



## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL

City Council Chambers  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, California 93555

June 4, 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. Meetings are recorded for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

### CALL TO ORDER – 5:30 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Clark; Council Members, Acton, and Morgan

Council Absent: Vice Mayor Holloway and Council Member Sanders

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

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions to Agenda:

1. Introduction To The Public Of New Police Captain Jed McLaughlin And Administration Of The Oath Of Office

Deletions from agenda:

1. Presentation of employee service awards.

*Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 3 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Acton And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 2 Absent (Council Members Holloway and Sanders)*

### PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None Presented

*Council Member Sanders arrived for closed session*

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### **CLOSED SESSION**

- GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations – Police Employee Association of Ridgecrest (PEAR). Agency Negotiator City Manager Dennis Speer
- GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations – UFCW Golden State Local 8. Agency Negotiator City Manager Dennis Speer
- GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel, Liability Claim Of Gregg Boske, Claim No. 14-1516

### **REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- Closed Session
  - Labor Negotiations With Police Employee Association Of Ridgecrest (PEAR). Received report, no reportable action
  - Labor Negotiations – UFCW Golden State Local 8. Received report, no reportable action
  - Conference With Legal Counsel, Liability Claim Of Gregg Boske, Claim No. 14-1516. Gave direction to City Manager. No reportable action
- Other
  - None

### **ADDITION TO THE AGENDA:**

- Introduction of the new Police Captain Jed McLaughlin and administration of the Oath of Office by the City Clerk.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 6:27**

Nathan Ahle

- Spoke about the Ridgecrest Blvd Project
- Expressed concerns about some of the closures and traffic issues.
- Spoke on negative impacts to local businesses.
- Requested improved signage and flagmen
- Offered assistance to spread the word to the public.

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Mr. Barbara

- Commented on industrial proposals and lack of public comment
- Spoke on matrix presented on the agenda and commented on public input
- Encouraged Council to allow public comment
- Spoke on the need for economic development
- Asked Council to be open and transparent.

Dave Matthews

- Commented as a representative of the Knights of Columbus regarding concerns about the Ridgecrest Blvd. construction project
- Spoke on the paving strategy changes which were not relayed to the affected businesses.
- Read and presented a letter to Council identifying the Knights of Columbus concerns. (*Attachment A*)
- Requested City reconsider going back to the original strategy keeping one side of the street open at all times.
- Congratulated Captain McLaughlin and wished Captain Wheeler farewell

Dennis Speer

- Responded to comments presented regarding the paving strategy.
- Contractor will notify public.
- Strategy was to provide traffic flow however water contractor is not completed with their work which has created a delay.
- Only other option is to wait which cuts the allowable time for paving before winter and would leave the project unfinished during the winter months.
- Spoke on the increased cost which would result from a delay in the paving process.

Tina Warren

- Commented on driving the perimeter of the construction area and lack of signs or flagmen.
- Highlighted a safety issue and urged council to provide flagmen for the safety of citizens and assist public in accessing the businesses.
- Commented on urging City to invest in economic development.

John Bushnell

- Owns Johns Pizza with 45 employees
- Commented on road closure which will impact the food service business.
- Commented on enormous costs in employee wages and utilities
- Requested City return to the previous strategy or could lose the business.

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### Janis Bottoroff

- Owner of SASS which has already been damaged due to road construction.
- Loss of telephones, internet, printing, landscaping, hole in the building, sidewalk damage, loss of walk-in business
- Commented on possibility of having to close business due to losses
- Requested signage and flagmen to let people know the businesses are open and accessible.
- Commented on a flagman sitting in his car or shade.
- Expressed concern about damage already done and what is going to happen.
- Suggested large billboard or truck sign letting people know that people can get to the businesses.
- Mail not being received by the post office
- Lost two weeks of phone service and physical damage to business not being repaired.

### Paul Farris

- Owner of Paul & Sons garage
- Commented on utility work and the daily impact to business.
- Supports the addition of signage and flagmen and return to strategy
- Offered assistance in helping get the word out
- Commented on the desire to get the roads fixed and suggested teamwork to get thru the construction

### Speaker

- Spoke on signage closing Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Needs to be clearer.

### Carol Vaughn

- Spoke on economic development funding from Tax Allocation Bonds
- Commented on the need for economic development with jobs and long term growth so money will continue to be available to fix streets and parks
- Reminded council the TAB bonds were economic development to begin with and suggested funding all good proposals.
- Suggested reallocation of funding to provide economic development

### Dave Matthews

- Commented on Sunday walking trip to Mahan and Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Noticed the contractor is working the south side of the street and no SCE poles have been moved.
- Disappointed the utilities have delayed the project.
- Commented on a SUV coming down Ridgecrest Blvd and making a left turn onto Mahan.

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### Mike Neel

- Jokingly suggested Council get bullet proof vests while the Ridgecrest Blvd. project is going on.
- Commented on an independent contractor
- Commented on Mrs. Jackson who no longer has a business
- Commented on Mayor's Corner article in the daily independent and Andy Anderson's comments.
- Commented on the use of the word Naysayers
- Congratulated Mr. Anderson's views in the News Review about the sole source contract
- Read comments made and referenced the Ad Hoc meeting held this week at inconvenient times.
- Commented on the RFP put out in November.
- Requested Council discuss items of this nature at public Council meetings.
- Commented on RFP's such as this and the parks assessment district being put out under direction of a couple of council members and not brought before the full council.
- Read article about SWAT teams, mistaken incidents, and military weaponry. Presented copy to City Clerk for the record. *(Attachment B)*
- Commented on the military SWAT vehicle and requested Council if there are enough incidents in this community to justify a SWAT team.
- Expressed displeasure with the possibility of a SWAT team.

*Closed public comment at 7:00 p.m.*

## PRESENTATIONS

### Item No. 1 pulled prior to approval of the agenda

1. Presentation Of Employee Service Awards
2. Presentation On Status Of Evaluation Of Currently Submitted Industrial Development Proposals Parsons

### Keith Lemieux

- Spoke on this item presented without action.
- Presented to make as transparent as possible
- Intended to be a discussion of the process for evaluating various proposals which are routinely presented to the City.

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### Gary Parsons

- Presented staff report
- 5 proposals received and an additional proposal received today however is incomplete
- Discussion for industrial development rather than economic development
- Staff has requested the proposers to provide specific information and data to assist development of a matrix to be presented to Council rather than staff to make the determination of which proposals will be brought to Council.
- Staff provided a matrix to assist with evaluating proposals
- Staff determined analytical data base and seeking council input for other data points to do an evaluation.
- Proposals have not been released to Council at this time and permission of the proposers required to release to the public.
- Reviewed the published matrix from the agenda.
- Staff anticipates bringing this item for evaluation and potential selection at the council meeting of June 18 and requesting the process be defined on how to make the selection
- Seeking Council advice and direction to prepare for the next meeting and whether the proposals will be made public and at what point.

### Steve Morgan

- Do not envy what council is about to do because remember Mike Nettie, Front Porch Productions, and Matrix.
- Trying to come up with an open and public process which will not go well.
- Already heard people say not to put money into infrastructure we definitely need and put into this.
- Talking about giving money to people in the hopes it will better the local economy.
- What will happen if not successful? Will the public back the Council or stab in the back like last time.
- Zone is the available land, will need this information for each proposal. What's available and where and does it need to be rezoned for industrial.
- Where are the private individuals in this?
- A lot of land available but not up to code because owners are not putting money into their property
- Water use is a concern
- Appreciate the tax exemptions
- These individuals will also want other concessions so definitely want to know their investment versus the city investment. Want to know how much money they are putting in. If they are not putting in 2 to 1, 3 to 1, or higher, then am not interested in their proposal.

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Steve Morgan *(continued)*

- Noted various issues to be considered including noise, production smell, the impact with our wind, infrastructure requirement, roads, gas, power, water, (Is it available or will they want us to enhance it?), raw industries and transportation, the impact of heavy truck use on the roads, transportation for product, shipping concerns.
- These are things that staff has already thought of and will be part of the process.
- Let's not start on the wrong foot. Appreciate what staff is trying to do and will be interesting how far we will get before council changes in November.
- Need to get to these details eventually. No business will want their proprietary information put out to the public. They do not want other competitors knowing what they are doing so do not believe Council can have those conversations, only at the staff level.
- How do we get to the public information piece where we will end up with a public presentation by the businesses without the proprietary information?
- Want to cover as many bases as possible.

Jim Sanders

- Appreciate staff for putting the matrix together and feel will be helpful in sharing information to the public
- Do not want to make a decision based solely on this matrix
- Most proposals are unique, not like being able to do an RFP
- Proposals have wildly different objectives so cannot compare with each other.
- Decision will have to be based on trust. Federal government has had huge failures with wasted tax dollars and council does not want to see this happen with Ridgecrest
- Need to have assurance this person is actually going to do what is stated in the contract
- Some proposers have references and won't make a decision unless these references can be verified.
- Encouraged staff to get proposer's authorization to release as much as possible.
- Understand proprietary information can't be released but this is public money
- Council will make as transparent and open but there are limitations to abilities.
- Questioned if the jobs data would be FTE
- Sales relative to Ridgecrest taxable sales.
- Interested in seeing what the proposer is bringing to the table, hesitant to fund someone at 100%
- Thanked Gary for time and effort
- Looking forward to the process, good potential but some danger of failure. Due diligence will be used.

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Keith Lemieux

- Addressed Public records comments. Records received will be public records. Will research proprietary information but should eventually make it to the public.

Steve Morgan

- Requested information on length of time to obtain permits from the County. Council will be blamed
  - Gary Parsons – licensing not granted by the City

Lori Acton

- Commented on the need for economic development and jobs for regular people.
- The matrix provided is a good starting point
- People came to the city voluntarily and excited that people were willing to come to us in an effort to be less reliant on the base
- Questioned, how much can city fund.
- Continuously hear pave the roads, no problem pulling TAB funds from other places besides paving roads in order to provide economic development
- Want to see how to make it work, adapt and overcome.
- Want staff to bring before council a plan of how to fund them all
- Proposals with no track record need to present a good business plan.

Dennis Speer

- Read Council Member Holloway's letter regarding industrial proposals into record. *(Attachment C)*

Dan Clark

- Commented on not being council member during the Matrix and Front Porch production fiasco
- Agree with Council Member Holloway
- Appreciate the matrix as a tool to make an objective, un-emotional decision
- There will be citizens who rant in the paper.
- Stated that if council can eliminate the emotional aspect and be objective in their decision then could potentially make the best decision.
- Suggested doing the matrix and have it rated and evaluated by Gary Parson's and staff with a narrative of the businesses.
- Do not expect to divulge every aspect of a business's proprietary information
- Trying to eliminate politics outside the council and popularity of one business over another.
- Analyze objectively with guarantees for the city that if the company does not fulfill their obligation then funds are cut off.
- Eliminate emotional aspect and review each proposal objectively
- Do not want to sit on council and because of two weeks of politicking by persons in the public trying to get 3 votes then a proposal is accepted on that basis.

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Dan Clark *(continued)*

- Suggested taking the matrix and add as necessary for more comprehensive data, have staff complete it, and then council make the decision based on the information received.
- Commented on excitement about Matrix and Front Porch Productions without knowing how the decision was made and the disaster which followed.
- Suggested tying council ideas together into a matrix

Gary Parsons

- Any of the funds granted which are not repaid would require a grant agreement and suggested milestones with no funding of the total amount up front. Objective milestones completed before funding goes out.
- If at any time the milestones are not completed then need a legal way to ask for the funds back.
- Condition within the agreement in terms of how long the business stays in the city. Exemplified a company starting up and then in a couple years moving to Nevada for a better tax break. Suggested funds be repaid to City should the company not fulfill the conditions.
- Commented on the licensing and permit requirements.

Dan Clark

- Suggested local hiring versus bringing in new residents.

Lori Acton

- Need to open for public comment
  - Keith Lemieux commented that if Council is giving direction to staff then have public comment limited to the matrix and not the merits of the proposal
- Suggested taking out the dollar amount, listening to the proposals and then determine if they are viable.
- Not sure the matrix should be the sole decision tool, just part of the process.

Jim Sanders

- Appreciate the goal of being objective however could be misleading.
- Trust is an issue, and has no idea by the numbers if the proposer will be able to do what they say.
- Already eliminated popularity in my mind and don't really care which direction individuals want me to go
- Trust is a huge part of this process and Council has to be able to look them in the eyes and know they will do what they say.

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Dan Clark

- The matrix deals with taxes and jobs. Asked council to think about other criteria that can be added to make it more comprehensive.
- To eliminate what Council Member Sanders is talking about, need to have a template that fits all of the proposals.
- Concerned they can write anything they want into the proposal.
- Will put in benchmarks before funding
- Only have \$1.5 million to work with
- Need to determine the feasibility and an analytical approach will assist with the decision

Lori Acton

- Not saying to abandon the matrix, use as one tool. The data is very important and want to use it but not make the decision solely on the matrix

Dan Clark

- Commented on the ransom payment to Department Of Finance
- Want to fund proposals based on viability and feasibility

Public comment opened at 7:56 p.m.

Tom Wiknich

- Agree with Steve Morgan's questions
- Agree with City Attorney about proprietary information and suggested if a company wants to protect information then don't ask for public funds. Understand a patented process but not general business.
- Sales tax issue, manufacturing for wholesale does not generate sales tax for us.
- Suggested data on the Utilization of current work force and existing buildings.
- Will businesses be required to function inside city limits?
- Believe council that proposals have not been seen by Council but concerned with comments of council being lobbied. Public needs to know if council has discussed with proposers.

Unknown speaker

- Commented on track record data.
- Questioned if Front Porch Productions and Matrix were startup businesses
- Believes in Skin

Carol Vaughn

- Commented about the likelihood of other businesses following these proposals
- Potential infrastructure issues
- Business works sometimes and sometimes it doesn't.

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Eric Bruin

- Thanked council for the matrix however if limited to just projections then understand things can change.
- Appreciate the attempt at objectivity and understand lobbying exists.
- Commented on the matrix data but bottom line is, while council is honorable, there are many cross sections of understanding of functions and these should be incorporated into the decision. Suggested public participation from other business owners
- Keep up the good work.
  - Gary Parsons – staff considered having evaluations completed by agencies outside the city however time is an issue and significant pressure from the proposers to make a decision. Option is still available.
- Suggested community input to help add validity to the council's decision

Justin O'Neill

- Process sounds like a public elimination of proposals
- Agree with Eric Bruin in incorporating persons from the business community who understand predictions have a margin of error and risk.
- What I have heard is that nothing is predictable which is a flawed philosophy
- Commented this is a huge opportunity and it is necessary to invest in growth and have to take the opportunity.
- Will be risk and a margin of failure so need to prepare as a community and discuss the risk.
- Fear of the lobbying process but may be a way to use this opportunity to get the community on the same page.
- Encouraged council to include the business minds in the community to help select the best proposal

Dan Clark

- Outlined options
  - Do matrix, Webpage narrative, question companies, decision
  - Webpage, question companies, public input, decision
  - Ad hoc committee of 2 council and 5 community, review proposals, questions companies, matrix, recommendations from committee and staff, decision

Lori Acton

- Suggesting doing the matrix and a town hall on Monday with business leaders, then decision

Dan Clark

- Not comfortable with idea of a town hall because an independent business going into a public domain becomes a popularity contest. Lose total objectivity in a town hall meeting

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- Feels comfortable with the idea of an ad hoc committee
- As a business, would be embarrassing for a business to attend a free-for-all town hall meeting.
- Commented on competition of businesses having advantages over others based on where they might present at a town hall meeting.

Lori Acton

- Suggested viewing proposals without names read and whether the idea is good or not.

Jim Sanders

- Agrees with option 2 and having it at a public council meeting with encouragement for public to be positive.
  - Do the matrix, put a narrative on the website, and ask questions of companies, open to public at council, then make a decision.

Steve Morgan

- Questioned attorney, individual job interviews and can this be done by council for this type of negotiation.
  - Keith Lemieux – closed session applies to appointment to public positions and limited to employee benefits and real estate
- Questioned about firms bringing proposals for retail and negotiations.
  - Gary Parsons – Retail firms typically request negotiations at the staff level be confidential.
- We know these people want our money, it is public money, so do not know how to proceed because I do not know how the businesses will react
- Best opportunity may tell us to pack sand because we tell them they have to be submitted to the public. If the business is willing to go thru that, then they might be the best fit for Ridgecrest
- Option number 2 and see how many will actually agree to go thru that process.

Dan Clark

- Do the matrix; put a narrative about each company proposal; council ask questions of companies in two weeks; get public input; and then make the decision.

Lori Acton

- Suggested Facebook

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Dan Clark

- Direction to staff to do the matrix, a summary of the proposals on the website, question companies at next council meeting, make the decision
  - Gary Parsons – suggested redacted proposals eliminating the numbers and with input from the companies on protected information.
  - Keith Lemieux – could redact but cannot stop someone from requesting the un-redacted proposals.
  - Jim Sanders – suggested requesting companies provide public proposals
  - Keith Lemieux – treat them as received and request a final with understanding the final will be published. Important companies give direction of what is the final version of the document which will be what council acts on. This can be released to the public on request as a public document.

*Point of clarity, final proposals will be considered public record.*

Jim Sanders

- Asked if council could read proposals without making them public documents
  - Keith Lemieux – anything given to full council is considered public record.

Lori Acton

- Questioned if all documents provided to city staff are public record.
  - Gary Parsons – No, exemplified financial or proprietary information.

*Motion direction to staff establishing the Process:*

- *Do the matrix*
- *Get final proposals from companies*
- *Post final proposals on website and allow public requests*
- *Questions proposed to companies at next council meeting*
- *Open to public comment*
- *Make a decision*

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

**Recess at 8:43 p.m. for 5 minutes**

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

3. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest To Cooperate With The County Of Kern Speer
4. Adopt A Resolution To Approve The Professional Service Agreement With The Engineering Firm Of Willdan Engineering Inc. To Provide The Construction Management For The South China Lake Boulevard Project From Upjohn Avenue To Bowman Avenue 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 Approve The Professional Service Agreement With The Engineering Firm Of Quad Knopf Inc. To Provide The Construction Management For The Sunland Project From Upjohn Avenue To Bowman Avenue And Authorizing The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute The Agreement Contingent Upon The City Attorney's Review And Approval Of The Agreement Speer
6. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Of Ridgecrest City Council Approving The Land Purchase Contract For Construction Of A Transit Transfer Hub Station Located At APN 084-050-04, Inyokern, CA And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Agreement Parsons
7. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Minutes Dated May 21, 2014 Ford
8. Approval Of Draft Minutes Of The Special Adjourned Budget Hearing Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Minutes Dated May 27, 2014 Thru May 29, 2014 Ford

Items pulled from consent calendar:

- Item Nos. 3, 4, and 6

*Motion To Approve The Consent Calendar Item Nos. 5, 7, And 8 Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Sanders, Acton, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway)*

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### Item No. 3 Discussion

Justin O'Neill

- Questioned title
  - Dennis Speer – responded with explanation of item

### Item No. 4 Discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked who the committee was
  - Dennis Speer – selection committee was staff and Caltrans procedure followed. Not allowed to select based on fee. Two envelop process explained. Interviews and eligibility list established several years ago.
- Asked for the Caltrans guidelines
  - Dennis Speer – available online and staff can provide on request.

### Item No. 6 Discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked if the property owned by the city would become part of the city.
  - No, property owners in the county

Tom Wiknich

- Asked for location
  - Near Torres Steakhouse
- Purpose for purchase
  - To receive funding to support the regional transit services and bus garage
- Parcel size
  - 1.33 acres
- Located directly on Inyokern road
  - Yes
- Funding used to purchase
  - TDA grant funding and Prop 1B
- Purchase price
  - \$25,000

*Motion To Approve The Consent Calendar Item Nos. 3, 4, And 6 Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Sanders, Acton, And Morgan); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway)*

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### DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

9. Discussion And Approval Of A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council, The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Successor Agency, Ridgecrest Housing Authority And Ridgecrest Financing Authority Adopting The Annual Budget For Fiscal Year 2014-15, Establishing Appropriations, Estimating Revenues, And Establishing The Policies By Which The Budget May Be And Shall Be Amended McQuiston

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented Staff Report
- Reviewed changes of \$65k to parks maintenance taking \$5k from finance and \$45k from solid waste.
- Measure 'L' funding of engineer is still a concern.
- Responded to question of what divisions are considered indirect: These consist of City Council, Administration, City Manager, City Clerk, Finance, IT, and General Government.
- Request moving forward to approve the budget.

Dan Clark

- Announced a letter from County Clerk authorizing 3 incremental payments to repay overpayment of \$882,000.
- Noted that council did not want to pass a budget without Council Member Morgan's input

Steve Morgan

- Realizes the budget is a living document and shall be changed depending on funding sources, found no material differences in what was presented by staff
- Regarding comments made concerning Measure 'L' funding of an engineer, all can agree that a road project cannot be completed until actually penciled out. Staff has come forward with a proposal to correctly fund an engineer to put pencil to paper on road projects before we can actually put down pavement. If done in-house then will save money. By using Measure 'L' money to hire an engineer then will have more funds available to pave rather than hiring a firm to do the engineering. Not everyone will agree but I understand and agree with it.
- Have no problem with any other issues in the budget as proposed. Good with the budget

Lori Acton

- Thanked Rachelle and understand there is room to change as needed. Good with the budget

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Jim Sanders

- Requested review of the changes
  - Page 21 Solid Waste budget line originally budgeted \$91,000, after discussions it was reduced to cover a contract of \$20,000 and extra \$30,000 for emergencies so \$40,000 in funds moved to parks building maintenance. Other \$5,000 came from finance budget unit 4150 by reducing finance budget to go to parks building maintenance for a total of \$45,000. Finance budget line is on page 10 of 43 and building maintenance is page 24. Handouts reflect changes.
- Questioned where the \$5,000 was cut from finance
  - Services and charges for outside audits.
- Original concern adding to parks building maintenance is whether this is the right year. Fine with it so long as we are not hurting elsewhere.
  - Originally overestimated the anticipated costs for solid waste. Total of \$45,000 put into building maintenance

Dan Clark

- \$5,000 from finance originally wanted for building maintenance but have submitted a MOU with China Lake Alliance and interested in redirecting this amount to them.
  - Lori Acton – is a board member for agency which is over China Lake Alliance
- Encouraged council to review the MOU and consider moving the money.
  - Keith Lemieux – clarified council is not voting on the MOU and requested looking at Council Member Acton's position on the board before the MOU is voted.
- Commented on the Kerr McGee building condition and explained the reasoning behind moving the funds.
- Spoke on the negotiations with the Navy regarding the wastewater fees. Suggested giving direction to staff to continue the negotiations.
- Commented on the commodity of water. Quoted statistics of water per acre feet going thru the treatment plant annually and cost of \$1500 per acre foot and suggested council look at the cost savings which could be attained if the wastewater plant rebuild can be expedited and location could be determined. Suggested giving direction to staff to expedite the process. Commented on the water being put on evaporative ponds and golf course when could be a cost savings commodity for the City.
- Comfortable with the budget. Have had a number of people contact him about street sweeping and suggested a Prop 18 hearing with structured fees schedule where all services were paid with one fee which would include street sweeping. Suggested future conversation at council.

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Dan Clark *(continued)*

- Commented on \$722,000 in outstanding trash bills that city has a responsibility to collect at some level. Commented on past discussions and concerns about fees charged by collection agency. Have a responsibility to collect the past fee with compassion for seniors. Suggested direction to staff to look at collection agencies and their fees and how it would affect the budget.
- Pleased with the budget. Making progress.

Steve Morgan

- Would be happy to discuss the 3 concerns at future council meeting but not willing to take action on those tonight.

### Public Comment

Tom Wiknich

- Asked if the revenue was reviewed, in terms of city services and fees.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – kept everything standard with exception of animal control fees, no discount regardless of fees are paid (cash v. credit card) minor fee adjustments for police department and public works added language under public works services so fees are quoted at a minimum.
- Asked which fees were reviewed
  - Rachelle McQuiston – all fees were reviewed. Parks had concern that if fees were raised they would lose people and at this time are looking at a profit.
- Fees charged to the public are actual costs. As labor costs increase then fees may need adjusted
  - Rachelle McQuiston – has not looked at it in that way but can do so and make adjustments if determined they are out of line.
  - Steve Morgan – purpose of language ‘...at a minimum’ is because they are based on actual.

Stan Rajtora

- Commented on wastewater fund discussion.
- Commented on independent calculations of Navy costs. Stated navy needs to pay their share of the costs and be accurately reimbursed for the services city provides.
- Still have FY10 contract for design of the new plant and feels Navy will use the new facility so should participate in the expense of the cost of designing the new facility. If wastewater plant is a joint venture then should share the cost.
- Commented on electric bill paid by the city. Do not know the rate but if city believes the rate is inaccurate then should be part of the negotiations with the Navy. Should not be subsidizing the navy or individuals and businesses will want the same subsidy.

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Public Comment Closed At 9:29 p.m.

Dan Clark

- Requested any additional revenues from Measure 'L' over the \$2.5 million should be allocated to streets.

Jim Sanders

- Net zero in expenditures total questioned.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – mistakes in the calculation and better information is reflective of the final total expenditures.
- Looks as though only \$30,000 was removed from solid waste.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – had \$91,000, now \$50,000 and \$40,000 to parks leaving a \$1,000 savings.
- Fine with budget tonight.

Motion To Adopt The Budget As Presented, With Additional Measure 'L Revenues Above The Projected \$2.5 Million Be Allocated To Streets, Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Sanders, Acton, And Morgan), 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 1 Absent (Council Member Holloway).

### 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> Tuesday of the Month At 6:00 p.m., Kerr McGee Center

Next Meeting: To Be Announced

Dan Clark

- Displayed POW t-shirt being produced for fund raiser

#### 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 directors report (*Attachment D*)

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

- none

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Dennis Speer

- Navy contacted and will meet on June 12 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss wastewater rate
- City engineer will be sending weekly street activity press releases.
- Downs to Bowman; China Lake Blvd.; Drummond west of Norma; Gold Canyon; starting Sunland on June 9.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Lori Acton

- Commented on paving as is the route taken to drive child to school
- Wished everyone a good two weeks

Jim Sanders

- Congratulated Cpt. McLaughlin
- Hope public is patient with the process for Industrial Development proposals. Tonight public has glimpsed the difficult and contradictory decisions council makes. Process will be open and transparent for the public. Council may do the best due diligence, however there is always risk involved and the best council can do is put forth our best effort.

Steve Morgan

- Community has a great opportunity to understand the difference between reconstruction and repair.
- Am extremely upset with utility companies and if the utility has damaged a business then that business should go after the company. To suggest a project be stopped is not reasonable. We have an amount of time to spend a lot of money in the Ridgecrest Blvd. project. Not going to be allowed to stop and start again. Will do the best we can and staff will also. But staff cannot hold the hammer over the utility companies that have not worked within the city of Ridgecrest best interest. No reasonable person could say they did not know the Ridgecrest Blvd. project was going to happen and we apologize to business owners who did not understand what a reconstruction involves. If we can't get someone out of the way we still have to construct. If we delay the contractor then we will bear the cost. No other funding will come in so if there is a cost overrun by a delay of construction then the city has to come up with the money, which is not an option.

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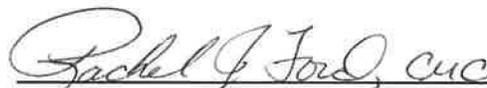
Steve Morgan *(continued)*

- Appreciate staffs efforts to work with the contractor. Staff will discuss the signage issue and the perception of a worker being lazy. Fully believe staff is doing what they can. I do not want to be involved because I trust staff to do their best and I will provide cover for staff as part of my job as a council member. Will fiercely protect staff as my duty and responsibility
- Keep coming back to the same old song and dance. Every time there is a conceptual item presented before council, whether you like it or not I firmly believe council needs to reinstate all committees where complaints are vetted and discussions could eliminate the consternation we now have in council meeting. Too many problems and comments about things we should be doing or need to modify. Need to stop, and the way to do this is let those ideas, concepts, and complaints go thru the committee process. It worked. I implore the council to reconsider a mistake made in eliminating the committees. We are hearing it at every council meeting. Exampled ideas being brought back repeatedly.
- Announced the Ridgecrest Lions Club Independence Day fundraiser. Lions Club has paid full price at Kerr McGee, June 21<sup>st</sup> bingo. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of providing every dime for fireworks for this community. Tickets are \$35.00. Suggested buying tickets and giving them to someone who wants to go. Help support the community fireworks show.

Dan Clark

- Tonight was interesting, did not know how the selection process for industrial proposals would take place. Do not think the discussion tonight could have been done at the committee level. Miss the committees at some level but this was a good and challenging discussion
- Disappointed in the attendance at the budget meetings which was the opposite of last year. Council did not want to pass the budget without Council Member Morgan's input which says a lot about the cohesiveness of this council
- Handed out veterans advisory committee brochures
- Spoke on the community garden and looking at expanding community gardens so may bring to council for further discussions.
- Commented on a rant in the new review from a gentleman on the Measure 'L' committee. He has a responsibility as a committee member to research information before he rants about it. Had a meeting in which public showed up, no decision made. Budget meetings were scheduled as a full council, not a mayoral decision. Andy has a responsibility to due diligence. Please research information before bashing the council. Offered to discuss personally with Andy.

**ADJOURNMENT at 9:55 pm**



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Rachel J. Ford, CMC  
City Clerk