



**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**

**March 5, 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 Jim Sander; Lori Acton, and Steven Morgan

Council Absent: None

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. 5

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None presented

CLOSED SESSION

- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Squillacote v. Frid, CASE NO. S-1500-CV-276362 SPC
- GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Andrew Burch-Allison Gonzalez – Claim No 14-03
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiations For Receipt and/or Sale Or Use – CATTO723-0051-0023516612 – 246 N. Gold Canyon Agency Negotiators Dennis Speer, City Manager And Gary Parsons, Economic Development Program Manager

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

Due to technical difficulties City Manager Speer began report out of closed session and Keith Lemieux completed the report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Squillacote v. Frid, CASE NO. S-1500-CV-276362 SPC, received report, no reportable action
 - Liability Claim Of Andrew Burch-Allison Gonzalez – Claim No 14-03, received report, put on prematurely and further information will be forthcoming
 - Local Agency Real Property Negotiations, received report, no reportable action.
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 6:32 p.m.

Phil Salvatore

- Opposed parks district for Ridgecrest and encouraged City to collaborate with the County to create a parks district for the entire valley by way of a collaborative or a vote of the people on an election ballot.
- Asked about future air travel at the Inyokern airport.
 - Steve Morgan – current negotiations are underway but anticipate no conclusion until next year or later. District is actively trying to get commuter flights back at the airport.

Jerry Taylor

- Commented on fundraiser of baseball associations for raising funds for the bathrooms and suggested funds received from insurance be given to the associations and allow them to build the bathrooms
- Expressed comments heard from local construction firms who were disappointed in not having the opportunity to bid on the tear down of the burned structure
 - Dan Clark asked Jerry about restrictions on gift of public funds
- Suggested clarification with attorney.
 - Lori Acton commented that she has not heard of a fundraiser
- Due to time delay in construction suggested the funds could be used by the association to rebuild restrooms.

Closed public comment at 6:37 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Presentation To The Employee Of The Month** **Clark**

Council presented a certificate of appreciation to Phillip Braem for Employee of the Month

2. **Presentation Of Employee Service Awards** **Clark**

Council presented certificates of achievement to employees Ricardo Garibay and Jeff Donnally who have attained years of service milestones.

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

Council viewed a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed petroglyph rock art festival presented by Ramon Jaime of Bakersfield Office of California Meetings and Events and Justin O'Neill.

Note: The name of the festival has been amended to '2014 Ridgecrest Petroglyph and Heritage Festival'

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Lori Acton

- Asked if BLM had been contacted as a partner
 - Ramon Jaime – Not yet
- Asked about the tie in with Friends of Jawbone
 - Ramon Jaime – considering festival promotion and visibility for Jawbone within Ridgecrest
- Asked if the 7000 attendance estimate is new visitors or combined with local residents
 - Ramon Jaime – is a combined estimate and the event is currently being shared in Los Angeles new media, National Geographic and other partner opportunities. Outlined the marketing process in the surrounding area

Steve Morgan

- Assuming that thru Maturango museum there are discussions of tours for these dates and expressed concerns about weather issues in November and the timeline of completion for the west Ridgecrest Boulevard project would be about the same weekend and if there are delays there will be a huge mess at Balsam Street.
 - Justin O'Neill – spoke on alternative parking at City Hall parking lots and will work on alternative plans.
 - Ramon Jaime – works closely with State departments regarding signage and other issues
 - Harris Brokke – mid November is typically good for tours and is currently planning 3 tours per day as well as a showing of a new video pertaining to the petroglyphs for visitors who cannot take the tour. Spoke on branding this community as a Rock Art Festival annually to draw visitors back each year. We want to be known as a destination people want to come to often. This festival will bring in new money by bringing people in by bus.
 - Dan Clark – spoke on a new section of petroglyph being opened to possibly allow 2 sites to visit.
 - Harris Brokke – the idea is to get people to remember Ridgecrest and come back again.

Steve Morgan *(continued)*

- Requested contingencies in the budget should events not raise the funds anticipated and noted Chamber of Commerce is not participating
 - Ramon Jaime – due to variables, do not have a formalized budget. Goal of fundraising with multiple organizations. Different ways of doing fundraising and gave examples of advertising and ticket sales. Trying to do everything locally with a base budget of \$50k of funds and should we fall short then will seek alternate sources. Our company has significantly reduced fees because we believe this is a positive for the community. Looking for exchanges and in-kind services. A lot of work to be done in 8 months. Not concerned about amount of time. Can do a tremendous job if we begin immediately. Believe we can pull together the funds necessary to complete this. Won't know what we need to come up with until all the partners we have talked to give a firm commitment.
- Total current request from city is \$15,000 in cash and in-kind, is that correct?
 - Ramon Jaime – not privy to that information

Jim Sanders

- Doing a good job

Chip Holloway

- Last attempt to do something close to this was a balloon festival however bad weather stopped it. Their approach to raise funds was to sell shares, what is your experience with this approach.
 - Ramon Jaime – when you have 1000 bosses nothing gets done very well. Not a usual scenario is difficult and does not allow for on-going annual support. Becomes convoluted on how to divide profits and expend the funds. Not something we would engage in.
- Previous time frame was 24-48 months and now down to 8 months, what changed
 - Ramon Jaime – powwow is already organized and carnival is turnkey. I like as much time as I can get but rarely get as much as I want. At the time there were other ideas being presented and now with the plan that has been detailed am comfortable with the time frame. Held several meetings and with the present scenario am comfortable with the timeline.
- We get one chance to make a first impression. Paring down because of what can actually be done.
 - Harris Brokke – spoke on how to make a petroglyph with sandpaper, kids of all ages can practice doing it and there are a lot of things we can do without a lot of planning. We have people ready and able to show kids how this is done.

Dan Clark

- Spoke on the powwow with the Cherokee nation and a native American encampment and several tribes are interested in participating
- Native American music by R. Carlos Nakai and many Native Americans will travel great distances to hear him play
- Short on time but have had 18 months of planning prior to receiving Ramon's expertise and have Justin's expertise from the 50th. Confident we will not have any regrets.

Little Deer Durvin

- Been doing powwows since 1993 from four winds and now the Cherokee nation.
- Have had visitors from Australia and Europe, Oklahoma, and Canada.
- This community loves powwow's and will get the word out.

Eric Bruin

- Chamber was blocked by the by-laws for providing monetary support but will continue to provide support to the community in events that brings tourism to the community
- The 50th was an incredible event which Ridgecrest received value from but feels the timeline is stretching. If going to make a serious commitment then council may want to wait till the next budget cycle
- Noble effort and applaud the persons involved but have concerns about the timeline

Harris Brokke

- Could wait to the next budget cycle then ok with that because do not need all the funding immediately

Jerry Taylor

- Clarified that item 10 was still on the agenda

Skip Gorman

- Asked about the committee meeting schedule.
 - Dan Clark – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00am
- Asked how many people attended the Cal UAS event, possibly 5000 and commented that Mother Nature was merciful.
- Expressed support and encouragement to continue with the project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. **Adopt A Resolution Requesting Authorization To Enter Into A Program Supplement Agreement No. 034-N With The State Of California, Department Of Transportation, Under Master Agreement No. 09-5385R And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Agreement For The**

Construction Of West Ridgecrest Boulevard From Mahan Street To South China Lake Boulevard Speer

5. **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 Security Gate and Lighting System At The Corporation Yard and Authorize the City Manager, Dennis Speer or His Designee to Execute all Documents to Obtain CTSGP Funding** Speer

Item No. 5 was pulled from the agenda prior to Council approving the agenda

6. **Approve Draft Minutes Of The City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated February 19, 2014** Ford

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

PUBLIC HEARING

7. **Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Establishing A Finding For Unmet Transit Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet With The Public Transportation System** Speer

Dennis Speer

- Presented the staff report as published in the posted agenda.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:34 p.m.

Phil Salvatore

- Asked for a Saturday bus from Ridgecrest to Mojave. Likes to take trains and catches the train at Mojave. A Saturday bus would make it easy to get there and if possible 6 or 7 days per week rather than the 3 days currently provided.

Dennis Speer

- Services is provided by Kern Regional and will forward comments to their unmet needs hearing

Jerry Taylor

- Commented on fare box ratio going the wrong direction, in fairness to the staff they have tried but council might want to change the service due to the fare box ratio going the wrong direction. Understand council being mandated to provide this type of service.

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Dennis Speer

- Mr. Taylor is correct with fare box ratio is impacted however this is required by Kern Council of Government. There is a 3 year demonstration period to prove the route and are encouraged to do everything we can to make this work.

Dave Matthews

- Have attended many of these hearings and in spite of the statements from Mr. Speer there are a number of needs that are not reasonable to meet but the government is running them. Spoke on experience as a child riding buses which came by the house every 20 minutes and this was the primary means of transportation. Here in the desert there are more people who are relying on the bus for transportation. Asked council to let their voice be heard that something needs to change at the government level to have an affordable bus system.

Phil Salvatore

- Drove a bus in the 60's and surprised to find that current drivers are paid less than before. Spoke on funding by user fees, tax monies. Private business won't put their money out to build a system and transportation is legitimate government tax expenditure. Related story of rail system and government should invest in transportation.

July Orozco

- Interested in seeing transportation to Bakersfield

Dennis Speer

- Currently exists thru Kern Regional 3 days per week thru Mojave to Bakersfield.

Justin O'Neill

- Have not seen a concerted marketing effort for our transit system. Numbers are down and the youth have trouble getting around but many do not even know about the system. Do not feel we get an accurate test because it is not properly marketed. First effort toward fixing this could be putting funds and more effort to marketing.

Dennis Speer

- Currently have ad's at theatre, newspaper, and radio

Tom Wiknich

- Have attended hearing. Curious about the input now that we have a deviated fixed route and how is the system working with calls for deviation?
 - Dennis Speer – have had no problems with that issue.
- Shares Justin's concern about public knowledge and suggested a full page advertisement showing the routes and where bus stops are located, preferably in color. Bus stops are hard to notice, code enforcement citations have been written and common statement is they did not see the sign. Suggested revising the signs to be more visible and a color page advertisement.

Lori Acton

- Met with Starla and became educated on the transit system.
- When catching the kern regional bus there is a very short window and they are working to correct this.
- Signs are hard to see and should be fixed
- People do not know the routes or cost so need to advertise more.
- Trends are to go to a walking community so will see increase in ridership

Chip Holloway

- Advertising does not equal marketing. We have done advertising but not entirely effective.
- Reality is it is not cool to ride the bus and the culture of the entire state is to use a car.
- During first term as a council member, if took the number of riders and divided by repeat riders we probably could have bought every rider a car with the price. In San Francisco they have a smart car system and we could spend the same amount of money with stations for rentals. Suggested petitioning Kern COG to use Ridgecrest as a test location for this concept. Would put us on the map. Will talk to Kern COG about this.

Dan Clark

- Looking at the ridership components is primarily seniors and youth. Youth will use social media as a marketing component but not seniors. Starla is here taking notes and I am willing to use social media and all other avenues to help build ridership

Jim Sanders

- Asked Mr. Speer about the bus stop location at the senior center.
 - Dennis Speer – there is a circulation issue with the larger buses traveling thru the parking lot

Closed Public Hearing at 7:57pm

Motion To Adopt A Resolution Establishing A Finding That There Were No Unmet Transit Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet Within City Of Ridgecrest Made By Council Member Morgan, Second By Council Member Acton. Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Holloway, Sanders, Acton, And Morgan), 0 Noes, 0 Abstain, And 0 Absent

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

8. Year End Budget Projections For Fiscal Year 2013-14

McQuiston

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented staff report.

Steve Morgan

- Estimate for plus on general fund is what?
 - Rachelle – \$747,000
- Measure 'L' receipts thru December 31
 - Rachelle - \$883 received so far and projected is 2.2 million
- Several things we received bid packages on or considered that we might want to put on subsequent agenda once everything is thought about. As we get good news it will lead to further discussions. Appreciate getting the numbers knowing it is just a piece.
 - Projections can sway. Would not suggest spending more than \$100k because you do not know in the coming months what will happen and if the projection will sway the other way.

Chip Holloway

- Tot we give to the 31st of the payment, hotel owners are requesting we change this to the 15th of the month. Suggested Rachelle call Doug to discuss

Dan Clark

- Clarified amounts currently collected for General Fund and Measure 'L'

Public Comment Opened at 8:04 p.m.

Phil Salvatore

- Sales tax revenues came in on projections but measure 'l' running ahead so how does this happen?
 - Rachelle – held conversation with tax assessor. Sales tax is point of sale but measure 'l' is point of delivery. Exemplified purchase of vehicle in Lancaster but deliver is Ridgecrest then only measure 'l' receives the tax while Lancaster will get sales tax.

Justin O'Neill

- Does that mean online does the same
 - Rachelle – unfortunately online is not received, example Amazon. Trying to get online to track every sale for every city is not feasible currently. Hopefully will see legislation in the future. Physical purchases of certain products are accounted for and can have muniservices come here to explain.

Tom Wiknich

- Commented on vehicle purchased in Los Angeles and requested they license the vehicle in Ridgecrest so was charged sales tax for Ridgecrest.
 - Rachelle – will see if muniservices will come to a meeting to explain to us. Need to talk to the experts.

Gary Allred

- Over 400k projected for measure 'I' will we get twice as much work on the streets
 - Rachelle McQuiston – that is a council decision. Currently have 1.1 million allocated for streets
- Commented on reserve which is not being applied towards streets
 - Rachelle – paving season has not started due to weather but should see a lot of activities in the next month

9. Discussion on Strategic Planning Priority Goals by Category

Speer

Dennis Speer

- Presented staff report.

Steve Morgan

- Prefaced commentary this is the first brush of where we may be going but have not had public input yet. We are not there yet because we have not completed the full process and changes will occur. Please do not focus on one line or word.

Public comment opened at 8:16pm

Ron Porter

- Realize this is preliminary and will move forward. Understand the need to set goals. Once a format is laid out want to be sure public will have input afterwards. Needs to come back for input on each item. Do not want to see it move forward without public comments and input.
 - Steve Morgan - This is going to be a living document and will be changed thru the public process repeatedly.
- Assuming that rather than going thru the full process every time, still want to make sure citizens get input each time something does come up.

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Phil Salvatore

- Asked about these being vetted thru committees and encouraged council to do this.

Jerry Taylor

- Already provided input to the process and hopefully will receive feedback
- If phasing out 10% then should probably phase out low-income housing. Understand senior housing. Do not feel we have a lack of low-income housing
- Suggested planning accordingly for when measure 'I' expires.

Dan Clark

- Reviewed the process and indicated which steps have not happened yet.

Steve Morgan

- Agree with Mr. Taylor on the new term for low-income is 'sustainable income strategy' so may be a change to make which will keep us in line with county and state.

Chip Holloway

- Realize this list if from staff and staff is down in numbers. Some of these prioritized goals are actually daily best practices. 9 things public safety 1&2, quality of life 2&3, (see what others he listed). Should be doing these things every day. Number 3 on finance budget and revenue there are 2 options for parks and rec district as suggested by Phil Salvatore is different from a parks and rec maintenance assessment district and would like both to be included in discussions.
- Asked about volunteer for survey from public.

Lori Acton

- Thought the social media option was already laid out.

Dan Clark

- Will proceed with social media
- Suggested first of April to hold town hall meeting which is 3 weeks to get input from public.

Steve Morgan

- Believes survey should be everywhere at least a month before holding a meeting.

Chip Holloway

- My goal was to use social media to do the same exercise staff did and allow citizens to prioritize goals

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Council held brief discussion of the timing for putting out a survey to public and gathering the results

Dan Clark

- Asked if tentative timeframe of one month is appropriate and when can report come back to council?

Chip Holloway

- Should be acceptable.

Scheduled a Town Hall Meeting for April 1, 2014 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers

Justin O'Neill

- Social media is not a perfect formula for the entire community.
- How do we get people to respond?

Dan Clark

- Social media is only one of the methods we will use and we deal with apathy daily.

Council held a discussion of the time frame regarding social media.

Chip Holloway

- Mentioned other methods such as church's, senior's etc.

Tom Wicknich

- Had that question and glad council will be using other methods

Ron Porter

- Asked about this list as being the basis for the survey
 - Dennis Speer – council can use whatever input is received by all methods and then come up with 3 goals in each category.
- Are you going to keep this list and then create a revised list from the input.

Dan Clark

- Going to put out a social and traditional media survey and then Town Hall Meeting on April 1 at 6pm to put together the information

Steve Morgan

- Asked Chip how much he was going to rely on Justin and if we keep doing this to him we need to pay him something so need to deal with it at the next meeting.

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

Dan Clark

- Presented staff report
- Provided handouts of the 50th Anniversary costs to Council and copies were available in the City Clerk's office.
- Asked Chief Strand to discuss estimates of costs for Police and PACT to assist with in-kind service for Saturday street fair and wine walk
 - Justin O'Neill – gave parameters of street fair and wine walk for estimates and discussed public safety issues, lighting, and insurance issues. There will be 3 stages with music for both events and discussing other street music.

Ron Strand

- Estimates \$2000 of in-kind

Dan Clark

- Total in-kind would be approximately \$5000 and requesting a \$10,000 monetary donation for this function.
- Increased from the previous request due to the inability of the Chamber of Commerce to provide monetary funding
- Reviewed estimates of revenues based on conservative numbers provided with the assistance of Mrs. McQuiston.
- Anticipate \$33,000 in increase sales tax
- Anticipate \$7800 in increased TOT tax
- Overall revenue should be about \$41,000 to the City.
- Have two fund raisers planned including a golf tournament similar to the 50th and a pancake breakfast.
- There are no guarantees but did raise \$17,000 for 50th and this signature event has opportunity to generate revenue for the general fund.
- Asking for \$5000 in-kind with \$10,000 cash contribution.
- Possibly could be more successful if event is pushed out another year but believes it will be successful with the months of planning already taken place.

Jim Sanders

- Glad to see a budget and have some concerns about it being part of the agenda packet.

Public comment opened at 8:52 p.m.

Jerry Taylor

- Resolution 12-72 created the tourism district allocating 2% of TOT and the wording talks about a management district plan and don't understand because the purpose of the 2% was for RACVB to do promoting for events such as these. \$200k is being generated.
- Support the event but questioned who should be paying for it.

Ron Porter

- Believe the money should come from the tourism district and also from the \$100k given to the chamber of commerce.
- Have concerns about other people who might want money for their events and not receiving it.
 - Dan Clark – chamber did refuse to fund due to their by-laws but believe the city, RACVB, and chamber should be together on this.
- Understand and by-laws can interfere but feel the chamber should be a major player in this and is right in what should be considered their function for other businesses that will receive revenues from the event
- Also question the funding not coming from TOT.

Tom Wiknich

- One comment that makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck and that is the idea of taking a volunteer and start paying him without advertising. There are a lot of volunteers in this community who may need to be paid. Make it competitive and let others try to get the position.

Justin O'Neill

- Gave numbers from TOT taxes and other costs stated during the presentation.
- City will get this money back quickly and encouraged council to act quickly to keep the momentum going within the community. Signature events have to be developed slowly and are responsible to bring in persons to help cover the costs. There are three goals which will replace the funding.

Chip Holloway

- In-depth discussion at the RACVB today with same concerns so voted to give director 2 options, either delay the event or take the advice of the expert who has spoken. So many times we seek expert advice and then don't take it and cut corners. Everybody can give an argument on both sides.
- Biggest reason to fund this is the community is hurting right now due to furloughs, budget cuts, etc. Imperative that we are in the game because we have a clear path of getting that money back into the City's coffers.

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Chip Holloway *(continued)*

- Initially concerned about supporting this but very comfortable with Ramon working on this. Only caveat is still want to give finance director and city manager to put this into the next budget FY2014-15.

Lori Acton

- Keep hearing this is not the City's job, but this is for the City to drive revenue to pave streets and fix things.
- We want to put us on the map so people will come here and spend money.
- The base is defense and as technology moves ahead they won't need as many people.
- We need to find other forms of generating revenue.
- I support this as the right thing to do.

Jim Sanders

- Asked about the average TOT without the event and what the estimated increase would be.
 - Dan Clark - TOT is down but have not reviewed the numbers
 - Chip Holloway – typically TOT is down on weekends
- Love the idea and support in-kind donations but agree with chip additional funding needs to come from next year's budget.

Steve Morgan

- Been here so many times, can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs
- This is opportunity for us to create an annual signature event.
- There will be difficulties that we do not know right now.
- I am going to support this with caveat to only use next year's budget which gives us a good idea of final numbers and where to spend money in other areas.

Motion To Approve By Minute Motion A Request For Funding And In-Kind Services In The Amount not to exceed \$15,000 and budgeted in the 2014-15 budget year For The 2014 Petroglyph Rock Art Festival Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Morgan. Motion Carried By Roll-Call Vote Of 5 Ayes (Mayor Clark, Council Members Holloway, Sanders, Acton, And Morgan); 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: 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

- Working on 501-3C
- Working on telecommunications for seniors and veterans
- This allows veterans and seniors the opportunity to correspond with County without having to travel to Bakersfield.

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

Chip Holloway

- Sent Ridgecrest brochures to Palm Springs CVB for the San Diego Trade Show held in March 2014. Brochures sent were Ridgecrest Visitor Guide (300), 2014 Wildflower Festival (Tri-Fold 300) and Death Valley National Park (booklet 400).
- Long Beach Travel Adventure Show held, February 8 and 9, 2014. Doug Lueck and Kari Hunter from RACVB as well as Harris Brokke of Maturango Museum passed out 1,800 bags with Ridgecrest information and 12,000 single hand-outs. Advised 32,000 attended for 2 days.
- Inyokern sign on Highway 14 N. in bad shape, Mike Thomas will work with sign owner to rebuild and sign owner agreed to have RACVB on rebuilt sign.
- Ordered 2 new brochure racks for Hotels/Motels as well as 1,600 Death Valley brochure information.
- February 21, 2014 Doug Lueck attended Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference "Breaking Boundaries". *It's about thinking "outside the box" and change which change can be challenging, but it can also be rewarding and fun.* It was held at Mojave Airport.
- February 27, 2014 – The 2014 IWW Economic Outlook Conference attended by Doug Lueck and Harris Brokke of Maturango Museum who shared.
- Steve Brown, Editor and Publisher from "The Sun Runner", has offered a FREE one page ad in "The Sun Runner" for the Wildflower Festival to be held April 11-13, 2014.
- March 11, 2014 Greater Palm Springs CVB welcoming 8 French tour operators on a FAM visit of California's Desert Region. As part of tour, group will stay in Ridgecrest for 1 night needing 8 rooms.
- FILMING: For month of February we had ZERO films. As of March 5, 2014, at this time 3 permits for filming and working with Elaine Hanson at BLM.
- GOING BLACK FOR APRIL Board of Directors meeting. Next Board of Directors meeting will be Wednesday, May 5, 2014, location to be determined.

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Steve Morgan

- Question regarding codification committee, have not met due to an issue with legal staff. Hoping to get legal staff to hold brief meetings prior to council and difficult getting all participants in attendance, still moving forward.
 - Keith Lemieux – asked about teleconferencing
- Is being discussed

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- West Ridgecrest Boulevard bid opening held Thursday and documents are being analyzed, appears there is a successful bidder.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lori Acton

- Asked to put current water ordinance on the agenda as ours does not match the water district ordinance. Currently in overdraft and City needs to look at our ordinance and discuss issues. Asking for first meeting of April
- Aqua-Helio is currently on hold, county is revising the EIR
- Indian wells valley sustainability plan, county hired consultants who took every water report and gave a synopsis. Have torn options of what is going to be done with the community. Important that everyone gets involved because it affects all of us.
- Lancaster made the news about their homes being net zero and they are doing well. We used to say we would be the next silicon valley so would like us to be proactive.

Jim Sanders

- Interested in discussing the water policy also.
- Attended County Supervisor meeting yesterday and listened to report on aquifer. We have been in serious overdraft for decades and now it is more critical than previously anticipated.
- Conservation alone will not solve the problem but is part of the solution.
- It is within the Council's due diligence to see what we can do to save water, be smart, but not hurt services to the city.
- All stakeholders drawing from the aquifer does not solve the issue but there are things we can do together to help solve the issues.
- Asked Council and public to bring their ideas to the meeting

Chip Holloway

- Attended executive board meeting league of California cities. SB 1262 is a medical marijuana bill which requires local control and gives priorities for obtaining a card. Spoke on support of a manufacturing facility in our area based on a tour of a pharmaceutical facility toured. Spoke on other bills that will not make it to the ballot. Do not support recreational marijuana or massage parlors issues.
- Attended the onsite energy sustainable regarding biomass and other alternative fuels and saw Ray Arthur. Fresno defunded their film commission and he is now in the wastewater department
- One technology won the innovation award in wastewater treatment that could save the city a minimum of 20 million in the new facilities.

Steven Morgan

- Recognized a contingent of Australians working at China Lake and the HOU group from Britain and will be hosting the Tornados soon. Very interesting to work an Australian C130 followed by a British C130. Reminded citizens we should be very courteous of visitors in our community
- Future meeting would like to engage state legislatures regarding the Trona Searles road which still has a portion that is gravel which is not acceptable. Need to try to have Hwy 178 be a State highway all the way to Hwy 190. Believe we need this to maintain our economy and provide a way to maintain the road.
- Would like the City Attorney at the next meeting to discuss a sole source contract for Justin O'Neill including the legalities. He has shown specific expertise that can make the case and up to now he has done a lot of work as a volunteer and believes he could be beneficial as a paid contractor.
- Each Council Member in their own way has been watchful of what has been going on with the water. The idea that we can actually do something about it vice the concept we are not doing anything is way out of line. I believe Aqua-Helio was an opportunity because if you look at the building blocks in place and take everything into consideration, if Kern County is truly going to maintain the water and Ridgecrest needs the water, LAWPD aqueduct is difficult, in my mind an opportunity exists that if we truly need to import water there is a resource with Aqua-Helio. California City will be extremely upset but there is an opportunity. We have done cash for grass projects in the past and can consider it again. When talking about the wastewater plant we have talked about having a purple pipe to utilize the reclaimed water. Now is the time to get more excited. I appreciate everything I have received from Council Members, staff, and public and it makes this part-time job more time consuming but that is why I ran for election all those years and am extremely honored this Council thought enough of me to allow me to complete Jason Patin's term. I spend 30+ hours per week keeping up to date on every issues and the rest of the council is exactly like me. I appreciate that more than anyone will ever know. Perhaps we can make new roads on these issues and it is an honor to serve with each of the Council.

Dan Clark

- Would entertain the water ordinance discussion
- Met with Sierra Sands management regarding the education component of the Petroglyph Festival and it was received well.
- Need Council's help April 26 from 8am-12pm for the golf tournament
- Elks have given commitment for pancake breakfast and will need council help serving at the event.
- Sent a vendors list and all vendors will be handmade items only.
- Board of supervisors meeting, supervisor Gleeson did come up with a \$250k funding for hard line data. Definition for urgency ordinance is 'sudden and unexpected'. Their legal staff says our water concerns do not qualify. *(Showed a graph on the water availability)*
- Supervisor Gleeson's EIR study for the hard data is great but did not get a definitive decision or action today.
- Attended PACT dinner for volunteers who gave 20,000 hours this year
- Outlook conference, festivals, rebranding and revitalization of old town were the focus and we are trying to do all three in this community
- Attended change of command and said goodbye to commander lazar
- Met Captain Wiley and feel good about his leadership
- Read a card received in the mail commending this City.
- Thanked everyone for attendance and comments

ADJOURNMENT at 9:45 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk