



**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**

**April 16, 2014  
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 Dan Clark; Vice Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway, Council Members; Lori Acton, and Steven Morgan

Council Absent: Council Member Jim Sanders

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION**

- None presented

**CLOSED SESSION**

GC54956.9 (D) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Kyeong Hee Corbin, Claim No. 14-02

GC54956.9 (D) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Andrew Burch – Allison Gonzalez, Claim No. 14-03

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GC54956.9 (D) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Insurance Subrogation Claim, Claim No. 14-04

GC54957 Personnel Matters – Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- Closed Session
  - Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Kyeong Hee Corbin, Claim No. 14-02, Received Report, denied
  - Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Andrew Burch – Allison Gonzalez, Claim No. 14-03, Received Report, denied
  - Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Insurance Subrogation Claim, Claim No. 14-04, Received Report, denied
  - Personnel Matters – Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager, no action taken
- Other
  - none

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Presentation Of A Proclamation Honoring Ridgecrest Citizen Alton (Al) Keck On The Occasion Of His 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday – April 16, 2014**

Council presented a proclamation to Alton Keck honoring his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**2. Presentation Of A Proclamation To Representatives Of The Masonic Lodge Recognizing Public Schools Month**

Council presented a proclamation to members of the Masonic Lodge recognizing Public Schools Month

**PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 6:29 p.m.**

Jerry Taylor

- Spoke on minutes and multiple voting on the survey for city goals.
- National health services board of directors meeting which prohibited some people from attending the April 1 Town Hall meeting.
- Sampled one segment of the community and requested council look at previous surveys to get a good idea of what citizens want
- Encouraged a professional survey when considering tax measures or fee increases

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- Asked Mr. Speer if stripes on Las Flores for fog lines were completed
  - Dennis Speer – responded and will forward information.
- Not asking for a bike lane, just an indication that the area is shared with parked cars. Concerned about bicycle safety
- Commented that Council spends more time with proclamations and honoring employees than discussing infrastructure.
  - Dan Clark inquired if the information on how to repeat vote on the survey was shared with Council Member Holloway
- Commented on process used to vote repeatedly, this is one tool being used to gather data but can be cheated.

**Dave Matthews**

- Supported Mr. Taylor's suggestion to stripe Las Flores Street.
- Spoke on being happy to not be the oldest person in the room.
- Spoke on article sent to council regarding a range war in Nevada between a cattle rancher and BLM. Encouraged council to heed what is happening between the federal government and citizens
- Disappointed in not having decorations in council regarding Easter. Wished everyone a happy Easter and will pray the Lord touches the hearts of everyone.

**Nick Moore**

- Fundraiser for Veteran's Advisory Committee in May with raffles for a dirt bike and other event
- 5 WWII veterans will be escorted on May 5 to take the Honor Flight to Washington DC to see the memorial. Will return May 9 and from 2-3 on both days there will be receptions to visit the veterans. It is an honor to help them go see their memorial.
- Flyers available at the Clerk's desk regarding the veteran's stand down

**Robert Gould**

- Sierra Desert Gun Club continuing 4 decade long program and will be presenting hunter's education class. Registration at Kerr McGee on Saturday. Class will be held May 3-4.

Closed Public Comment at 6:45 p.m.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 3. Adopt Three Resolutions Of The Ridgecrest City Council Initiating Proceedings For The Levy And Collection Of Assessments For The Landscaping And Lighting District No 2012-01** **Speer**

4. Adopt A Resolution By The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest, Sanitary District And The City Of Ridgecrest Approve The Grant Of Easement On Three Separate Parcels To Southern California Edison Company As Part Of The Downs Substation Project And Authorize The Mayor To Sign The Grant Of Easement And Offer Of Acceptance Speer
5. Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving A Program Supplement For The South China Lake Boulevard From Upjohn Avenue To Bowman Speer
6. 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 Corporation Yard Security Alarm And Lighting System And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer Or His Designee To Execute All Documents To Obtain CTSGP Funding Speer
7. Adopt A Resolution To Approve A Professional Service Agreement With The Consulting Firm Of Safety Network For The Sign Reflectivity Inventory And Management Plan And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Agreement Upon Approval Of The City Attorney Speer
8. Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The City To Participate In The State Of California Franchise Tax Board City Business Tax Program, And Authorizing The Finance Services Director To Execute The Agreement McQuiston
9. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Authorizing The Disability Retirement Of Sworn Safety Member Travis Gillette Strand
10. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Special Town Hall Meeting Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Dated April 1, 2014 Ford
11. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Regular Meeting Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Dated April 2, 2014 Ford

Chip Holloway

- Questioned use of funds from Measure 'L' for engineering services and the need to do engineering before asphalt can be laid on streets.

Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

- Item No's 3, 4, 8, and 9

*Motion To Approve Item No's 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11 Of Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members, Holloway, Acton, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

Item No. 3 Discussion

Jerry Taylor

- Inquired if this was a new district or previous district DR Horton
  - Dennis Speer – existing district

Item No. 4 Discussion

Steve Morgan

- Asked Mr. Speer to describe interaction between City and SCE
  - Dennis Speer – request from SCE is for a substation project
- City is collaborating with SCE for their sub-station.
- Commend Loren Culp for his even handed work on this item, very professional and everything completed properly
- Voting against this because having issues with SCE on the West Ridgecrest Blvd project
- Already given them \$350k for movement of poles on Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Now having to do a study on a pole
- SCE has been told repeatedly about the project but does not seem to get it
- They are going to cost us more money on the W Ridgecrest Blvd. because the pole will not be moved in time
- Staff has created a work around but will still cost us money in the end
- Commend Deborah Hess who has taken the brunt of my anger and she is setting up a conference call with Dennis and myself and principals at SCE
- Agreement with SCE where poles are, the poles are not where they are supposed to be.
- Increasingly frustrating non-movement by SCE has pissed me off, I have had it.
- I recommend we not vote for this and send them a message
- They cannot move forward with their project without this but is dangerous as we need some right of way from them for our projects
- Think we are stuck but because of complete and utter incompetence from a previous SCE representative, we are in a bad position
- Recommend we do not pass this item
- Will be sending data to council from previous meetings with SCE
- SCE keeps saying they did not have plans, yet they did have plans.

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**Dennis Speer**

- In terms of the delay it has been difficult, they refer to their procedures and policies but it is not their project
- Initially disturbing is all utility companies were made aware as early as 2009 and have had no problem with any of the other utilities. Water district is moving forward with their work and the only utility that has made no effort to do their projects is SCE
- First correspondence to SCE came from Mark Thomas in December 2009 requesting meetings to collaborate on the design projects.
- 21 other correspondence then a set of plans went in 2010 to SCE noting the various conflicts which needed to be taken care of before construction could begin
- Commitment letter sent in June 2013 which finally got their attention.
- Total 21 correspondences between the consultant and SCE from 2009 to January 2014.
- From August 3 2010 to current there have been 19 different meetings or correspondences and over 24 documents since June 2013 to present.
- All utilities were advised of mandatory utility meeting June 7, 2011 where entire project was laid out and discussed.

**Dan Clark**

- This is separate from Ridgcrest Blvd project, if we say no is that going to stop the Ridgcrest Blvd Project. We currently have a work around in place and won't stop the project.
  - Dennis Speer – will have to return to that corner after work around is completed

**Dave Matthews**

- If I recall correctly, this problem was being discussed when Mrs. Hess was here and in charge the first time. Because not having infrastructure meetings anymore, citizens are not aware of these problems
- Urged council to reinstitute infrastructure meetings
- Some of these items do not belong on the consent calendar
- Asked Mr. Speer and Mr. Morgan if it would do any good to approach the PUC on this item
  - Steve Morgan – if SCE has their way they will have to go before the PUC to grant right of way which will take up to 18 months.

Item No. 8 Discussion

Stan Rajtora

- First, this appears to be unfunded mandate from State of California which is enough reason not to touch the item and requested Council work with League to resist this and any unfunded mandate from the State.
- Second, staff report didn't make sense so sent email to Rachelle who had a staff member respond with explanation and based on that email my understanding is the City has a problem with some members of community not paying their business licenses. No problem with people paying license fees but have a concern regarding return on investment which could gain a will of its own and become more than it should be. Total revenue projected for business license is 134K, city might be lucky and get up to 15K from this however if you read all the things city has to do to get this there are a number of things staff has to do. In long run might get a net or may lose a net total. Need \$2-3 million per year once Measure 'L' goes away and staff is still working down in the 15K range and not looking at the real problem
- Requested council give staff direction to begin looking at a higher level that would benefit more for the staff time.
- Disagree with this unless the return on investment is more significant.

Dave Matthews

- Caught my attention and the staff report didn't give enough information. Worried about what we were getting into.
- I don't want to deal with the franchise tax board any more than necessary, would like to know what the Chamber of Commerce thinks about this.
- Business license fees are fine, can't the code enforcement officer go after these people.
- Feels council should reject the item

Rachelle McQuiston

- This item is not mandatory, only done once a year we take data from our system and send it to the tax board
- Spoke on the agreement and how information exchanged is restricted in use.
- Information notifies them if a business has started that has not filed taxes and in exchange we receive notification if they do not have a business license.
- No monetary exchange and only takes about 1 hour per year but potential for business license growth is greater
- This is a 3 year renewal

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Stan Rajtora

- Data received is of no value unless someone sorts thru it. This is additional work and then someone has to follow up with enforcement
- Return on investment is important and appears to be too small to spend the amount of time it will take.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked how much we have recouped over the past 3 years.
  - Rachele McQuiston – more important to us is the sales tax collected and will get that data for Mr. Taylor
- Commented on online purchases and local pick up.

Chip Taylor

- Spoke to Mr. Rajtora about unfunded mandates including the Brown Act.
- Looked at other cities and agree that if the time expended is only about 1 hour then agree this is worthwhile

Item No. 9 discussion

Stan Rajtora

- Questioned fiscal impact
  - Rachel Ford - responded
- Asked if corrective action has been taken to prevent future injuries of this nature to officers
  - Ron Strand – responded, no real corrective action available

*Motion To Approve Item Nos. 3 And 9 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Holloway, Acton, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

*Motion To Approve Item No. 4 Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Acton. Roll Call Vote Of 2 Ayes (Council Members Holloway And Acton) 2 Noes (Mayor Clark And Council Member Morgan), 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders). Motion Does Not Pass*

*Motion To Approve Item No 8 Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members, Holloway, Acton, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

## DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

### **12. Adopt A Resolution Approving A Service Agreement For Fire Services Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Kern County** **McQuiston**

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented staff report

Chip Holloway

- Clarified requirement for reporting of response times and types of calls
- noted the notification time for termination of contract and questioned if notification occurred on April 2
  - Rachelle McQuiston – anticipate being in negotiations before the required notification time

#### Public Comment

Tom Wiknich

- Asked if this provides same level of service for the duration of the contract
  - Rachelle McQuiston - yes

Chip Holloway

- Asked if minimum service level implies the normal services level
  - Kern County Fire Representative indicated that it does mean normal service levels.

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Approving A Service Agreement For Fire Services Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Kern County Made By Council Member Holloway, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members, Holloway, Acton, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

### **13. Discussion And Presentation Of Budget Projections For FY13-14** **McQuiston**

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented staff report
- Noted overage is Measure 'L' which can only go to safety and streets so will be rolled to those areas in next budget year
- Noted encumbrances which show in the budget but will be rolled forward, will be changing this item to more closely match actuals

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Steve Morgan

- Comments from public about financial data and website, please expand
  - Rachelle McQuiston – goal was to provide these reports monthly but staff shortage has restricted the monthly processing but will be more diligent to provide in future

Stan Rajtora

- Page 12 general fund administrative services allocation from 02-02 to 05-02 the numbers listed agree with proprietary funds until projections then they change. Difference between amounts is more than \$250K and asked if these are correct or are the proprietary funds correct?
  - Rachelle McQuiston – need to update Proprietary funds. If more than 15% will correct them.
- Page 7 of 8 fund 2 code 000
  - Rachelle McQuiston – those are TDA funds which are deposited into fund 7 them moved to gas tax fund
- Page 3 of 8 under transit 29-01 the adopted and adjusted budgets for equipment depreciation have increased. Why is depreciation in the budget and where is the money going
  - Rachelle McQuiston – this fund is an enterprise fund so depreciation is a recognized expense with no cash transfer. Increased expense will affect fund balance but not cash flow
- Understand the concept of depreciating equipment but no money changing hands
  - This is the expenses and revenues similar to an income statement. This is recognized as an expense. Exemplified recognizing depreciation in business expense lowers taxes even though no cash changes hands.
- Discussing real dollars coming in but not real dollars going out, struggle to see depreciation as an expense. What is being depreciated?
  - Rachelle – these were new purchased buses which are capitalized and depreciated.
- Page 2 under fund 05, item 21-06 adopted number to adjust yet projection is lower. Please explain this expense
  - Rachelle McQuiston – outside services to provide engineering services. Adjusted is carryover which has not been expended. Hoping at end of fiscal year to make this more reasonable in what will be expended. Will be spending more money for engineering services for new wastewater plant
  - Dennis Speer – also includes camera services and not actual replacement of sewer lines
- Are we actually going to see a description of what is actually going to be spent?
  - Rachelle McQuiston – this is a carryover of encumbrances. Goal is to make sure this matches with our reporting system and clean this up by closing the fund balances and be able to report annually
- Spoke on the CAFR fund having over 9 million

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- Rachelle – do have over 9 million in cash
- What was shown to public for reserve when increasing fees showed 3 million, haven't received a lot of data the past year since committee meetings ended. Would be nice to see the financials.
- Page 8 of fund 05, 01-00 administrative services allocation for \$155k and variance says it has not been spent.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – that is the loan payment which is really being paid, mistakenly missed adjusting this item.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – on the fee increase the engineer used an estimate. Upon checking cash actually in the bank, his comment was the estimated year end had already been published and the bank statement balances had not been published.

Jerry Taylor

- Page 1 summary, want to understand where the numbers came from because the numbers don't match the summaries on each funds. Last column variance
  - Rachelle McQuiston – should match adjusted budget less corrected. Will check the formula. Difference of what was adjusted versus what was projected.

Lori Acton

- Thanked Rachelle for keeping council informed and responding to council questions.

Dan Clark

- Spoke with hotel owners and March/April projections for TOT are increasing

**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:

No Report

**Veterans Advisory Committee**

Members: Dan Clark  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month At 6:00 p.m., Kerr McGee Center  
Next Meeting:

Dan Clark

- Nick Coy mentioned raffle for motorcycle, tickets available
- Fundraiser at Tommy T's on May 3
- Honor Flight receptions and asked council to attend if possible

**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: at location to be announced

Chip Holloway

- Announced next meeting May 7

**OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

Steve Morgan

- No update on vacant property Ad Hoc
- Reviewing data received and will have public meeting when data is available
- Municipal Code Committee met today and revisions to 2, 14, and 20 going before planning committee meeting. 19 being continued.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Dennis Speer

- No report

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Chip Holloway

- Happy Easter

Lori Acton

- Glad to see veterans receiving the honor flight and receptions
- Dog park project announced
- SNORE races, fashion show, wildflower festival and other events. Hope to see more in future
- How can we get information regarding infrastructure
  - Dennis Speer – information provided in the newsletter
- Public is seeking discussions
  - Dennis Speer – welcome to contact staff at any time

Steve Morgan

- Assume item 4 will come back to next council meeting for a vote after teleconference with representatives from SCE
- Thank and apologize for this to fellow colleagues and believe will send a message to SCE and in the long run help us. Could give some relief for west Ridgecrest Blvd. and future underground utilities on downs which we have another problem with and will be discussing with SCE. Hopeful we will get some movement from SCE
- BLM inviting Ridgecrest to provide input for WEMO amendment. April 23 9-11 proposed and they would like a couple council members. Have proposed a

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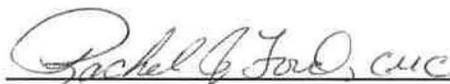
different date. Sent an email that there is no way I can verify they have disregarded everything said up till now. Will see what happens when we see their new maps for their transportation and travel management plans for west Mojave.

- Happy Easter to everyone and good night

Dan Clark

- Idea Hub symposium at Kerr McGee May 13 with secretary of the Navy. Registration is at 8:00 am. Council requested to attend. Important opportunity to speak with these dignitaries
- Meeting next week with Administerial Association and thanked Supervisor Gleason for his work.
- Petroglyph festival met yesterday and daily independent did good job showing the budget. All chairpersons provided data and positive progress being made.
- Tickets for the veterans fundraiser, motorcycle raffle
- Tickets for pancake breakfast on May 17. Council is working the breakfast. Encouraged citizen attendance
- Golf tournament April 26. Mike Thomas has done phenomenal job putting this together, sponsors for every hole and prizes for every par 3. Revenue will be double what was raised for 50<sup>th</sup>.
- Committee has done a wonderful job putting this together
- Denim and Diamonds event at Cerro Coso next week.
- Happy Easter

**ADJOURNMENT at 8:02 p.m.**



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Rachel J. Ford, CMC  
City Clerk