



**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**

**August 19, 2015
5:00 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 – 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Present: Mayor Peggy Breeden; Mayor Pro Tempore James Sanders; Vice Mayor Lori Acton; Council Members Eddie B. Thomas, and Mike Mower

Council Absent: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Moved the following two litigation matters from closed session to next meeting
 - GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Cameron Rainwater v. City Of Ridgecrest et al.
 - GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of William Johnson – Claim No. 15-05

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (Closed Session)

- None Presented

CLOSED SESSION

- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Cameron Rainwater v. City Of Ridgecrest et al.
- GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of William Johnson – Claim No. 15-05
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease or Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 34, 35, and 36 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 29 and 30 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 22 and 46 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease or Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 5 and 6 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease – Tract Map #1771, A Portion Of APN # 419-073-16 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Cameron Rainwater v. City Of Ridgecrest et al.
 - Pulled prior to approval of agenda
 - GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of William Johnson – Claim No. 15-05
 - Pulled prior to approval of agenda
 - GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease or Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 34, 35, and 36 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
 - No Reportable Action Taken

- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 29 and 30 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
 - No Reportable Action Taken
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 22 and 46 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
 - No Reportable Action Taken
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease or Sale – Parcel Map #10819 Lots 5 and 6 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
 - No Reportable Action Taken
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease – Tract Map #1771, A Portion Of APN # 419-073-16 – Agency Negotiator Economic Development Program Manager Gary Parsons
 - No Reportable Action Taken
- Other
 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT (*Regular Session*)

Christina Witt

- Poker Run raised \$4100 for 'Remember the Fallen'.
- Commented on Parks Website hours and exhibit August 31-September 12. Concerned about citizens being able to view the exhibit on normal days off. Wants to ensure ample time for people to view and leave notes.
- Wants to make sure the Kerr McGee center is open for the vigil and parade of 1000 flags.
 - Dennis Speer – will work with staff for accommodations.

Dave Matthews

- Commented on Water Ad Hoc summary of meeting in the Daily Independent and removal of trees in Medians.
- Referenced Biology and green plants expelling Carbon Dioxide. Expressed concern about removal of landscaping and taking away all green.
- Cautioned removing trees and later regretting the action.
- Commented on replanting and clear cutting and the value of trees which provide shade in the hot weather.

Red Benson

- Reiterated Christina Witt's comments and concerns about the Kerr McGee Center hours for viewing the exhibit for 'Remember the Fallen'
- Local advertisements and China Lake public relations have concerns about center being open for the parade and on 9/11 candle light vigil
- Referenced Lancaster law enforcement and motorcycle club who will be coming to escort the exhibit.
 - Lori Acton – volunteered to personally come down to keep the doors open.

Sophia Merck

- 5:30 p.m. tomorrow night public utilities commission hearing regarding broadband rights at the Marriot. Encouraged public to attend.

Andy Anderson

- Announced Ridgecrest Exchange Club, sponsor of the parade of 1000 flags, offering a donation of \$25.00 engraved dog tag on each flag honoring a fallen hero. Contact exchange club for application form.

Eric Bruin

- Desert Valley Credit Union has LED upgrade as result of EH Group.
- Projects developed for 2016 and 2017 to advance toward a renewable energy footprint by 2018.
- Already experiencing up to a \$9000 annual savings.
- Commented on possibilities of \$10,000 grant with a \$1,000 match from the business can help with reductions in energy and business will additionally receive energy rebates.
- Invited Council to visit facility to see the upgrades to the lighting.
 - Lori Acton – questioned whether the lighting is following the dark skies.
- Highlighted the light effects and guarantees.
- Cost values and opportunities for businesses. Light is cleaner and brighter

Justin O'Neill

- Desert Valley Board Member and testified to the cost savings and encouraged Council to continue with the grant program.
- Spoke on broadband survey and announced locations citizens can go to for filling out and submitting the survey.
- Looking to get an idea of internet usage in the valley.
- Referred to the CPUC hearing and encouraged citizens to attend.
- Encouraged everyone to participate in the survey.
 - Peggy Breeden – speakers only have 3 minutes to speak at the CPUC hearing.
 - Lori Acton – need a good turnout. The more stories citizens can bring the better for our community.

Peggy Breeden (speaking as a citizen)

- Want to tell citizens of something and be fair and honest.
- Have repeatedly heard how City was not using water responsibly.
- Jason Patin requested to give presentation which he did.
- Met with Jason Patin and Randy Brown to find out why we are watering the way we do.
- Two parks on IWV Water and are being watered exactly as the ordinance requires.
- All other parks are on wells. Quoted participants in parks and exampled Freedom Park. Provided handouts for the public.
- Read prepared statement regarding park usage and watering requirements.
- Spoke on Council reviewing options for xeriscaping.
- Encouraged public to talk to Mayor and staff rather than posting on internet.
- Asked if community wanted staff to stop watering.
- Provided photos of families enjoying the parks.
- Parks are for the community.

Sophia Merck

- Appreciate what the committee is trying to do with water sustainability.

Jerry Taylor

- Asked if water meters are installed on the wells
- Asked if micro-climate water systems have been installed.
- Units are down to around \$200 and connect to the home system and reads the weather conditions and soil to water smartly.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Presentation Of Certificates Of Achievement To Members Of The IWV Youth Baseball Pony Division Team** Council
- Council presented individual certificates of achievement to members of the IWV Youth Baseball Pony Division All Star Team recognizing their successful season placing 2nd in the division.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. **Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving Authorization To Award A Construction Contract To CS Legacy Construction Inc. For The Construction Of Improvements To The Existing Public Works Corporate Yard Site Improvements And For The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Execute The Contract** Speer

- Loren Culp – confirmed the second bidder had made an error in their mobilization costs.

Mike Mower

- Asked for clarification of account numbers
 - Dennis Speer – these are special sources of funding which must be reported to the State and are identified so accounting can distribute the funds as required.
 - Tyrell Staheli – explained the funding sources. Will put down account description in future.

Motion To Approve Item No. 2 Of Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Acton, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

8. **Discuss And Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving Budget Amendment #16-01 Adjusting Appropriations And Estimated Revenues In The Annual Budget** Staheli

Dennis Speer

- Presented Staff Report and purpose to balance the budget.
- Departments were requested to provide proportionate cuts
- Option for Council to consider will be presented by Finance Director

Tyrell Staheli

- Reviewed PowerPoint explaining current finance system and budget module.
- Reporting software, COGNOS which pulls data from budget module.
- Reviewed spreadsheets used to develop the current budget and problems discovered upon entering spreadsheet data into the system.
- Identified shortfalls and how they occurred.
- Reviewed approved budget as allocated to various departments
- Reviewed funds that cannot be cut.
- Reviewed other funding sources including Measure 'L', Redevelopment; Engineering
- Reviewed General Fund appropriations which were used for cuts to balance the budget.
- Proposed deferring new financial system for one year and then each division amounts were cut proportionally.
- Rather than lay off employees we would rather defer financial system for one year. Have experience with current system and feel can use this year. System is old but has had periodic upgrades.
 - Mike Mower – asked the age of system

Tyrell Staheli *(continued)*

- Eddie Thomas – asked if the system was the reason for the deficit
 - Tyrell- system is old and was not originally used for this budget, once data input errors were discovered in the spreadsheets.
- Peggy Breeden – system is antiquated. Were the errors due to the system or lack of knowledge of the system?
- Eddie Thomas – asked how hard it would be to receive reports if information is requested.
 - Tyrell – depends, some reports are already written, others may take a couple hours to write the first time.
- Lori Acton – this is an old system but is helpful that Tyrell knows the system and can get the right information.
- Jim Sanders – asked about the impact to each department.
- Proposed reductions reviewed and highlighted certain cuts proposed.
- Reviewed two options for Police Department.
 - Jim Sanders – requested clarification of Measure ‘L’ carryover.
 - Peggy Breeden – make sure we understand the carryover was allocated but not expended immediately due to project timelines.
 - Lori Acton – questioned Measure ‘L’ funds that were leveraged to fund streets.
 - Peggy Breeden – asked where the other cuts came from.
- Only people cut was from police department and the unfilled planning intern.
 - Peggy Breeden – asked about services and the impact.
- Not in general fund or finance, possibly in Parks and Recreation.

Jason Patin

- Gave overview of cuts made to the Parks and Recreation budget.
- Most cuts came from capital improvement projects and contingency funds for facilities and medians; equipment purchases; extra parks maintenance.
- Do not believe any programs or services will be impacted.
 - Lori Acton – is there a way to use TAB funds for capital improvements.
- Should be alright without using TAB funding. Will always have the issue with contingency for facilities.
 - Peggy Breeden – asked about xeriscape improvements and pushing these back for one year.
- Other monies for projects but general fund dollars won’t be as much as we hoped.
 - Peggy Breeden – what is going to make next year better.
 - Tyrell Staheli – won’t have the county payment but will still be significant shortage. Some forecast for growth in sales tax according to tax accountant.
 - Lori Acton – asked if we are also looking at shift to property taxes and fire contract.
 - Tyrell Staheli – new businesses and County discussions as well as economic development opportunities.

Jason Patin *(continued)*

- Peggy Breeden – do you see maintenance deferred costing more in the long run due to the deferment? Want to make sure we don't defer maintenance that will cost twice as much next year.
- Spoke with maintenance supervisor and believe his projections. Still going to do what we do, not going to stop maintaining. Only talking about capital improvements like repainting buildings and upgrades.
 - Jim Sanders – concerned about unexpected issues like pump going out, how these items will be funded.
- Have impact fees available and if funds are needed will come back to Council.

Ron Strand

- Reviewed cuts already made in the general fund budget including patrol vehicles and equipment.
- Currently at full staff of 32 officers. \$300,000 would be salaries for officers.
 - Eddie Thomas – asked about officer and specialties.
- Reviewed impact to public safety and positions including patrol and detectives.
- Mentioned impacts of County and State bills that have increased crime in community.
 - Peggy Breeden – asked for approximate cost to recent shooting event locally and the Jawbone Canyon manhunt.
- Still looking for shooting suspect and have already expended several man-hours.
- Assisted Jawbone Canyon 350 hours and supplied equipment for use.
- Working together and combining resources is the only way we can maintain public safety in this valley.
 - Lori Acton – spoke on proactive versus reactive.
- Quoted recent reductions of crime until passing of state assembly bills which released criminals back into society.
- Commented on gangs.

Dennis Speer

- Reviewed public works and general fund losses.
- Public Works only affects general fund through engineering.
- Reallocated funds for engineer to projects which are separate funding sources. Exemplified Walmart and billing time to the project.

Tyrell Staheli

- Reviewed General Government proposed cuts.
- Reviewed Finance department cuts with Lori Acton

Jim Sanders

- Proposing cuts which is not the target goal, where is the other \$50,000 coming from.
 - Tyrell Staheli – proposition funds that were not previously expended.

Eddie Thomas

- Anticipate additional revenues, are the anticipated cuts.
 - Will not have room to expand. PERS rates continue to climb and the greater amount is for the Police Department so will have to absorb those costs.

Peggy Breeden

- Asked if there are other options. Suggested option 3 using TAB funds to put into roads and use the previously allocated Measure 'L' funding be moved to cover police.
 - Mike Mower – all TAB funds are committed so if we take then will have to take from somewhere else.
- Was in support of spending TAB economic development funds for small businesses but don't think we can support it right now. We can commit but this is our City, Police Department, and Streets. We took an oath to support our City and sometimes we have to make the hard decisions. we have to honor the spirit of Measure 'L'. if the \$350,000 small business grant TAB funds, take what we need and use to support streets then use Measure 'L' funds for public safety.

Mike Mower

- Heard from people everywhere this week with ideas on roads versus streets.
- Suggested hiring freeze and don't replace that person.
- Don't want to see police take a 10% cut.
- There are a lot of streets that need paved and signage that needs replaced.
- Unless I hear something strong, I am in favor of this suggested with a hiring freeze.

Lori Acton

- Don't want to lose officers. Hate taking money from businesses but think at this time is the best thing to do. If we get the \$3 million back from the state then we put it back. In favor of taking TAB funds for streets and divert Measure 'L' funds to Public Safety until other funds come available.

Peggy Breeden

- Don't want to completely raid Economic Development but want to compromise.

Dennis Speer

- Understand trying to make streets whole by reallocating TAB funds.
- Really dealing with General Fund money and Measure 'L' is technically general fund but specifically for public safety and streets.
- Tend to agree in this situation, Measure 'L' specific purposes are for Public Safety and Streets maintenance. No specific allocations but have to maintain level of service.

Public Comment

Andy Anderson

- Gave perspective of Measure 'L' funding and majority feel priority is for repair and maintenance of streets.
- Reason for carryover was due to split paving season and was to be used for streets in the second half of paving season
- Reallocation double punishes street maintenance in order to fully fund police.
- If there is any hope of renewing this tax then suggest thinking carefully of not doing a fair budget cut and taking Measure 'L' funds to pay for public safety while other departments take cuts.
 - Lori Acton – clarified the money being moved to police will immediately be replaced by TAB funds.
- If amount of money stays the same then no problem.
 - Peggy Breeden – you are an honest and decent man and ask you to let people know.

Jerry Taylor

- Presentation is a good budget presentation but is not a good presentation for Council to defend the fact they are not taking Measure 'L'
- Only two years away from having to get Measure 'L' passed again, need to start moving toward a no Measure 'L' budget.
- Chief is doing good things with the money but now message leads people to feel roads are being cut.
- If TAB funds are not on contract then not really committed. Council can re-evaluate the allocations made by previous Council and look at return on investment.
- Return on investment selling the public that you are spending the Measure 'L' funds wisely is much higher than giving it to small businesses.

Paul Wheeler

- Can't believe a cut to police department is being considered at this time. Chief Strand has done an admirable job of keeping this community safe.
- No one knew how much money Measure 'L' would bring in, and requested Council locates other avenues rather than cutting police officers.

Andy Anderson

- Asked about restrictions on TAB funds for streets.
 - Dennis Speer – have to be projects, cannot be used for maintenance. Do have projects that would qualify. Measure 'L' funds are for maintenance and TAB funds are for projects.
- Compared strings attached to Gas Tax funds.

Jim Sanders

- If a reconstruct of street project needs done it can be completed with either TAB or Measure 'L'

Tom Wiknich

- Asked about perception where the only option of cutting positions is where we can use Measure 'L' funds to pay for those positions. No other department has offered positions.
 - Dennis Speer – City has been reduced by 42 positions since 2009 and police did not experience any positions lost. I am filling in 4 other positions.
- Just bringing up the perception when looking at a hard cut.
 - Dennis Speer – request was a proportionate share of cuts and if the other departments found ways of making cuts without cutting staff then hat's off to them.
- Chief has done excellent job and he and officers will do whatever you request of them. Cutting positions will affect moral and quality of service.
- Commented on officers going to court and transporting prisoners in addition to patrol. Police protection is the most important service Council must do for the City.
- Exemplified multiple calls and domestic calls without backup and dangers to officers.

Stan Rajtora

- Clarified police budget.
 - Tyrell Staheli – delta between funding cut request is the money they already receive from Measure 'L'
- If their budget is \$6.5 million then the cut should be equivalent.
- Commented on rationale and transfers.
- Have to believe there is a lot of money that has nothing to do with salaries; don't see any cuts to other lines.
 - Jim Sanders – Chief Strand already made non-salaried cuts during the first round of budget cuts in June including vehicles.
 - Lori Acton – Measure 'L' is dedicated and not looked at as general fund money.
- Would not recommend reducing the force by 4 people but do think need to look at reducing by 1 or 2.
- Council's in past have always wanted to spend more money we have, is time to stop spending.
- Need to get a new system for financial accounting. Need a system where anyone on the dais can look into the system and find the numbers needed and understand what is going on. The sooner we get a new financial system the sooner we will avoid having meetings like this. Urge keeping the \$150,000 in the budget and move forward.

Stan Rajtora *(continued)*

- Every year there is something more important and next year there will be something else more important. Have to grit our teeth and purchase the new financial system which is needed.
 - Lori Acton – have possible funding source available that does not use general fund money.

Dave Milam

- Thanked Mayor and Council for this tremendous undertaking you are burdened with.
- Commented on transparency, salaries, and pensions.
- Supports Mr. Mower's wisdom in option 3 with hiring freeze.

Dave Matthews

- Left last meeting unaware that Mr. Speer said we were in financial trouble.
- My suggestions will probably not solve current problem but need to start thinking about for near future.
- Suggested looking at portion of property tax that comes back to City, is this something we need to put before Grand Jury?
- Suggested volunteer fire department, convert one of the two stations to a volunteer station.
- Is there a possibility of a police reserve force?

Jerry Taylor

- Recommend against spread, ask each department to give twice the percentage, then look at the list and prioritize it.
- Suggested taking this back to staff and look at it again.
- Roads are important but if this Council sets priorities then may not have straight percentage cuts.

Ted Ribulton

- Commented on Measure 'L' funding received for street maintenance and public safety. Allocation is set by Council.
- Commented on Measure 'L' ability to maintain staff funding when other significant funding had been lost.
- Police had received most of Measure 'L' and agree with the need for public safety.
- Streets accomplishments need to be advertised, have paved 7 streets. Needs to be communicated to the public.
- Speaking as individual, not as a member of Measure 'L' committee.

Dave Matthews

- Commented on water bill and increases for basic services.
- Asked if City can implement surcharge on parks services and other services provided by the City.

Public comment closed at 8:23 p.m.

Mike Mower

- Proposed accepting Option 2 with hiring freeze added
- Would be nice to see options of cuts made and if Measure 'L' is not renewed we will be looking at losing half the staff.
- If I purchase something out of town, I pay their sales tax and it is at times higher than what we pay here.

Eddie Thomas

- Agree with Mr. Taylors suggested review with comparison of actual cuts.
- Asked if we can look at this again and get more numbers.
 - Dennis Speer – curious about the need for numbers, department heads have looked at this and if this is micro-managed then Council may be placing burden that cannot be managed.

Jim Sanders

- If each department wasn't already cut to skeleton crews then would be a good idea. There is no money and comfortable going forward tonight.
- Losing 4 officers is not an option and cannot accept this as a solution. Crime is not going down and we are staffed at the lowest levels for the size of our community.
- Regardless of when we do this am good with option 2.

Eddie Thomas

- Asked Jim and Lori what the driving force was that previously made cuts.
 - Jim Sanders – this is very similar of a previous budget.
- So this is similar to how it is usually done.
 - Lori Acton – trying to do what is fair but have to balance the needs of the City. Not willing to compromise safety but want to keep the roads whole. Not losing or taking measure 'L'. Exemplified various options that could result in savings.

Dennis Speer

- Motion for option 2 with hiring freeze and direction to staff to bring back TAB allocations.

Eddie Thomas

- Asked for clarification of staffing from Dennis Speer
 - Dennis Speer – reviewed 42 staffing cuts made in the past 4-5 years. Layoff of staff in other positions would impact departments already cut. Exemplified street crews running 18 people in past and now have 5. Cannot tell Council we are overstaffed anywhere and same with supplies.

Mike Mower

- Commented on late 1980's and early 1990's had a surplus but state started City and county monies. Vote of people was state could no longer take monies so they took RDA.

Peggy Breeden

- If we accept option 2 then understand the money will be replaced. Ask staff for solutions. Do not want to take anything out of Measure 'L' that was promised. Want to make sure the minute we have extra money it goes toward economic development. We are low on revenue and need to get it back by investing in economic development.

Motion To Approve Option 2, Direct Staff To Return At Next Meeting With Proposal To Dedicate Streets Projects With TAB Allocations And Implement A Hiring Freeze Resolution Made By Mower, Second By Sanders. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 5 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Acton, Thomas, And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent

Peggy Breeden

- Asked community to not look at this as Council abandoning Measure 'L'.

9. Review A Request From The China Lake Museum Foundation For A Donation Of \$50,000 From Tax Allocation Bond (TAB) Funds For The Establishment Of An Off Base Museum Building Parsons

Gary Parsons

- Presented Staff Report

Mike Mower

- Would love to see the museum move off the base but in the letter they alluded to fees to be paid to the City and County. Requested a list of the fees to see if there are other options available.
- Not in favor of using TAB funds which are already allocated.

Peggy Breeden

- Maturango Museum previously made request for fees and would like information on what was done with their request. There are other non-profits who would like assistance but do not want to set precedence.
- In favor of the museum being on this side of the fence but would like to see potential tax income and other factors.

Lori Acton

- Museum had high dollar sponsors which other groups have not had. There is a lot already given to them so would like to see the number of what the City has already done.

Jim Sanders

- Table it.

Discussion tabled with concurrence of the Council.

**10. Discussion And Adoption Of A Resolution Of Commitment And Support Of
The Petroglyph Festival Breeden**

Dennis Speer

- In terms of the budget has been voted on and approved. Just formalizing the process. RACVB has requested the remainder of the \$8000 discretionary funding.

Jim Sanders

- This is a great thing and good for community, however with the budget cuts we have to make then not in favor of committing this.

Lori Acton

- Asked to table this for a breakdown of in-kind services. Need to know what RACVB now needs with the \$2000 reduction.

Mike Mower

- Had \$10,000 set aside and committed \$2000 to USO so looking to table. Not sure what will change in the next two weeks.

Peggy Breeden

- Think we need to vote our conscious.

Public Comment

Jerry Taylor

- Reminded Council of tourism assessment for RACVB to generate revenue to run events like these. Suggest doing in-kind but at this time don't understand why they need funds when they have their own revenue source which may be increasing with per diem potentially going up. They have a revenue stream and at some point in time then money has to stop coming from the City.
- You enabled them to generate their own revenue.

Peggy Breeden

- Asked for the tourism district money going directly to the RACVB
 - Tyrell Staheli – approximately \$200,000
- City gave them \$50,000 for improvements to a sign which has not been done. Suggested using some of those funds.
 - Jim Sanders – those were TAB funds so cannot be used for soft costs.
 - Lori Acton – TID revenue is \$20,250 per month.

Council Member Mower Made A Motion To Approve With The \$8000, No Second Received Therefore Motion Dies.

Council Member Sanders Made A Motion To Modify The Resolution To Include In-Kind Contributions And Eliminate The \$8,000 Cash Donation, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote 3 Ayes (Council Member Thomas, Acton, Sanders); 2 Noes (Mower, Breeden); 0 Abstain; and 0 Absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Committee Meeting dates are subject to change and will be announced on the City website)

City Organization and Services Committee

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

- Meeting next Wednesday

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Jim Sanders; Mike Mower
Meeting: 3rd Thursday each month at 5:00 p.m. as needed
Location: Council Conference Room B

- Meeting tomorrow

❖ **Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee**

Members: Jim Sanders; Peggy Breeden
Meeting: 3rd Monday each month at 5:00 p.m. as needed
Location: Conference Room B

Jim Sanders

- Xeriscaping discussion around City Hall and Kerr McGee with minimal impact for use 55,000 square feet. Looked at beautiful designs for xeriscaping with little or no water use. Still discussing.
- Grey water use ordinance discussion. Options presented by Mr. Culp. Sample ordinance will be discussed involves mandatory and voluntary provisions. Developers would be required to put in stub-outs should homeowner choose to install pumps at a later time.
- Next meeting September 17 and all future meeting moved to 3rd Monday of each month with no December meeting.

Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee

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

- Meeting soon

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

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

- No meeting

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

- Next month

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Lori Acton

- Jawbone committee – state department changing grant requirements so workshop coming in January and need our grant writers to attend.
- DRACP will be out before WEMO. Judge allowed extension to January and DRACP will be here in September

Peggy Breeden

- Median art committee – issues with CalTrans regarding costs with installation and maintaining art. Meeting 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- Bowman corridor group will meet next Tuesday.
- Kern COG tomorrow and Jim will be attending while I attend PUC meeting.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Special revenue funds are for specific purposes.
- Attended workshop on sustainable communities which was informational and enlightened but also depressing. 60% Cap and trade money will be going to housing and of the 40% left will include mass transit including light rail and high speed rail, transit system, bicycles and paths and if there is any money left will go toward street maintenance.
- Various grant funding sources reviewed with assessment based on City participants and grouped cities in demographics as Green, Yellow, and Red lights. Green should go after the funding, yellow should try, and we fall in the red light.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Sanders

- Thanked staff and colleagues for successful meeting, depressing but successful.
- Every year we have to do this, ran on policy of fiscal stability and budget and we keep fighting but is uphill battle. Every budget cycle we are presented with another obstacle. We have a great Council or we would be in worse condition. Have been making good fiscal decisions that are leading us to a path of fiscal stability. Thanked staff for being responsible with the little we give.
- Excited about the wall of remembrance coming here and thanked Christina Witt and others for their efforts. Thanked staff for efforts to stay open during the viewing times.
- Thanked police for their assistance with manhunt and current shooting search.
- Trying times and thanked everyone for their help.

Lori Acton

- Thanked staff and especially Mr. Parsons. Having to shift money around sucks but priority is public safety. Spoke with sheriff officer who was present and shot at fugitive. Officers are willing to take a bullet for us and thank them for the work they do to keep us safe.
- Proud of our City. Parade of 1000 flags and remembrance wall is exciting. Parade begins at the bowling alley.
- Thanked staff, we keep asking more from them and they always step up.
- Thanked fellow Council, these are hard decisions and we try to balance. We have a good team.

Eddie Thomas

- Council Members Acton and Sanders have summed up everything.
- Personally want to thank the staff, this is hard to work thru and the after affects we have to deal with makes us pray harder for the City.
- Thanked community for bearing with us and praying for us. Regardless there will be people who don't like what we do. But have to do what is best for City.

Mike Mower

- Comment on newspaper articles, did not attend chamber luncheon with Kevin McCarthy because I had a meeting with him later. We do attend to City business.
- Did not know about budget deficit before last meeting because I believe we don't criticize staff in public and want to think about what I say before I speak. Requested prior notification in future of big items like this.
- Love Ridgecrest and want to see it succeed but will have to do it on our own.

Peggy Breeden

- Would like Council comments earlier in the meeting because public is gone. Have read Facebook and am sick of it. People telling us we don't discuss broadband and that we are unmotivated and go along to get along. Want people to know our comments earlier. Requested a discussion item for next agenda regarding agenda format.
- League of California Cities meeting in September, 5 resolutions to approve so asking all Council to review and have staff give advice.
- Bug letter distributed which explains what is going on. I write a press release which has gone out and received a call from associated press for comments. Some of hotels are being posted as being full of bedbugs. Specifically directed the letter to visitors. Hotels and stores have no control over this infestation. Asked citizens to spread the word. Problems are in Lone Pine with piles of bugs on the side of the road.
- Want to review the budget again. In-depth to understand where we are and want an audit of revenues and expenditures. Not pointing a finger at any organization but want to know that the money we gave to them is being spent the way we were told.

Peggy Breeden *(continued)*

- USA Today and Ridge project are planning a project. October 24 USA Today is going to do an article on this community. Want everyone to clean this community before the petroglyph festival. Competition between groups in different areas of town.
- 1000 flags parade, looking for 30 people to walk in the parade. Would like other organizations to participate. Labor Day Weekend. Let's get names together and make a commitment
- 'Stand Up Against Cancer' rally this Saturday.
- Public perception of Council. Some of us ran with opportunity for change. I hear criticism repeatedly but would like to hear something nice for a change. We vowed we would hear the bad but also need to hear the good. Need to know if we are doing what you want us to do or if we are doing it right. Does not feed our ego, but lets us know what meets with your approval.
- Challenge each of us to do better or do more. We don't need to be better than last Council, just do the best job we can.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:43 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk