MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENTAGENCY/ FINANCING AUTHORITY/HOUSING AUTHORITY

City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555

September 10, 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 Daniel O. Clark; Vice-Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Council Member James Sanders; Council Member Lori Acton

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 0 Absent.

SPECIAL SESSION – 5:30 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance – Scott Garver
- Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments presented by the public

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approve By Minute Motion A Letter Of Support From The City Of Ridgecrest City Council To Staples And Authorize The Mayor To Sign The Letter** **Parsons**

Gary Parsons
- Presented staff report

Chip Holloway
- Requested letter read to the public
    - Gary Parsons complied

No council adjustments were made to the letter.

Lori Acton
- Notified council of local letter campaign

Public Comment

Tom Wiknich
- Suggested adding statement pertaining to out of town shoppers coming to Ridgecrest.

Christina Witt
- Hospital relies heavily on Staples for IT components.
- Suggested many local businesses are internet connected and may face the same situation.

Motion To Approve A Letter To Staples And Authorize The Mayor To Sign The Letter Was Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.

2. **Discussion, Interviews, Nomination, And Voting For A Candidate To Fill A Vacant Council Member Seat And Adoption Of A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Appointing New City Council Member For Vacant Seat** **Speer**

Dennis Speer
- Presented staff report

Keith Lemieux

- Reviewed vacancy and process for selecting or appointing a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- Reviewed suggested process for interviewing and appointing council member from the applications received.

Dan Clark

- Referenced the process designed by discussion with City Attorney, City Manager and City Clerk.
- Read outline of process.

Council Applicant Comments

Matthew Baudhein

- Spoke on history in Ridgecrest 15 years
- Will put forth 150% to council
- Spoke on loyalty, tactfulness, unselfishness, courage, knowledge, ability, judgment, commitment, endurance, enthusiasm, decisiveness, dedication, initiative, integrity.
- Wants city to thrive, grow and be safe and secure
- Wants to see economic diversity and balance of reliance on businesses
- Interests of city and citizens.

Nellavan Jeglum

- Long term citizen, gave history of activities and memberships including chamber of commerce, exchange club
- Strong background in surveying and ordinances
- Levelheaded, honest, decisions that are best for community and not personal feelings.
- Would like to serve the community

Steve Morgan

- 27 year resident and involved in city government for over 18 years
- Lions club, knights of Columbus, Ridgecrest fireworks show, dedicated to this community
- Knowledge and skill to enter 14 month term ready to work
- Intimate knowledge of state and ERAF, budget, community, and represents the public view
- Thanked council for opportunity.

Michael Mower

- BA in business management
- Local banker and small business owner
- General contractor
- Planning commissioner 4 years and council for 8
- Hospital board
- Love of city and willingness to serve
- Team worker

Michael Peterson

- Citizen 7 years as aerospace engineer
- Master's degree, can drill down to details of situations but able to see the big picture
- Measure 'L' committee member
- Easier to spend time with family but need to get up off the bench and not complain from the sidelines
- Want to be a part of the solution and make Ridgecrest the best place to live.

Carter Pope

- 10 years in banking and familiar with budget
- Leadership/management roles
- MBA in business management and certified in human resources
- Write in candidate for city council
- Former planning commissioner
- Volunteer worker for local sports including coach for Burroughs high school

Wade Tallman

- Former naval aviator and resident of Ridgecrest since 2003
- Believe in areas to support
- Believes community should step up and help
- Community service with museum board, rotary board and others
- Scholarships to youth, community dinner, finished welcome to Ridgecrest sign
- Local Harley group and charities
- Participating and not sitting on sidelines
- Years of management both military and civilian
- Things change and need to adapts and change past incorrect decisions
- Long-term planning, growth issues and road issues to balance into the budget
- Harder economic times, not expert
- Watch, read, discussed past 8 years
- Familiar with various studies

Jerry Taylor

- 50 year resident
- Want to return city to fiscal stability and get the most of tax payers' dollars
- Maximize police services
- Government operate in transparent manner
- Proven advocate for responsibility
- Member of programs that Foster patriotism, youth, and arts
- Current career in charge of large military budgets
- Mentioned relationships with state senators and representatives

Henry Wilson

- Moved to Ridgecrest 15 years ago
- Pact organization for 12 years with 10,000 hours
- Believe working to foster better relationship including tourism board
- Commented on interaction with tourists from other countries
- Experienced with UAV programs
- A ground oriented person ready to foster better relationship between council and community
- Willing to serve.

Christina Witt

- Lived in Ridgecrest entire life
- Stay at home mom until recently and currently working at hospital IT
- Spoke on diplomacy skills and single income budget
- Family of 5 and understands prioritizing money and working with different personalities
- Bachelors in business systems and masters in cyber security and familiar with law
- Kiwanis and phi beta kappa, promotes transparency in city government
- Provides website and forum for honest exchange
- 2010 candidate for council
- Is tired of hearing complaints and wants to solve problems.

Dale Howard

- High school education from Burroughs
- Business in construction and lumber years
- Resident since 1945
- Read dissertation written by Mr. Howard about council needing hard stone to keep them honest
- Help and guidance from the perspective of the common man
- Experience to know and recognize how to achieve the goals
- Diverse advice on the council will prevent having one voice with absolute power.
- Believe not having government experience but has the know-how.

Council members submitted 2 names each to City Clerk who read the names publicly.

Nominees are as follows:

- Mayor Daniel Clark nominated Steven Morgan and Wade Tallman
- Mayor Pro Tempore Marshall 'Chip' Holloway nominated Steven Morgan and Carter Pope
- Council Member Jim Sanders nominated Matthew Baudhein and Michael Mower
- Council Member Lori Acton nominated Matthew Baudhein and Steven Morgan

Nominee Comments and Council Questions

Steve Morgan

- Reviewed memberships on various agencies and community involvement throughout the years in addition to the experience on both planning commission and council
- Serves with integrity and researches all issues to the fullest
- Public does not have to wonder where he stands.
- Always provided information to the public and made every opportunity to discuss issues with citizens
- Air traffic controller for the Navy
- Believes city must continue close watch of state situation and budget. Redevelopment and ERAF hurt this community
- If appointed would be responsible to continue with situation
- Economic development and CalUAS is a way to diversify this economy. Believe Ridgecrest has opportunity to be successful with economic diversity
- City staff is interested in article that listed surveying by UAS as low cost opportunity
- Spoke on participation in the business park
- Grant opportunities available for Ridgecrest including the baseball tomorrow fund which offers funding for baseball and softball programs. Read grant information
- Spoke on involvement with obtaining funding from kern county to fund the west Ridgecrest Blvd. project
- Cautioned council that Kern COG staff created a phased project and the need to stay on top of the funding for each portion.
- Upcoming Strategic planning session to decide 3-5 main efforts for staff and stay focused is important. Outlined benefits of having a strategic plan
- Suggested allowing staff to set up the Ad Hoc committees

Jim Sanders

- Asked what Mr. Morgan would change in the budget process
    - Numerous ways to get information to public in an understandable manner
    - Rachelle did wonderful job and plan to meet with her next week.

Jim Sanders *(continued)*

- In budget process everything discussed at higher level and not in fine detail. Previous council did this process which took 5 days and council still accused of hiding things.
- Evolution of the recent budget process was observed. Reviewed past budget hearings
- Suggested chart of accounts update

Chip Holloway

- Mentioned concern for 'baggage' and moving backwards
  - Give personal word to be a kinder, gentler council person.
  - Tends to wear emotions on sleeve and when unjustly attacked, reacts
  - Vows to not do this during the 14 month time frame
  - Example, early 2000's discussion between council and hotels going to England to discuss better working relationship with military. Many negative articles and cartoons about council.
  - Met with European components and gave presentations to Royal Air Force about housing, flights privileges, etc.
  - The social interaction has meant 10's of 1000's of dollars to this community in per diem and sales.
  - Decisions made on council that don't work out citizens blame them for and is a part of being a council member.
  - Need to be more up front with public about what is coming, example Cal Green regulations with standards of what is allowed in building codes. Beginning January 2014 a home improvement, inspector will require water closets that flush less than 1.28 gallons.
  - Suggested letting public know.

Matthew Baudhein

- Appreciate Mr. Morgan's experience
- Cannot compete with this experience but has a desire to see this community grow
- Youth sports and activities are needed for teenagers and tweenagers. Would like to explore how to fit these into the budget
- Concerned about getting the streets repaired and understands that without money cannot make the repairs. Wants to fix the budget, abide by the budget, plan for emergencies, and then find a way to enhance the budget.
- Has not been involved to the extent as Mr. Morgan but is a concerned citizen and wants to be involved.
- Concerned about security in the community. Has noticed a change in times that now requires locking doors and cars and security property. Amazed at how many people are walking on the streets at 4:30am. Police do a great job and has concerns about the future.

Matthew Baudhein *(continued)*

- No issue with the parks, family enjoys the park facilities but they are on the decline and want to try to figure out a way to find the means to fix the parks. Suggested volunteers and community cleanup projects to fix the parks.
- Understand how a budget works. 21 years in the marine corps worked a wide variety of jobs. Tends to pick up the ball when someone else drops it. Worked on converting a $3 million budget to a $5 million budget successfully. Council owes it to citizens to be good stewards of the budget.
- No previous experience in city government, but not afraid of work and thrives under pressure. Fixes and finishes projects. Meets deadlines.
- Enlisted marine for 21 years. Learned tact and led between 150 and 250 troops at any given time.
- If given the opportunity get to grow from the ground up. Quick learner, clean slate with no baggage. Ready to work. No platform and likes both sides of party lines.

Lori Acton

- Asked if willing to learn and work hard.
    - absolutely

Chip Holloway

- Can't compete and need a good steward. Based on that would you be comfortable with Mr. Morgan
    - Believe Mr. Morgan has a wealth of knowledge about how the city operates, but new is good. Time for someone new.

Dan Clark

- Asked for philosophy of governance. Community asking for one thing and staff requesting a different path
    - Believe good governance is being able to tell someone to 'go to hell' and have them thank you. Not going to please everyone and understands this. Fiscally and legally may not have it one way. Bound by geographic, fiscal, and legal limitations. Being able to explain why something was done a particular way but trying to sell the benefits may help them understand better.

Jim Sanders

- Asked about the most difficult decision made during military career.
    - Referenced a selection board for Warrant Officer. Senior board member asked if officers were managers or leaders. Ground officers are leaders who understand every function of every marine so he can teach them. Aviation officers are managers and administrative. To fellow officers they are leaders, they teach junior pilots. After all interviews were completed, was told that he answered the question wrong. However was not afraid to state his point of view and his perception of leadership.

Jim Sanders *(continued)*

- If appointed, how would you view your opinion versus public and how are you swayed.
    - If public is demanding he sway one way, how will it affect the decision. 21 years in Marine Corps solicited public opinions. Don't know everything, just know who to ask. Some opinions may seem off but in reality could be the best ides. No preconceived opinions and open to new ideas.

Wade Tallman

- Appreciate the time. Alone and unafraid to take on the position and do what is right.
- Does not have council experience but a wide range of experience doing many different things throughout career.
- Lives by integrity. Basis of personal decisions is to take the logical approach. Get the right information and make the best possible decision.
- Believes in being transparent.
- Spoke on the 2% of citizens who come to council and express opinion and need to get the other 98% of citizen's opinions when making decisions.
- Understands the need to have a balanced budget.
- Spoke on big picture perspective. Not a yes man and will bring different opinions up to see that all ideas are considered before decisions are made.
- Spoke on community involvement and desire to understand different facets of the community whether he personally likes the activity or not.

Chip Holloway

- Split in the community that councils of the past have been rubber stamp for the navy. Exampled ACUZ. How will candidate combat that perception?
    - Navy is huge part of the town and ensuring their survivability is critical for the city, but rubber stamp is the wrong approach. Spoke on aviation experience. Long term planners don't think about some of the issues. Have to look at all the pieces; Navy took a hard stance on ACUZ. Modifications can be made. New programs will require new approaches. Not a hard line Navy person and interested in bringing in new businesses. Council should work together with Navy to make it work.

Jim Sanders

- Will be forced to balance your principles and the public's desires. Where will you find that balance?
    - First need to make sure that what is being said in the council meetings is really the opinion or voice of the entire city. Suggested public forums and events to talk to citizens who may not attend the meetings. Take the input and look at the historical perspective and what is involved then look futuristically down the road. Also look at what is available with budget. If I truly believe that the thought process is outside the majority of the city then would support the majority opinion.

Michael Mower

- Logical mind, capable of clear decisions and adapt to changes.
- Related previous council experience including 7 years of a balanced budget and almost $13 million in the bank.
- Circumstances are different today and council will need to make difficult decisions.
- Hardest thing ever done is firing or laying-off people.
- Admires Steve Morgan for his service. Has discussed his baggage and don't have a problem with it.
- Council has been tarnished by the articles in the paper. Council needs to be concerned about perception.
- I will make decisions that I feel is best for the city but will not make a decision that goes against personal morals
- Want to see the community grow and prosper.

Chip Holloway

- What was the biggest issue from previous council service?
    - Proposed prison issue which was very controversial.
    - Many misconceptions made by the public resulting in the project being turned down.
    - Was instrumental in implementing the redevelopment agency.
- Commented on research of the redevelopment agency. Perception in community is that nobody really understands redevelopment.
    - Commented on 50 member citizens committee that developed city hall.
    - Admire Gary Charlon for volunteer effort on the medians.

Jim Sanders

- Regarding transparency, from current perspective, what should city do to create greater transparency
    - Spoke on election as a result of recall due to non-transparency. Have to make every effort to be transparent. Accusations were made even though council put things in the newspaper and on radio.
    - spoke on hard decisions at the hospital and monthly newsletter

Lori Acton

- Transparency and technology are married to each other. How do you see the role of council in getting the transparency to the social media?
    - Been accused of being computer illiterate but believe city has a responsibility to use any method possible.
- Do you see a distinction between Mayor and council member
    - No. Mayor is only different in that he chairs the meeting. Still counts as one vote.

Jim Sanders

- If appointed, would you run for the next term?
    - That is a decision that would have to be made later. Once involved in projects may feel the need to continue.

Carter Pope

- Gave history of family relationship and children
- Commitment to community demonstrated by time on planning commission
- Involved in youth sports programs and community involvement
- Effective member of council needs experience in various areas besides government. Need budget, personal relationships, assessing complex issues, open-minded, understanding there are other views and opinions, and council obligation is to do what is best for Ridgecrest regardless of personal opinion.
- Thanked council for their time and trust them to make the best decision.

Chip Holloway

- Seems to be a division in community between quality of life and infrastructure. Internet, newspaper, radio available for transparency. What new method could you bring to the council to promote transparency?
    - Related experience when running for state senate. Be honest, open, and help people understand the direction council is headed.
    - Listens to what people say and then utilize that information to help them understand what the issue is.
    - Understand that cannot make everybody happy but cannot be an effective leader by standing on the fence.

Jim Sanders

- Asked what principles lead to good government
    - A high ethical standard leads to good government. What is right or wrong needs to be considered.

Dan Clark

- Vision for Ridgecrest in two years
    - Takes pride in quality of life. Public safety, ensuring citizens can stay in town, spend their money, and truly enjoy their lives in the community.
    - City's job is to ensure youth take the right path.

<u>Public Comment at 7:51pm</u>

Mike Neel

- Read a passage from the bible referencing pride and being well-advised.
- Listed RDA money circle as unrepresented tax expenditures which brought in low income housing and increased crime.
- Spoke on long-term involvement and grants
- Spoke on city's providing what families should be providing

Scott Garver

- 5 viable candidates and would not get agreement by some members of public regardless of what council does.
- There is value in new blood. Praised council members Sanders and Acton
- Spoke on recent meetings of the candidates
- If looking at the trend in the will of the voters the incumbents were not re-elected. Also included elected Mayor for 2 years and term limits. Voters have suggested new blood is the way to go.
- While Mr. Morgan has experience and has shown dedication to the community, the 4 council are acting in the stead of the 10,000 voters.

William Howard

- Of the 5 finalist, there are 4 new blood candidates.
- Pleased to hear what they have to say and how they said it.

Closed public comment at 8:07p.m.

Chip Holloway

- Did contact candidates that I was least familiar with.

Dan Clark

- Contacted 7 persons and did not interview persons that I would not nominate. Did not wish to create false hope.

Jim Sanders

- Similar to Chip, contacted persons that I did not know and opinion was changed. Already knew some of the candidates.

Council voted for one nominee and presented to City Clerk who read the votes publicly.

Vote count was in favor of Steven P. Morgan as follows:

- Mayor Dan Clark voted for Steven Morgan
- Mayor Prop Tempore Marshall 'Chip' Holloway voted for Steven Morgan
- Council Member Jim Sanders voted for Matthew Baudhein
- Council Member Lori Acton voted for Steven Morgan

City Clerk administered the oath of office to Steven P. Morgan

Mike Neel *(continued)*

- Spoke on properly executed governance providing affordable enhancing laws that foster free enterprise.

Christina Witt

- Regarding transparency and asked which council members contacted which candidates.
- As an applicant did not have a chat with any council member.

Robert Eierman

- Many questions about transparency and just blew another opportunity to be transparent. Won't respond to questions from citizens.
- All four council members have expressed desire to do what the public wants. Most said they would prefer an election. Encouraged past election results as what the public desired. Referred to incumbents not being re-elected and stated public does not want past council members on the council.

Harris Brokke

- Think generalities are not very useful and asked council to go out and get other opinions.
- Spoke in support of the RDA
- Encouraged council to listen to the 100%

Ron Porter

- Supported Mr. Tallman, Mr. Mower, and Mr. Baudhein.
- Understand mayor wants polite comments. Has not found Mr. Morgan to be an honorable man. Stated has not treated Mr. Porter honorably.
- Commented on Mr. Morgan not stating he would object to State inspections of homes.
- Wants council members who are not willing to roll over to the bully state.

Dave Matthews.

- Qualified selection. The 5 chosen are all good people
- Doing service to the community by stepping up.
- Several candidates did not make the list and would have put a couple of those on it.
- Personal experience the past few decades is should put Mr. Morgan back on council because he has experience and energy. Already ahead of the curve with programs such as baseball tomorrow.
- Is an avid dodger fan and has heard of them supporting various groups and encouraged with possibility of them assisting with new fields.
- Rights are being taken away from us and will object to the state's interference.
- Certain roofing keeps utilities down but cuts out radio waves.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Steve Morgan

- Promise to do my best.
- Comments already made about the appointment being fixed. Sorry certain people feel this way.
- Promise to serve to the best of my ability.
- Will tender resignation on planning commission and there are some outstanding candidates to fill that vacancy.

Lori Acton

- Welcome Steve.
- Called a lot of people and the one thing that struck me most is only have 14 months for this position and a lot of things need to be done
- Fully feel the right choice has been made.
- Needed the experience.
- To colleagues, mouth gets the better of me and I apologize and will try to do better in the future.
- Want public to see this council begin to work together.

Jim Sanders

- Thanked everyone who applied. Showed a good sign of dedication
- Welcomed Mr. Morgan

Chip Holloway

- Welcomed Mr. Morgan, have had our share of knock down drag outs and contrary to some opinions, feel the city will benefit greatly from your experience.
- Other candidates, am very impressed with how the candidates held up under this intimidating process. Would have been comfortable with any of the candidates
- Encouraged candidates to not give up.
- Council is facing fiscal stability. Many projects underway.
- Gave credit to Col. Aaron Hakimi for his work on the Ridgecrest Blvd. project
- Spoke on preserving Measure 'L'
- An appeaser is someone who keeps feeding an alligator hoping it will eat them last. Tired of trying to appease some of the people who attend council meetings.
- Confident and proud of the decision.

Dan Clark

- Did not know who to vote for at beginning of meeting. Leaned toward new blood because wanted Steven to stay on planning commission and lead with codification of the code.
- Changed mind based on everything shared.
- Accepted Mr. Morgan's offer to be council representative in code review.
- Encouraged candidates to apply for planning commission. Selection to be made at next regular council meeting.
- Council member Holloway is now the Mayor Pro-Tem and then council will make the decision of whether need a vice-mayor or not.
- Asking council to help serve pancakes at staff member breakfast to raise money for 50th parade float.
- Thanked city manager and attorney

ADJOURNMENT at 8:31pm

Rachel J. Ford, CMC

Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk