



**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**

**January 15, 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 'Chip' Holloway; Council Members Jim Sander; Lori Acton; and Steven Morgan

Council Absent: None

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 Morgan, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent*

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- No Report

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Lueck

- December 18, 2013 resolution of funds for RACVB
- Tough decision but will make interest for general fund and save interest for RACVB
- On behalf of RACVB and board of directors thanked council
- Spoke on the development of the tourism improvement district for the community and the loan obtained to do the development
- Thanked desert valley credit union and council for their support of the district

Jerry Taylor

- Spoke on the lack of street striping on Las Flores street, especially the bicycle lane.
- Expressed concern about lack of solid white line to remind vehicles of bicyclists.
  - Dennis Speer responded with Caltrans regulations with and without parking.
- Commented on observed impacts and parking issues for residents.
- Suggested at least painting the fog line to help give bicyclists boundaries.
- Concerned about pension costs for city employee retirement plans
- Commented on longevity increases coming by 2016
- Quoted statistics
- Spoke on pension reform and suggested council address the issue.

Dave Matthews

- Welcome to 2014
- Acknowledged passing of Former Mayor Howard Auld
- Wants to offer condolences to family in person at a memorial services
- Commented on Jerry Taylor's statements regarding street lines
- Two separate incidents recently of night driving and inability to see the lanes or striping.
- Spoke on pavement blending into the desert and stripes being useful to identify the road
- Commented some states use reflective tape and suggested this as a better solution than water soluble paint.

**Closed public comment at 6:18pm**

## PRESENTATIONS

### 1. City of Ridgecrest Employee of the Year 2013

**Clark**

Council presented a plaque to Frances Lewis who was nominated and selected by employee to be the employee of the year for 2013

## CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approve A Resolution Scheduling The Date Of The Annual Unmet Needs Public Hearing And Authorizing The City Clerk To Advertise The Hearing  
Speer
3. Adopt A Resolution To Award A Construction Contract For The Installation Of A Traffic Signal And Intersection Improvements At The Intersection Of China Lake Boulevard And Upjohn Avenue And Authorize The City Manager To Execute The Agreement  
Speer
4. Adopt A Resolution To Approve A Professional Services Agreement With Willdan Engineering Inc. For The Preparation And Provision Of Utility Coordination, Plans, Specifications And Engineering For The Rehabilitation Of Sunland Avenue From East Ridgcrest Boulevard To Upjohn Avenue And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute The Agreement  
Speer
5. Adopt A Resolution To Amend the Professional Services Agreement with The Engineer of Record, Mark Thomas & Company, Inc., for Final Design Wrap-up, Public Presentation, Bidding Assistance, and Construction Support of the West Ridgcrest Boulevard Project and Authorize the City Manager to Execute The Agreement  
Speer
6. Adopt A Resolution Accepting A Temporary Construction Easement and Right of Way Dedication From Sierra Sands Unified School District for Sidewalk and A School Bus Stop At James Monroe Middle School And Authorizing The Mayor To Sign The Certificate Of Acceptance and Authorizing the City Clerk to Record the Documents  
Speer
7. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgcrest Authorizing The Director Of Public Works Or The City Engineer To Execute Right-Of-Way Certifications For Federally Funded Transportation Projects With The California Department Of Transportation  
Speer
8. Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgcrest City Council Authorizing The Application For And Acceptance Of The East Kern Air Pollution Control District - Department Of Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Program Grant.  
Strand
9. Approve A Resolution Amending The City Of Ridgcrest Classification Plan And Adopting The Payroll Technician I/II Job Specifications  
McQuiston
10. Approve A Resolution Authorizing Budget Adjustment #14-01 – General Fund  
McQuiston

**11. Approval Of Budget Adjustment #14-02 - Adjustments To The FY2013-2014 Measure L Carryover Budget** **McQuiston**

Items Pulled From Consent Calendar

- 4, 6, 10, and 11

*Motion To Approve Items 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 9 Of The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes; 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent.*

Item 4 discussion

Jerry Taylor

- Requested clarification of completion of section of Sunland and asked when funding would be allocated
  - Dennis Speer – responded explaining what has been done to make the project shelf ready. This will be near the top of the list for council consideration of TAB funding

Item 6 discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked for clarification of the project
  - Dennis Speer – responded with explanation of safe routes to school bus turn around project including location identified for the project development

Item 10 discussion

Chip Holloway

- Requested clarity of the contingency fund transfer and self-insurance fund transfer
  - Rachelle McQuiston – confirmed the self-insurance fund is from a different fund and does not come from general fund contingency

Item 11 discussion

Jim Sanders

- Suggested taking the \$88,026 for professional services and charge from TAB funds rather than Measure 'L'
- Commented public expectation is to use as much Measure 'L' funding as possible for street repair rather than engineering services.

Dan Clark

- Suggested amending the resolution to eliminate the reserve completely and use the funds to micro-pave a street rather than have a reserve
  - Rachelle McQuiston – clarified the suggested reserve change.
- Eliminate the carryover and reserve and use for paving streets

Steve Morgan

- Requested staff recommendation
- Clarified two suggestions and commented on staff working on future Measure 'L' allocations
- Believes there are good reasons and critical needs for these funds to be allocated as staff has recommended
- Spoke on the need to get projects shelf ready in order to use the Measure 'L' funds and TAB funds.

Jim Sanders

- Comment on Code Enforcement officer and understands the need for Code Enforcement
- Questions whether now is the right time with this particular fund of money and whether other sources might be found to fund Code Enforcement

Lori Acton

- Asked for the rationale for having a reserve versus the mayors suggestion
  - Rachelle McQuiston – not a proponent of spending every penny. Need a certain reserve for matching funds and contingencies
  - Dennis Speer – past couple of years the revenues from gas tax have been lowering and transit is requiring more of the TDA funding so less funding available for matching funds

Dan Clark

- Supports code enforcement officer
- Spoke on the \$181,533.73 reserve which could go toward paving streets

### Public Comment

Phil Salvatore

- Requested clarification of TDA Article 4 funds which has not been spent
  - Rachelle McQuiston – gas tax was less than budgeted and would have to review the records on the TDA funding.
- Supports Code Enforcement being paid with Measure 'L' which falls within the guidelines of Measure 'L'
- Agrees with council member sanders on the engineering services being paid with TAB funding.

Jerry Taylor

- Requested clarification of the engineering services and projects to be developed
  - Dennis Speer – responded this was for the streets that cannot be micro-paved and projects for streets reconstruction
- Clarified this is not for other TAB projects, exclusive to street reconstruction
- Need to get planning and engineering done so when funds are available projects are ready to be completed
- Commented on Measure ‘L’ funding that was allocated for streets then taken away and used for public safety
- Need to have the plan in order to get things done on the streets
- What is lacking in the presentation is which street projects are being funded by this engineering service

Dave Matthews

- Suggested calling for motion on the other 3 items and table No. 11 for future agenda.

Jim Sanders proposed two amendments

*Council Member Sanders made a motion proposing that the professional engineering Services in amount of \$88,026 me removed with the intent to fund the services with TAB funding. Motion did not receive a second.*

*Council Member Sanders made a motion to remove the code enforcement officer in amount of \$30,000. Motion did not receive a second.*

*Council Member Acton Made A Motion To Approve The Resolution Of \$183,026. Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 1 Noes (Council Member Sanders)*

*Mayor Clark made a motion to eliminate \$181, 533.73 reserve and direct staff to micro-pave streets with the funding.*

Rachelle McQuiston

- requested clarification of where the funding will be allocated
  - Dennis Speer – responded the funding would be allocated to the materials account

Lori Acton

- Inquired about matching funds. Stated it would be remiss to use these funds to pave streets when they could be used for matching funds to secure larger funding sources for paving roads.

Steve Morgan

- Do not disagree with premise of the motion, would really like to hear from staff on where these funds will be spent and avoid misinformation from the public
- Need to allow staff time to develop a project and have a discussion with staff on how to combine the funds and what to do with them
- Not ready to move forward tonight without hearing from staff on whether they believe it is beneficial or should we hold back and wait for a project that could leverage our dollars further

Chip Holloway

- Agree with Steve and am concerned with ability to leverage matching funds. Agree with the concept but would be upset if we missed out on an opportunity to gain more with some matching funds. Need more information

Jim Sanders

- Asked Mr. Speer for disadvantages to not having a reserve
  - Dennis Speer – no matching funds and no contingency funding available
- Requested other funding sources for matching funds
  - Dennis Speer – traffic impact fees and general fund
  - Rachelle McQuiston – will start paving streets in March and releasing these funds will not result in streets being paved faster. Could pave another street after allocated funding is spent
- Would rather see the reserve stay in place until more is known.

Dan Clark

- Commented on \$13 million available funding and Measure 'L' being a defined pot of money
- Stated that there is a certain pride in being able to pave more streets as soon as possible
- Question a reserve for matching funds
  - Dennis Speer – attended Measure 'L' meeting and observed a loss of intention between Measure 'L' and TAB. Infrastructure committee scenarios of 5 year list for street paving which assumed TAB funding. Recalled recommendation of being able to maintain the streets at \$1.5 million annually. Measure 'L' funds was intended for the continued maintenance

Lori Acton

- The word reserve is not intended for long term, does not think rushing out and spending all of it at this time is a good idea
- Not about long-term reserves but rather holding until we need it.

Jerry Taylor

- Spoke on comments of repaving during certain temperatures.
- Questioned Mr. Speer on how many TAB projects are currently shovel ready
  - Dennis Speer - 3 identified at this time but the remainder of the project list still needs engineering services.
- Requested value of the projects
  - Dennis Speer - Downs is shy of \$1 million, Sunland near \$550k and not sure of the other
- Commented to council that if engineering is not completed now then in reality will not be able to pave any more streets than the three identified. Takes time to get the engineering finished and be ready to construct

Phil Salvatore

- Agree with council to plan and bring back to a future council.
- The reserve was already whittled down and turned to deficit because of needs.

Dan Clark

- Motion pulled

*Motion To Approve The Resolution As Presented Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Holloway. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes, 1 Noes (Sanders), 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent*

*Motion To Approve Items 4, 6, & 10 Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent.*

## 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 – announced next meeting

### **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 – no report – announced next meeting

**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

Chip Holloway – read director’s report *(copy available in the city clerk’s office)*

**OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

None

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Dennis Speer

- Received email from district 9 that we have received E76 on west Ridgecrest Blvd. project which allows us to begin expending the funds
- League of cities is requesting letter of support in opposition of human trafficking
- Staff is prepared to return to council on February 5 with TAB project listing to clarify what projects were allocated by previous council
- Will be attending the League city manager conference so staff will be presenting the TAB project listing

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Jim Sanders

- Grieved at the passing of Former Mayor Howard Auld and looking back on time as a planning commissioner had many conversations with both Howard and Barbara Auld. This is a great loss to this community

Chip Holloway

- Echo condolences to the Auld family. Don’t know anyone who lived a fuller life and sacrificed a lot to help this community. Losing a lot of people who are retiring and moving away and it’s getting harder to keep people involved.
- Barbara is doing good, has a great attitude
- Attended meeting in Bakersfield about creating healthy communities one street at a time. Some incredible ideas that I will begin talking with staff about. Commented on round about versus stop lights
- Curb café’s might be a good idea for Balsam Street
- Spoke on requirement for garages being behind the house which creates a different atmosphere in communities
- Spoke on more seeking grant funding.

Steven Morgan

- Great loss to this community in losing Howard Auld and true that as this continues with citizens there is a need to find other concerned citizens who can continue to do what is best for this community
- Believe there are people out there who can replace Howard. Sometimes we (council) succeed or fail but always with the best intention and hope we continue to move in the right direction
- Have turned a page on infrastructure, need to reconstitute the infrastructure committee. I am not going to push to be a member of the committee because a lot of the things that have already been put in place were a part of what I worked on in the past. Will be fascinated to see these things move forward
- Don't know how we can consider more detailed information on moving forward in the process for public information. Did not allow staff to talk tonight about the 3 issues but desperately need the engineer and service contracts.
- Could not get ourselves in a position to move forward without approving the funding tonight.
- Asked staff to consider more defensive staff reports showing council why we need to fund these things. Council came close to not passing this which would have been a mistake.

Lori Acton

- Howard Auld will be greatly missed. Unfortunately we will find out quickly what we are going to be able to do without him. Would like to see more young people get involved with the Community.
- Announced meetings at Jawbone Canyon

Dan Clark

- Howard, Barbara and the family are in our prayers and my heart goes out to them.
- Petroglyph festival meeting held and will provide agenda's.
- Entertaining possibility of attaining a marketing firm to help develop the Petroglyph Festival
- Concerned we made a mistake. Don't want to leave a window closed that we could open it and large segment of public won't understand why we went another year without paving a street.
- Infrastructure and quality of life committees, asked to be added to next council meeting to discuss TAB projects and make appointments.
- Thanked everyone for attending

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:45 pm**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel J. Ford, CMC  
City Clerk