



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RIDGECREST CITY SUCCESSOR AGENCY,
FINANCING AUTHORITY, AND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555**

**April 1, 2015
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 Peggy Breedon; Mayor Pro Tempore James Sanders;, and Mike Mower

Council Absent: Vice Mayor Lori Acton; Council Members Eddie B. Thomas

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ADDED TO CLOSED SESSION:

- *Local Agency Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease Or Purchase - Leroy Jackson Park – Agency Negotiators City Manager Dennis Speer And Recreation Supervisor Jason Patin.*

Motion To Approve Agenda As Amended Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 3 Ayes (Mayor Breedon, Council Members, Sanders, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 2 Absent (Vice Mayor Acton; Council Member Thomas)

Council Member Thomas arrived at 5:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION

- None Presented

CLOSED SESSION

- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure Of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest

Added to Closed Session As A Needs Arose Item

- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease Or Purchase – Leroy Jackson Park – Agency Negotiators City Manager Dennis Speer And Recreation Supervisor Jason Patin

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation – Immanuel Baptist Pastor Bill Logan

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Potential litigation – report received – no reportable action taken
 - Real property negotiations – Leroy Jackson Park – report received from agency negotiator Jason Patin – no reportable action taken.
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sophia Merck

- Commented on WEMO meeting held in Ridgecrest last night
- Very small attendance, no media present
- Spoke on cooperative agreement with BLM
- Asked Council to come together regarding the CAPP
 - Mayor Breeden – commented on Council Member Acton’s attendance at the WEMO meeting and information has been provided at the front desk.

Robert Eierman

- Asked for clarification on Item No. 14, will this include Council discussion of letter of opinion from the Council?
 - Mayor Breeden - is not on for discussion tonight. Council wanted to hear the County presentation. Council wants to come back and discuss more fully after they have read and understand the proposed changes.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 3 of 23

Richard Wagoner

- Commented on handicap and employee of the year signs not visible due to trees
- 215 Ridgecrest Blvd. play
- 2 AMA motorcycle sessions on May 9.

Chip Holloway

- Advocacy consultant for chamber of commerce
- 2 letters placed in Council mail slots
- 1st letter addresses the military banner program and the need of someone to manage the program. Initial program was supported by Council with understanding the City would take over liability of program. Award winning program. City has obligation to families who have contributed and asks the program be maintained.
- 2nd letter referenced February 18 Council meeting presentation by Kosmont. Chamber of Commerce has reviewed the presentation and estimated net benefit to Council can be up to \$30,000 annually. Commented on timeline and estimates of interest rate increases. Chamber of Commerce goal is to present a bill each month no action is taken on this opportunity. Chamber encourages Council to bring item forward for decision. Commented on Measure 'L' sunset.
 - Mayor Breeden – Kosmont item has been forwarded to City Organization committee for discussion and to come back to Council. Also going to request service organizations to assist with banner program.

Ronald Porter

- Spoke on comments made at a previous Council meeting regarding the constitution.
- Quoted George Washington regarding the constitution.
- Commented on a 'Police Power' of the government
- Spoke on public nuisance.
- Reassured Council the comments were not intended to be mean, but should be appreciated.

Mike Neel

- Commented on public nuisance issue. Referenced Mr. Howard property being put into receivership and taking his property from him.
- Spoke on another resident whose property was taken from her and lost as a public nuisance when she could not afford to pay for the cleanup.
- Dave Matthews has also been served on his property as a public nuisance. Commented on his involvement with government and now is being harassed.
- Made statements about threats to old people as being unacceptable.

Jennifer Blast

- Referencing the 4-way stop at Upjohn and Downs.
- Commented on children almost being hit by vehicles.
- Typically drive back streets to avoid that intersection due to almost being hit by drivers who do not want to wait their turn.
- Commented on elementary children's size and not being visible over the hoods of cars.
- Spoke to previous Council and has been patronized by Council, staff, and Mayor.
- Charter school flyer asked children to cross at the controlled intersection, however no control exists. 12 lanes with no control.
- Commented on Facebook viral question.
- Asked what can be done before a child or adult pedestrian is killed.
 - Mayor Breeden – asked for this subject to be sent to Infrastructure Committee.
 - Dennis Speer – Stated this is a controlled intersection but the issue is an enforcement issue and will discuss with Chief Strand. Will have traffic control officers monitor the intersection at peak times.
- Invited Council to walk with daughter in the morning to see how drivers are violating the crosswalk.
 - Dennis Speer – restated this is a law enforcement issue and will discuss with the Chief.
- Commented on the lack of patrol.
- Asked if officers will sit there all day to ensure safety. Suggested a signal light with crossing guards.
- Commented on almost being hit personally.
 - Jim Sanders – hopefully the improved enforcement will create an increased awareness.
 - Peggy Breeden – encouraged community to take responsibility. If enough people are aware then will make a change. We are not here to point fingers.
- Asked about crossing guards, both Faller and Charter Schools had guards at Church and Downs that were pulled off.
 - Peggy Breeden – Assured speaker the Council will deal with it and will work on it with the schools.
- Commented on daughter calling police and response received.
 - Peggy Breeden – promised to work on it.

Judy Decker

- Spoke on water line lead on Ward Street. Cones and signs put up but the speeding of vehicles was terrible.
- Speeding on Ward Street between Downs and Norma is terrible. No posted speed limit. Stated there are Residences in the area and small children at the homes.
- Asked about speed limit surveys, should be for safety. 40 mph on Ward Street is not warranted.
 - Jim Sanders – agree with you, however State law gives City's zero discretion on posting speed limits. We go as low as we can legally go.
- No posted speed limit in that area so unsure of what the speed limit is.

Chip Holloway

- Representing Desert Valley Federal Credit Union to support the Second Annual Bite of Reality program.
- Teenagers receive financial training in a real life scenario workshop.
- Asking for volunteers to participate.
- No public or government money is funding the event.
- Asked for people to promote and volunteer for the event
- Provided contact information.
- April 25 from 9am-12pm at old town theatre.

Public Comment closed at 6:43 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Proclamation – National Sexual Assault Awareness Month Council**
 - Council presented a proclamation to representatives of the women's shelter recognizing the month of April as National Sexual Assault Awareness month
- 2. Proclamation – National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month Council**
 - Council presented a proclamation to representatives of the women's shelter recognizing the month April as National Child Abuse Prevention And Awareness month
- 3. Proclamation – Week of the Young Child Council**
 - Council instructed Clerk to mail proclamation to representatives recognizing the Week Of The Young Child

4. Proclamation – Honoring Ridgecrest Citizens – Bill & Marilyn Porter
Council

 - Council presented a proclamation to Bill and Marilyn Porter honoring them for their service to the City of Ridgecrest and community

5. Presentation Of ‘Green Business’ Awards From Waste Management And Council To Local Businesses Successfully Participating In The Recycling Program
Parsons

 - Council and Josh Mann of Waste Management presented award certificates to business successfully participating in the recycling program.

CONSENT CALENDAR

6. Adopt A Resolution Approving The Program Supplement Agreement No. 039-N With The State Of California, Department Of Transportation, Under Master Agreement No. 09-5385R And Authorizing The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Agreement For The South China Lake Boulevard Project From Bowman Road To College Heights Boulevard
Speer
7. Adopt A Resolution Approving The Use Of Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, And Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) Funds In The Amount Of \$6,273.00 To Purchase An Access Control System And Computer Tablets For The City Of Ridgecrest Transit Division And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Allocation Request And Accept The Funding
Speer
8. Adopt A Resolution Approving The Use Of Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, And Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) Funds In The Amount Of \$193,510.00 To Purchase Buses For The City Of Ridgecrest Transit Division
Speer
9. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Authorizing The Application For Federal Funding Under The Federal Transit Act (FTA) Section 5311 (49 U.S.C. Section 5311) With The California Department Of Transportation And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign And File The Application And Have His Or Her Designee To Execute All Documents To Obtain 5311 Funding
Speer
10. Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Notice Of Completion And Authorizing The City Clerk To File The Notice Of Completion For The Civic Center Lighting Project
Speer

11. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Special Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated March 14, 2015 Ford

12. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated March 18, 2015 Ford

Items Pulled From the Consent Calendar

- No's 6 and 8

Motion To Approve Item Nos. 7, 9, 10, 11 And 12 Of The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Acton)

Item No. 6 Discussion

Richard Wagoner

- Asked about the total project
 - Dennis Speer – explained project location
- Asked about funding breakdown
 - Dennis Speer – explained engineering and construction authorizations.

Motion To Approve Item No. 6 Of The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Thomas, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Acton)

Item No. 8 Discussion

Richard Wagoner

- Commented on the cost of each bus and current bus condition still being in good condition.
- Asked about the need for new buses and why each bus cost is so high.
 - Dennis Speer – explained the 25% spare bus ratio required by department of transportation. These two buses will replace the two old buses from spare fleet
 - Eddie Thomas – asked what the buses would be equipped with
 - Dennis Speer – complied.

Item No. 8 Discussion (continued)

Motion To Approve Item No. 8 Of The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Acton)

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

13. Discussion and Minute Motion Authorizing Staff To Prepare And The Mayor To Sign A Letter Of Support Of The Recent Proposal Submitted By Terra-Gen Power LLC To Be Considered In The 2015-2016 Transmission Planning Process To Board Of Governors Breeden

Mayor Breeden

- Presented staff report

Jim Sanders

- Commented on discussion with SCE while on Planning Commission because of low transmission capability.

Public Comment

Tom Wiknich

- Asked if this would upgrade the power system in the valley
 - Peggy Breeden – offers opportunity with transmission line that we can tie into at any time.
- Commented on solar facilities being built on Highway 14.
 - Lorelei Oviatt – responded the solar is for LAPWD. Inyo and Kern County have not been able to take advantage of the energy available. Pleased to see this on the agenda and more pressure on Los Angeles

Motion To Approve Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Acton)

14. Kern County Planning Department Presentation Of The Draft Indian Wells Valley Land Use Management Plan By Lorelei Oviatt Alexander

Matthew Alexander

- Presented staff report

Lorelei Oviatt

- Presented overview of the Indian Wells Valley Land Use Management Plan
- Reviewed the 4 parts of the plan
- Reviewed the recommendation being presented to the Board of Supervisors.
- Response to comments has been released.
- No changes to airport land use compatibility plan, not adopting the ACUSE. GIS notifications regarding air noise will be provided to properties. Early communication between developers and China Lake helps projects.
- Recommending Ridgecrest ordinance be adopted for water.
- Recommending zoning language change to provide that a dust issue is a nuisance and violation of the zoning ordinance.
- Commented on water use suggestions, comments received, and personal planning sessions.
- Recommend leaving active agriculture as is. Based on realtor feedback. Have asked for more robust economic strategy for the valley. DOD opportunity grant applied for at Fresno to assist. Want to attract new business to Ridgecrest.
- A1 property of 5 acres and under not recommended for change as developed.
- Over 1100 acres of undeveloped agriculture land, over 5 acres and zoned as A1, is recommended to change to state residential and RS zoning. Creates a smaller gap of overage to safe yield water use by 2012.
- Rezone open space to correct maps. Designated 1.1 which is federal.
- Land use plan needs to be done now to comply with CEQA. If not, would be holding up ground water sustainability plan progress and would be under the dictatorship of a state board.
- In future, EIR can be used by landowners who want to change their property zoning changed.
- On Friday staff report will be released. Hard copies will be sent to City Planner and City Clerk and will be available online. Matrix will be different. Public can verify the recommendations by viewing the report.
- Will be heard by board on April 28. Recommendation will be for continuance to May 13 boards meeting in Ridgecrest beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- Board will take public comment and will continue to May 19 meeting.
- Appreciate the time public and elected officials have given to the process. Recommendations reflect hundreds of hours of personal discussions with landowners and citizens.
- Commented on board of supervisors having never traveled to a community to hear a rezoning ordinance. This is important to them.

Peggy Breeden

- Expressed concern for Economic Development, are any properties being changed from agriculture to industrial.
 - Lorelei – has been reduced to a small handful and most of these are contiguous to Inyokern.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 10 of 23

Jim Sanders

- Thanked Lorelei for her time coming here on several trips to hear the comments.
- Questioned undeveloped property over 5 acres currently A1 changes.
 - Lorelei – majority will be zoned residential with RS
- Is state land allowed to do profit projects?
 - Lorelei – with conditional use permit. Exemplified commercial pistachio or horse boarding businesses.
- Asked about financial limits before obtaining a permit
 - Lorelei – no, commercial requirement regardless of profit. Not required for someone selling eggs unless they put out a sign and someone complains.

Keith Lemieux

- Clarified conditional use permit and requirement to show water availability.
 - Lorelei – Briefly outlined the process.
- Questioned scenario of undeveloped land putting in a pistachio farm and sinking a well and whether this would satisfy for a conditional use permit.
- Commented on landowner rights in a non-adjudicated basin.
 - Lorelei – conditional use permit is under the discretion of the County. Agree that if someone wants to put a house and plant trees for their own use, they can get a well permit. Groundwater Management Sustainability Agency will require environmental determination for water supply.
- Appreciate the need to protect the resource and wants to talk more about the CUP.
 - Lorelei – not recommending a CUP, recommending change to ERS and if they want to sell the property for a pistachio grove the new owner would have to go thru the process, which is their choice.

Mike Mower

- Clarified public land will be zoned open space.
 - Lorelei – Searle’s Valley agreed to have their land zoned open space.
- Asked about 4-H club activities
 - Lorelei – allowed in A1 and A.

Eddie Thomas

- Asked about zero scape ordinance
 - Lorelei – this is the same ordinance implemented by Indian Wells Valley Water District.

Mike Mower

- Commented as a contractor and lawn restrictions in the front yard. Asked about landscaping for rural area residential.
 - Lorelei – responded.

Public Comment

Dave Matthews

- Questioned zero scape ordinances and suggested County make this suggestible rather than mandatory.
- Talked about the dust issue from past dry winter and fall seasons with wind. Part of the reason we have dust is no water, suggested including dust mitigation.

Speaker

- Asked about the EIR and the TODD engineering report.
- Commented on the TODD engineering report being flawed.
- Based on assumption models and not the facts.
- Spoke on Dr. Austin and Dr. Miller previous work and studies of the water.
- Commented on having lived under communism.
- Commented on Coso Geo Thermal Plant being built on Dr. Austin's studies.
- Naval Base is living on Dr. Austin's findings yet the TODD report does not include his findings.
- Asked County to not change people's lives based on assumptions, but base on fact.

Lorelei Oviatt

- Zoning ordinance changes do not address dust but does address people who take actions on their property that scrapes up dust.
- CEQA allows EIR to provide experts. Have been conservative with opinion and have included comments received.
- Commented on Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission having discretion to choose the experts they will support.
- Will be further studies and hydrology analysis. Respectfully disagree that the EIR was based on anything but the most current science.

Robert Eierman

- Agree with City Attorney.
- When this goes to federal court, which it will, they depend on facts. Agree the TODD report is far from fact.
- Referred to the David Williams report from 2004.
- TODD report did not summarize the previous studies and is not scientific.
- TODD report was commissioned and paid for by the County so may not be viewed as independent.
- In 2005 statement was that we had 160 years of water in this valley at the current usage. Statement made by Harvey Rose, Mayor Holloway, Supervisor McQuiston, Base BRAC Command, Tom Mullvehill, Mayors Clark, Carter, and Morgan, 3 water District Board Members.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 12 of 23

Robert Eierman (*continued*)

- Have to consider all these people as liars and perjures. Choose not to do this. This is a rush to judgment and County needs to slow down, stop this plan, and back up.
- 8 years later the same statement was made.
- David Williams report read.
- Going to lose when this goes to court because it isn't based on science.
- What will happen when you create a community that is running out of water?
- Asked County to stop, research, and come up with something. Don't take away people's property rights and embroil us in a long drawn out water rights battle.
 - Lorelei – stands behind the EIR.

Tom Wiknich

- Asked about the TODD report addressing water export.
- Owns 175 acres with conditional use permit, will this change?
 - Lorelei – nothing affected on conditional use permit and all import/export of water in Inyokern and Trona was included in the EIR.

Tom Mulvehill

- While did appear in the BRAC hearing was not as a hydrologist and did not make statements about water availability.
- Made statements about the water district equipment and water infrastructure.

Don Decker

- Thanked Lorelei for coming here and commented on the comments made.
- Spoke on water availability.
- Reviewed definition of overdraft.
- Spoke on hydrology of the Black Mountains and past mapping and reports.
- Referenced AB303 study and commented on the estimated age of the water currently being pumped.
- Commented on 1912 geologist report from Dr. Lee that found the valley water was in decline at that time.
- Inyo and Kern Land Company formed organization to attempt to obtain water from the Mono Basin in the late teens and early 20's. LADWP successfully obtained the water.
- Spoke on where the 160 year number came from. In order to reach that number you must exercise water conservation and no agriculture. This was the most optimistic number possible.
- TODD report is accurate summary of existing literature. Only criticism is the report is overly conservative. Present day climate is dryer than the early part of the last century when Lee said we had 11,000 acre ft. of pumping. If drying trend continues our recharge will go to zero.
- Commented on poison canyon flow being down to a trickle.

Nick Panzer

- Plan outline takes important step in direction of supporting mission of the yet to be established Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- Agency will make an evaluation about recharge. There will be occasions to make statements.
- Leave this to the GSA to make the factual determination and strongly support the County's plan and encourages Council to do the same.

Mike Neel

- Provided technical background from career.
- Spoke on Antenna design.
- Commented on scope of knowledge changing due to trial and error and expertise of other designers.
- A lot of people don't know much about hydrology, others may know more but we are all affected.
- Because everyone is affected, then need to learn as much as possible and move forward.
- Questioned how we govern future water use in the valley. That is the ultimate goal.
- This has been debated for the past 60 years and those who have studied it have a lot to lend to this situation
- Encouraged we not move on this right now.
- Commented on future debates and studies that will be made.
- Stated that at this time we are impacting the rights of present landowners.
- When you take zoning away from the landowner, it is the same as taking a piece of the car and changing their capability to use the property the way they intended to use it when it was purchased.
- Don't have much God given rights left. Multiple things going on now that are removing rights from people.
- Suggested that once the government finds out they can come in and take property based on a supposed crisis, and then people might as well just sign their deeds over because it will continue to happen.
- Requested the process have more time, not in an immediate crisis. There is time to do this the right way. Taking people's rights away is not the right way.

Don Zebeda

- Clarified comment attributed to him by Mr. Eierman. Did make the comments but what was not stated is the remainder of the comment is we have water now but well levels are dropping.
- Do we want to wait until it is a crisis or take action now and try to address it?
- Commented on the 160 year figure, the table has 3 categories with several options. Where we are today in comparison to the table we only had 60 years so only have roughly 40 years left.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 14 of 23

Wes Castistan

- Report given last week with water levels in 17 private wells, not production wells, which have all been going down.
- TODD report includes private and production wells which are all going down.
- Thanked County for their efforts to take a step in the direction to solve the problem.
- Commented about paperwork filed by pistachio farmer was wanted to cooperate and the attorney filed paper stating the farmer had all rights including water rights prior to the water district.
- Researched water rights in the State of California. Water belongs to the State of California. Water is settled in the courts and Water District did not have rights to the water being exported.
- If you have been exporting water for 20 years or more then you now have rights to the water. Rights will be determined by the courts and believe the GSA needs to be put into place now.
- Can't imagine any engineer moving to this valley if they did not see the community getting on board with the problem of declining well levels.

Judy Decker

- Former board member.
- Lorelei has done a wonderful job
- Commented on the TODD report being tasked with studying all published data.
- Commented on holes being drilled by several agencies and the Navy.
- Commented on statements of excessive amounts of recharge and stated there is no data supporting the excessive recharge.
- Suggested people look up the data themselves.
- Thanked Council.

Renee Westalusk

- Questioned how the changes made to the EIR stop commercial agriculture from buying small parcels and combining to larger agriculture farms.
- Commented on dust bowl conditions during wind events.
- Asked Council to stand up for citizens in the City limits because our property and water rights are at stake.
- Land use plan is essential for the groundwater sustainability plan to keep the state from making the decision for us.
 - Lorelei – commented on possibility of the Agriculture merging smaller properties and the state having the power to restrict pumping.

Carol Vaughn

- Commented on difficulties getting accurate maps and understanding zoning code.
- Manufacturing map seems to be haphazard so no idea where the commercial and manufacturing zoning will be. Very confusing
- Commented on estate 80 zoning making that property worthless with one house on 80 acres.
- Haven't seen enough of a map to know where everything is going to be located.
- Think we should have had time to look at this and property owners have a right to know what is happening.
- People do not understand their zoning is being changed. Meet someone every day that does not understand. Too much too soon.
- Have not allowed enough time to reach everyone. Letters have not done the job they were meant to do.
- Commented on most recent letter received. This is too much, too quickly. Understand about the water but the land use and conditional use permits needs more time.
- Need to know what the zonings are, what they mean, and how they will affect people.
 - Lorelei – commented on the map. Every APN has been combined in a matrix. Reviewed the recommendations again. Reviewed the planning process. E80 and E40 have been taken out. Proposing people can still have 4 lots with parcel map. Everything being done will be in the staff report on Friday and available online. This has been an open and robust information effort. If people have questions they should ask the planning department and not the neighbor. Request people disseminate, look at the staff report, call the planning commission office, and weigh in if you like your property as it is.

Sophia Merck

- Live in the County and did not get a white or blue notice.
- County's effort in trying to get a GSA going in this community is something we need to work on.
- Need to work on being better neighbors to each other. Help each other.
- Exposed to the Baja Sustainability Plan which showed how people worked together to get it done.
- Lorelei has done an amazing job getting comments and responding to the comments. Staff has been kind and understanding.
- Water level is declining. Let's try to help each other.
- Dust is a problem and instead of using water to keep dust down, perhaps large scale mowing.

Tom Wiknich

- Asked if this plan would take into account the southern pacific railroad going thru the valley. Tried to do parcel map and County sent money back because the abandonment of rail easement is not recognized.
 - Lorelei – interested in re-examining the issue.

Peggy Breeden

- Will write a response and bring back to next Council for discussion.

5 minute recess

15. Discussion And Approval Of A Broadband Action Team

O'Neill

Justin O'Neill

- Presented staff report

Mike Mower

- Appears to be open ended agreement
 - Dennis Speer – explained open ended agreement for consulting to a CAP not to exceed \$26,000 per year.
- Asked about billing to date.
 - Justin - \$2300 this fiscal year
- Asked about hourly rate comparison
 - Justin – explained fair market value comparison, weighted with match for comparable groups. Initially waited after the summit while developing a plan. Have to start at the beginning, see what we want and then create a strategy.
- Have concerns and the CAP answers the concerns.

Jim Sanders

- What committee can be used to receive reports of activities?
 - Justin – can't report to Dennis
 - Dennis – contract is directly with Council but can be delegated to a committee
 - Mike Mower – suggested City Organization committee would be appropriate.
 - Keith – suggested the reporting be part of the motion.

Eddie Thomas

- Questioned the contract provisions
 - Dennis – explained contract and Council abilities to renew, release or assign projects.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 17 of 23

Jim Sanders

- Asked about the marketing and connecting options.
 - Justin – reviewed broadband and grant programs.

Mike Mower

- Asked about costs to tap into Digital 395 for a business.

Justin O'Neill

- Looking to develop policies and making broadband a utility like water and electric.
- Commented on China Lake recruiting young engineers and broadband is hard to get. Digital 395 is among the most sophisticated networks out there.
- Other technologies such as point-to-point
- This Council can establish policies that help deploy broadband with future development and street repairs.
- Now skirting the line between private and public.

Jim Sanders

- What can be done with internet service providers
 - Justin – frustrating for business and public. Encourage as much competition as possible. Mediacom plans on tapping Digital 395 but there have been past promises that have not developed. Exemplified problems that should be addressed with businesses.
- Market strategy would involve courting new providers.
 - Justin – correct.

Peggy Breeden

- 15-20 people get together monthly to try and get this to happen.
- This is an opportunity for economic development and if we don't take advantage then shame on us.
- Need to be leaders and make this happen.
- If we don't do anything then nothing will happen. Then we will complain about not having any technology here.

Public Comment

Dave Matthews

- Proposing a team but not mention of how it will be developed.
- Digital 395 was built by grant but wondering who owns it.
 - Justin – several people have been identified who have already been working on this. California broadband cooperative is a public entity with 9 members and are the managing group of Digital 395.
- Does this group have a charter showing what they will provide?
 - Justin – this is done with a lot of reporting to CPUC.
 - Mike – funded by the state and a consortia put together to control it.
 - Justin – clarified the needs of each City and County so the goals are different. State empowered local regional leadership.

Mike Neel

- Questioned the funding for the contract and if it carries over annually.
 - Dennis – 30 day renewal notification same as several other consultant contracts. Renew automatically unless notice is given and then payment is billed on an as needed basis.
- Is funding carried over
 - Dennis – stays in the general fund and annually re-established with the budget.
- Referenced the creation of this position. Pitched as a position to market the City to the City. Improve communication between the government and the community. Spoke on economic development being tossed into the duties. To date nothing has been done with the original concept.
- A lot of boilerplate language including misspellings and grammatical errors. Don't understand why we need a broadband policy for the City. If the backbone is here and the users want the service. Taxpayers paid for the trunk to come here and are now waiting to be used. Smart business owners will jump onto it. City only has to worry about its policies for cutting streets and trenches. What is unique about broadband that would need to be addressed? Follow the same processes already established with the City.
 - Dennis – at this time no one is accessing Digital 395. Need to engage with the individuals who are knowledgeable about the system and then come back to the Council with information on how to tap into this.
- Are people really not thinking about using this?
 - Justin – yes. Outreach to facilities to small businesses, there is a disruption to knowledge and costs. Talking about policies to deploy the broadband.
 - Peggy Breeden – referenced conversation with Earl Ferguson. Explained new construction having the ability to install broadband same as other utilities increases the value of the building.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 19 of 23

Mike Neel *(continued)*

- Justin – clarified the businesses that are connected and some have paid to connect.
- Those identified are large agencies. Questioned if you are now trying to get the small end user. Most small users and businesses already have what they need. Trying to push this on small end users, have concerns about getting them to buy in.
 - Peggy – commented on concerns that have been expressed by businesses that want to come to Ridgecrest and without broadband they don't want to come here.
 - Justin – as a business might not be aware of the tools that will suck up the broadband. Outreach will assist this. The internet changes and the investments we make now will put us on the forefront for this community to attract these businesses.
- Commented on small businesses being specific type to want to come here. Those that want to can come here now and be fine.

Dave Matthews

- Asked if the numbers quoted were firm.
 - Justin – no but will get the numbers.
- What do you mean by point-to-point service.
 - Justin – clarified how the technology travels from providers thru wireless. Similar to a wireless router.

Motion To Approve The Proposal As Amended To Direct Regular Reporting To The City Organization And Services Committee Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Acton)

16. Discussion And Approval Of A Quality Of Life Cooperative

O'Neill

Justin O'Neill

- Presented staff report

Peggy Breeden

- Have attended 4 meetings and the Admiral has called this a Community/Navy Cooperative
- Important for the Navy to participate in this as a way of keeping the young engineers in the area.
- Quality of Life is important for the young professionals to desire to stay here.
- Doesn't cost us a lot and will bring income to the City and empower the City.
- If we are willing to do this it will keep them here.
- Talked about how we don't let people know what we have to offer here.

MINUTES – RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - REGULAR

April 1, 2015

Page 20 of 23

Justin O'Neill

- Talked about what generation 'Y' desires.
- Marketing and branding then delivering in the way the Gen Y want to see it.
- Trying to change the trend of people leaving town on the weekends.

Dennis Speer

- Entire meeting was community oriented and the primary concern was retention

Public Comment

- None Presented

Jim Sanders

- Requested clarification of the scope of work.
- Mayor Breeden and Dennis Speer are currently attending these meetings.

Justin O'Neill

- As opportunities occur then can develop them but for right now would be attending the meetings for assessment.
- Assist with marketing, analyze opportunities, and develop events.

Jim Sanders

- Thought process is that as specific projects are found then can assign to Justin to develop. Council can attend meetings.
 - Justin – am very busy so fine with not attending meetings, however getting information second hand and hearing dialogue where may hear an opportunity that needs explored can be beneficial.

Mike Mower

- Questioned if this would report to Quality of Life
 - Dennis – suggested City organization as a tie in to economic development. These meeting they are brainstorming and strategic planning to establish what is needed. Think someone in the age group for what they are planning is important at this point in time.

Peggy Breeden

- Do not see this being a long term commitment. Once things get started then see Justin moving more into the marketing level.

Eddie Thomas

- Clarified funding source

Jim Sanders

- Without this plan, would you be able to execute the broadband with the money in the contract. If this comes at the expense of the broadband then not interested in this project.

Justin

- Hopefully this will be proven as an economic development driver. Eventually other agencies such as chamber of commerce and RACVB will be involved.

Motion To Approve As Amended To Report To The City Organization And Services Committee Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Acton)

17. Budget Strategy Overview

Speer

Dennis Speer

- Presented staff report *(PowerPoint Presentation Available In The City Clerk's Office)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Lori Acton; Mike Mower
Meeting: 4th Wednesday each month at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Council Conference Room B

Mike Mower

- Elected Lori Acton as chair and Mike Mower elected as Vice
- Agenda item request to discuss possible refinance options

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Jim Sanders; Mike Mower
Meeting: 2nd Thursday each month at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Council Conference Room B

Jim Sanders

- Discussed TAB funding allocations at the last meeting.
- Agenda item request for next meeting development impact fees for health care facility.
- Agenda item request Possible funding for downs street project

❖ **Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee**

Members: Jim Sanders; Peggy Breeden
Meeting: 1st Monday each month at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room B

Jim Sanders

- Next meeting announced
- Wayne Lemieux will call in to discuss groundwater sustainability act
- Agenda Item request for well measurements

Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee

Members: Eddie Thomas; Lori Acton
Meeting: 1st Tuesday each month at 12:00 p.m.
Location: Kerr-McGee Center Meeting Rooms

- No Report

❖ **Ad Hoc Youth Advisory Council**

Members: Eddie Thomas
Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of each month, 12:00 p.m.
Location: Kerr-McGee Center Meeting Rooms

- No Report

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

Members: Eddie Thomas; Lori Acton
Meeting: 3rd Tuesday each month at 4:00 p.m.
Location: Kerr McGee Center Meeting Rooms

- No Report

Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)

Members: Lori Acton and Eddie Thomas
Meetings: 1st Wednesday Of The Month, 8:00 A.M.
Next Meeting: To Be Announced

Eddie Thomas

- Read directors report
- Announced next meeting

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Peggy Breeden

- Attended Kern COG and will provide report in writing
- Next meeting will present overview of groundwater sustainability act

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Attended TAC meeting in Bakersfield and call for project under RSTP and CMAQ. Will be applying.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mike Mower

- Will be gone next week
- Thought County's presentation was excellent and they answered all questions brought up in our special meeting of March 14.
- Asked about crossing guard at the intersection

Eddie Thomas

- Thanked staff for getting light installed
- Thanked Council members and community for cards and prayers thru recent health situation
- Thanked community member for bringing to Council attention the situation at 4-way stop. Impressed with her tenacity and proud Council feels that burden and is committed to not giving up.

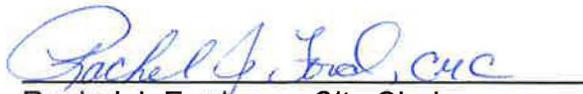
Jim Sanders

- Felt the conversation with the County was productive
- New recommendations addressed the concerns
- Hope someday we are called to answer before the committee and can say that we were part of helping solve the problem with the aquifer. Bothers me that some people are so willing to let future generations deal with an even bigger problem. The goal is to solve the problem.

Peggy Breeden

- Thanked everyone who came out. Have heard numerous people speak but had only heard one side of the story. Grateful to hear some other viewpoints.

ADJOURNMENT at 11:06 p.m.


Rachel J. Ford, CMC, City Clerk