center

- City Manager to facilitate the meeting.
- Advertising to public including newspaper, radio, website.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Members: Jim Sanders, Dan Clark  
Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 4:00 P.M., Kerr-McGee Center  
Next Meeting: To Be Announced

Jim Sanders – no report

### **Veterans Advisory Committee**

Members: 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: To Be Announced

Dan Clark – reported on the veteran's stand down event

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

Members: Chip Holloway

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.

Next Meeting: Date and Location to be announced

Dan Clark – read director's report

### **OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

Steve Morgan

- Reported on Quad-State meeting and distributed agenda and proposed budget to Council Members.
- \$700 membership payment for Ridgecrest needs payment.
- Requested council consider letter to board of supervisors encouraging support of the Quad-State coalition.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Dennis Speer

- Deferred report to Steve Morgan who responded with update on the Ridgecrest Blvd. expansion project.
- Announced October 8, California Board of Transportation will meet in Modesto and one item will give \$6.2 million to Ridgecrest to fund repairs on Ridgecrest Blvd. from China Lake to Mahan.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Steve Morgan

- Met with staff in economic development, finance, and parks. Associated with staff.
- Attended kern COG and discussed Ridgecrest Blvd. funding.
- Gathering more information on wind and solar farms.
- Commented on Garlock Road LAPW water project
- Announced viewfinders, fair, and Mick Gleason open forum.
- Lions club October 11-12 conference

Jim Sanders

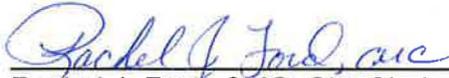
- Thanked Steve for efforts with Quad-State and Ridgecrest Blvd project.
- Discussion for future agendas is what council would like to see in monthly report. Looking forward to seeing monthly updates to keep council and public updated.
- Referenced story about Benjamin Franklin and the accusation of writing the Stamp Act. Read Mr. Franklins response to the accusations.
- Stands by the principles for freedom and liberty.

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Dan Clark

- Thanked Steve Morgan for work on Kern COG and west Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Commented on the opening prayer. Bill of Rights protects freedom of religion. Need to be cognizant of other people's beliefs and respectful of them.
- Reported on preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. Invited public to participate.
- Reported on the petroglyph festival.
- Thanked police, Southern California Edison, and Mediacom donations for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.
- Thanked Council for participating in employee pancake breakfast
- Spoke on League of California cities committee meetings
- Announced Relay for Life October 19
- Thanked Staples for reconsideration and community for support. Encouraged community to purchase in-store or use the store kiosk to order online supplies.

**ADJOURNMENT at 8:35 pm**

  
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Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk