



**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**

**February 19, 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; Council Members Jim Sander; and Steven Morgan

Council Absent: Vice Mayor Marshall 'Chip' Holloway and Council Member Lori Acton

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Items Pulled From The Agenda:

- Item No. 2
- Item No. 3
- Item No. 8

Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members, Sanders, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 2 Absent (Council Members Holloway And Acton)

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

Jerry Taylor

- Asked what has changed since last session on Ponek issue.
 - Michael Silander - responded

CLOSED SESSION

- GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Luke Smith – Claim No 14-01
- GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Kyeong H. Corbin – Claim No 14-02
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Squillacote v. Frid, CASE NO. S-1500-CV-276362 SPC
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Cole v. Myers, CASE NO. R-1502-CS-17170
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Balfour v. Ridgecrest, CASE NO. S-1500-CV-280015 LHB
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – James B. Ponek v. City of Ridgecrest

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Luke Smith – Claim No 14-01 – received report – voted 3 to 0 to approve and pay the claim.
 - Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Kyeong H. Corbin – Claim No 14-02 – received report – no action taken.
 - Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Squillacote v. Frid, CASE NO. S-1500-CV-276362 SPC – No action taken.
 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Cole v. Myers, CASE NO. R-1502-CS-17170 – No action taken.
 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Balfour v. Ridgecrest, CASE NO. S-1500-CV-280015 LHB – No action taken.
 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – James B. Ponek v. City of Ridgecrest – Update, no litigation filed, No action taken.
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 6:11 p.m.

Jerry Taylor

- Questioned if impact fees are expiring.
 - Dennis Speer – under review

PUBLIC COMMENT closed at 6:12 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation By Council Of A Proclamation For Safe Surrender Baby Month

Mayor and Council presented a proclamation to representatives of the Kern County Health and Human Services recognizing Safely Surrender Baby Month and viewed a brief health announcement from the County of Kern.

2. Presentation To Council Of Upcoming Production Of A Petroglyph Show By Steve Brown, Owner/Publisher Of The Sun Runner Magazine And Host Of PBS Television's 'The Real California Desert' Show

Item No. 2 was pulled from the agenda prior to approval of the agenda

3. Presentation To Council By California Meetings And Events Bakersfield Office Of Marketing Plans And Benefits Of The Proposed Petroglyph Festival

Item No. 3 was pulled from the agenda prior to approval of the agenda

4. Presentation To Council Of The Ridgecrest Boulevard Construction Project

Ed Noriega of Mark Thomas Company gave a PowerPoint presentation on the West Ridgecrest Boulevard Construction Project. *(Copy available in the City Clerk's office)*

Public Comment for Item No. 4:

Barbara Frisbee

- Voiced concerns about east end of project related to medians
- Speaking for majority of businesses on Balsam
- Spoke on customer survey and majority felt median would curtail their access to businesses
- Spoke on proposed plan affecting accessibility for customers to businesses.
- Asked council to remember this is about the customers
- Asked if vehicles using balsam routing is necessary and impact for emergency vehicles

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Barbara Frisbee *(continued)*

- Spoke on pedestrian crosswalks
- Suggested climate will deter pedestrian traffic
- Concerned about landscaped bulb-outs but asked about funding for maintenance.
- Asked council reconsider adding the center median and bulb-outs and redesign the current median.
- Should vehicles using balsam be forced to turn right to turn left.
 - Ed Noriega spoke on removal of left turn from south balsam to east Ridgecrest Blvd. and mitigating measures have been put in place with left turn ability into rite aid and balsam.
 - Currently cars attempt to make a U-turn and two lanes merging into one which is a safety concern.
 - Spoke on process to determine the effect to circulation and explained the solution.
- Asked how many accidents have occurred at the Balsam and Ridgecrest intersection and would extending the median will prevent U-turns.
 - Enforcement will change the behavior and trade off of safety concern of proximity to activity at the intersection.
- If a block of balsam is cut off then merchants and traffic flow should be considered.

Dave Matthews

- Thought presentation for construction phase was well thought out and looking forward to ground breaking
- Commented with Mr. Morgan that this may not happen in lifetime and is happy to see it begin.
- Spoke on the original condition of the intersection and suggestion regarding traffic signals at Downs and Norma
- Suggested leaving Downs as a 4-way stop and move the traffic signal to Balsam.
- Understands it is close to china lake boulevard but with demand sensors should be alright.

Nathan Ahle

- Agree that a median at Ridgecrest and balsam is not workable for the business in the area.
- Spoke on conversation with Mr. Culp and Mr. Alexander but it works now so don't fix it if not broken.
- Commented would have been a good idea to have a refresher public information meeting for the business owners
- Thanked Mr. Morgan and the city for getting the project funded and under construction.

Ms. Jacobs

- Spoke on the Bulb-outs which reduces parking, won't be kept clean, will be hit by cars, and are currently in a drought. Suggested removing the bulb-outs

Jerry Taylor

- Agree that it has been a long time since last information meeting
- Supports removing the blockage turning onto balsam street
- Spoke on left turns out of Stater Bros. parking is a greater concern than the turn onto Balsam
- Understand the concept of landscaping but also understand the reasoning of bulb-outs as a method of traffic control for pedestrians
- Suggest considering bulb-outs and make them rounded
- Left turns and U-turns are an enforcement and removing the option of a left turn because of a few people who don't follow the rules is not the solution
- Spoke on not penalizing downtown Ridgecrest because of a handful of people.
- Trying to improve the downtown district.

Scott Wood

- As business owner on Balsam Street is very concerned about losing the left hand turn onto balsam.
- Balsam street survives on two way traffic and eliminating that turn will affect businesses on the south end of the street
- Businesses fight daily to bring in business and this will interfere with customers.

Public Comment Closed

Dennis Speer

- Spoke on discussion with City Engineer and how this was originally determined as a safety design but are currently discussing keeping the left turn onto Balsam but with caveat that if accidents increase in severity and/or frequency then would have to change at that time.
- Project, once completed, may see higher volumes of vehicles and speed.
- Restated idea of working with design teams to eliminate median and leave the left turn lane with the understanding that city will continue to monitor intersection and if an increase to number or severity of accidents increases then will eliminate the turn lane.
- Spoke on requirements for traffic signals and stop signs with relation to California law. Volume of traffic and proximity to China Lake Blvd. prohibits a light at Balsam

Steve Morgan

- By allowing left hand turns onto Balsam, then also allowing left hand turns from Balsam to Ridgecrest.
- What will happen to turn into Rite Aid
 - Eliminated
- We will not stop illegal U-turns by eliminating median, only with enforcement
- For those who have watched that intersection for a long time and seen the amount of vehicles who continue to make illegal turns
- Against altering the plan, customers will find a way to get to the businesses
- Believe part of the reasoning for these changes was to mitigate the amount of water going down Balsam when it rains
- More issues in favor of leaving the median than removing it.

Jim Sanders

- Biggest concern is the general flow of traffic at that intersection is restricted in both directions
- Asked for alternative other than median that would help the flow of traffic
 - Ed Noriega – one alternative was to put median down the entire corridor which impacts left turn access to all left turns into parking lots and drive ways.
 - Extremely wide lanes with curb shifting will create an awkward driving situation which is improved with the two-way lane
 - Any improvement put in will impact someone so must look at the trade-off and least difficult solution for solving the situation
- Spoke on personal experience and confusing situation with the intersection and supports any decision that will help the flow of traffic.
- Asked about landscaping plan and if it was xeriscaping
 - City has provided approved plant list based on walk-thru and informational meetings.
- Like walk thru but asked we conserve water.

Steve Morgan

- Cal Trans is planning on a median down China Lake Boulevard

Dan Clark

- Concerned about the accidents and traffic flow but will trust the professionals
- Will support Mr. Speer's suggestion but have not seen the impact on traffic.

Steve Morgan

- Requested legal opinion of liability by changing the design.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Approve A Resolution Of The City Of Ridgecrest Successor Redevelopment Agency Approving The Property Management Plan (PMP)
Parsons
6. Approve A Resolution Of The City Of Ridgecrest Successor Redevelopment Agency Approving The Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule (ROPS) 2014-15A
Parsons
7. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated February 5, 2014
Ford

Items Pulled From Consent Calendar:

- Item no. 5

Motion To Approve Consent Calendar Item No's 6 and 7 Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Sanders, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 2 Absent (Council Members Holloway and Acton)

Item 5 Discussion

Dave Matthews

- Commented this should not have been on consent calendar
- Asked what the plan it about

Gary Parsons

- Requirement of department of finance giving up to 6 months for city to file a listing of all properties owned by the redevelopment agency and their use.
- This is for transfer of properties that were formerly owned by redevelopment.

Dave Matthews

- Asked what the properties are and what we are going to do with them

Gary Parsons

- Flood control basin to be converted to city
- Business park is part of 5 year plan and asking this be turned over to the City
- Desert candles home in considerable disrepair and turning over to the state for sale or distribution and funds disbursed to the agencies

Item No. 5 Discussion *(continued)*

Motion To Approve Item No. 5 Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Sanders, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 2 Absent (Council Members Holloway And Acton)

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

8. Discussion And Approval By Minute Motion Of A Funding Request For The Petroglyph Rock Art Festival **Clark**

Item No. 8 was pulled prior to approval of the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Members: Jim Sanders, Dan Clark
Meetings: 3rd 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: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month At 6:30 p.m., Kerr McGee Center
Next Meeting: To Be Announced

Dan Clark

- Fundraising issues discussed
- Working with county for video conferencing capability for veterans and senior services
- May 3 at Tommy T's fundraiser for vets
- Self-storage was donated to committee for supplies from veteran's stand down

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Chip Holloway
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: Date and Location To Be Announced

- No report

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Steve Morgan

- Attending Kern COG to discuss 678k with local match for resurfacing and repaving projects
- Updating Ridgecrest pavement documentation for \$687,754
- South Sunland to bowman \$497,000
- Signalization on china lake Blvd.
- Each project has a long and arduous route of paperwork processing and then have to compete with other cities for funding
- Strategic growth council new source of funding for transportation sustainable communities grants which includes a 10% match for innovative incentive sustainable development implementation; transit area; and high-speed rail. Will be talking to staff members at kern COG and have them contact city staff because interested in trying to capture some of this money.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Moving forward with streets lists from pavement management study for micro-paving candidates and anticipate information as early as next week

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Sanders

- No comments

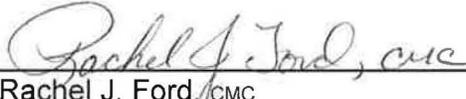
Steven Morgan

- Ridge Project cleanup of College Heights Blvd on March 1.
- Little Rubber Ducky's from Lions Club on March 16
- Regarding Ridgecrest Blvd. When you start to play with the most logical method of paving. Bulb-outs will be rounded and will slow traffic but fact of matter is once improved then speeds will climb. Will have to do traffic survey and guarantee speeds will be increased and the short distance between China Lake and balsam will be magnified. When Marvin Mitchell died on east Ridgecrest Blvd. due to no stop sign at the intersection and citizens told me his blood was on my hands, then I am going on record to state opposition to the change because I don't want anyone else's blood on my hands.

Dan Clark

- Thanked Steve Morgan for his efforts to get the Ridgecrest Blvd. project funded
- Tickets to the economic outlook conference given to council
- Attended hungry tumbleweeds drama production from students who went on their own to teachers to organize and present this play out of boredom
- Great play with theme of dealing with alcohol and looking to do another play focused on dealing with drugs
- Thanked teachers and adults who taught the children the acting skills.
- State of California is recognizing Little Deer Durvin as Woman Of The Year. Congratulations to her and thanked her for her service to this community

ADJOURNMENT at 7:32 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk