



**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 5, 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 – 5:30 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 Item No. 2, Presentation of a Proclamation to Mike Leming, ahead of public comment.

Pulled Item No. 4, rejection of bids for the concession stand construction project.

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

Council members Acton and Thomas arrived at 5:31 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Closed Session)

- None Presented

CLOSED SESSION

GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Kern County Superintendent Of Schools v City Of Ridgecrest

GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – MPB Furniture v. City of Ridgecrest

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

Presentations (moved ahead of public comment prior to approval of the agenda)

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation Of A Proclamation To Representatives Of Desert Area Training And Resources (DART) Honoring The 25th Anniversary Of The Americans With Disabilities Act Council
- Council presented a proclamation to representatives of DART recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. Presentation Of A Proclamation Recognizing Ridgecrest Citizen Mike Leming Council
- *Council presented a proclamation to Mike Leming for his service to the community.*

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - Kern County Superintendent of Schools v. City of Ridgecrest – report received, no reportable action taken.
 - MPB Furniture v. City of Ridgecrest – retained office of Lemieux & O'Neill to act on the litigation.
- Other
 - Report on solar project effort to redefine as a non-allowed ROPS cost. Efforts were unsuccessful however will be discussed again with assembly bills proposed. Will present a resolution to Council at the next meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT (*Regular Session*)

Tom Wiknich

- asked on ADA doors for the police department
 - Dennis Speer responded, Police Department not scheduled as facility is accessible with call box and assistance from staff.
- Takes exception to the response as some people do not know. Handicap access thru that door is necessary.
 - Dennis Speer responded about personal service and will discuss with police chief regarding concerns. Noted other public agencies that do not have accessible doors such as post office.
 - Lori Acton commented on call box clearly marked and after hours is not accessible to anyone without the call box.
- Encouraged Council to think about the topic and consider handicapped individuals ability to access the building.

Justin O'Neill

- Update on Broadband consortium.
- Reviewed concerns and methods for gathering data including survey with kiosks located around town.
- Goal is to get connection to Digital 395 thru fiber to every home.
- Offered to bring Council questions back to the consortium.
 - Peggy Breeden – commented on member confidence to finding viable solutions that will benefit the community and allow economic growth. Please with the work being done and feels confident in the progress of the future. Questioned timeframe of survey results
- Approximately a month to month and a half, and looking for at least 400 responses within all demographics.
- Spoke on available solutions for connecting homes.

Robert Eierman

- Commented on speed limits on China Lake Blvd in construction zone.
- Supports a reasonable speed limit during construction but does not support the way the speed limit is marked and how the signs are presented.
- Read quotes from a manual.
- Commented on capability of removing or covering the signs when not applicable.
- Commented on the length of time and distance the construction zone speed is being reduced.
- Commented on disrespect for safe speed during times when no construction is occurring.
- Noted that police vehicles are not following the speed zone.
- Commented on danger to construction workers when limit is too long and implied that it be followed at all times of the day regardless of worker presence.
- Spoke on topic of conversation at the barbershop.

Robert Eierman *(continued)*

- Situation is counterproductive.
- Lose respect for the limits when applied constantly.

Dave Matthews

- Added comments to Mr. Eierman topic.
- Construction zones may have times when construction is not actually going on but to maintain the safety of traffic on the road because the road conditions are now insufficient to hold the original speed limit, signs should stay in place.
- Do not think the comments apply to China Lake Blvd.
- Commented on sections that do not need signs to stay up at this time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3. Adopt A Resolution To Approve The Allocation Of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) From The Streetlight Fund And Authorize The City Manager To Request From Southern California Edison (SCE) A Streetlight Valuation And To Be Placed On The Buyback Eligibility List For The Potential Purchase Of The City Of Ridgecrest Streetlight Facilities** Speer
- 4. Adopt A Resolution Rejecting All Bids For Kerr McGee Sports Complex Concession Stand Construction Project** Patin
 - *Item No. 4 pulled from agenda prior to approval*
- 5. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated July 15, 2015** Ford

Items Removed From Consent Calendar

Item No. 3

Motion To Approve Item No. 5 Of Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Thomas, Second By Council Member 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

Item No. 3 Discussion

Al Huey

- Requested further explanation

Dennis Speer

- Reviewed the request of funding from SCE for the valuation and opportunity to be considered for purchasing in the future.
- Reviewed the various ratings for lights and tariffs for each.

Mike Mower

- Commented on the cost of light bulbs and eventual possibility of lowering energy costs by owning the lights

Al Huey

- Potential of savings for the City but initial outgo of \$10,000

Dave Matthews

- Commented on SCE offer to all cities with deadline and cost to perform the study. Asked if there is something going on with SCE where they want to get rid of their street lights.
 - Lori Acton – will provide information.

Motion To Approve Item No. 3 Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Acton. 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

6. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Regarding Communications By City Council Members Lemieux

Keith Lemieux

- Presented Staff Report
- Previous attorney report, Madame Mayor asked if there is a way Council can respond to important items prior to the next regular scheduled Council meeting.
- Resolution prepared by attorney firm
 - Part one gives guidance on communicating with public
 - Part two addresses how Council can give a Statement on behalf of the City when a shortened timeframe does not allow for discussion at a regular meeting.
- Intent is to make this restrictive so as not to be abused.

Peggy Breeden

- Section C3 seems to take ability to speak away.
 - Keith Lemieux – intent is situation of sending letter on City letterhead. Do not want 5 people sending letters on behalf of the City on letterhead. If there are two different views on the topic then needs to be held over for Council discussion. If someone has already sent a letter expressing a non-controversial view then no need to send another letter.

Mike Mower

- Questioned ability to have knowledge if another Council member has responded.
 - Keith Lemieux – draft communication should be sent to the City Manager. Do not set policy or holding discussions which might constitute a serial meeting.

Peggy Breeden

- Exemplified Inyokern Airport seeking support for a grant application. Did not feel like I had authority to respond as Mayor. Things with short timeframes and do not commit money then want to be able to respond.
 - Keith Lemieux – if City interests are not impacted then should probably be brought before Council. If City interests are going to be harmed and short notice is required then need to be able to send the message.

Lori Acton

- How do we send multiple letters if needed.
 - Keith Lemieux – can always send a letter on their behalf but not on City letterhead. If using City resources then need to make certain this is City business and not conflicting with majority of Council opinion. Could request City Manager to send City letterhead letters and Council can send letters on their own behalf.

Jim Sanders

- Do not see an issue with someone sending out personal opinion on City letterhead. What is the issue with this?
 - Keith Lemieux – if the opinion is not shared by majority, then use of City resources should not be used. City resources should be reserved for majority Council approved actions. Can always send our individual opinions on personal letterhead.

Keith Lemieux

- City manager is typically acting on the direction of Council and will not send out something that is conflicting with City interests.
- Not necessary to take formal action.

Jim Sanders

- Have no worries with current Council. don't mind adopting the resolution

Mike Mower

- Have no problem with Mayor sending a letter. If controversial then could be changed later.

Eddie Thomas

- No problem moving forward without resolution.

Jim Sanders

- Asked if resolution is binding to future elections
 - Keith Lemieux – sets guidelines but not binding like ordinances. Could set groundwork to admonish someone who violates. Some boards feel this action is necessary when a member becomes uncontrollable.
 - Dennis Speer – other cities have held special meetings and strong mayor would respond then ask for ratification of the letter at the next meeting.

Lori Acton

- Should adopt the policy due to the constant changes in Council with elections. Good idea to have in place so next time question is asked the answer is available.

Dave Matthews

- Each member can send personal letter and identify themselves as a member of the Council and not speaking for the Council.

Robert Eierman

- Asked about Council ability to call a special meeting or emergency meeting.
- In the rare instances when something occurs then could call a special meeting.
 - Keith Lemieux – can be done but doesn't guarantee the action could be done in time.
- Suggested meeting every week. Feel these things could be handled by special meeting.

Jim Sanders

- Feel this is a good idea to establish precedent.

Motion To Approve Item No 6 Without Amendment Made By Council Member Jim Sanders, Second By Council Member Lori Acton

Keith Lemieux – suggested amendment to subpart 3

Lori Acton – questioned adding ratification language.

Keith Lemieux – already covered in the resolution

No Amendments made to the resolution.

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

7. Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The Establishment Of A City Of Ridgecrest Small Business Tax Allocation Bond (TAB) Grant Program For The Expansion And Retention Of Existing Small Business Within The City Of Ridgecrest And The Approval for the Execution Of An Agreement With The Ridgecrest Chamber Of Commerce For The Marketing And Administration Of The Program **Parsons**

Peggy Breeden

- Money for this has been approved by previous Council and what is being asked tonight is the method of distribution.

Gary Parsons

- Presented Staff Report and PowerPoint presentation *(Copy Available In The City Clerk Office)*
- Economic Development program approved in previous Council TAB funding allocations. Originally \$500,000 but some has been used so balance is \$350,000.
- Reviewed the grant program, goals, restrictions, and application process for small businesses.

Mike Mower

- This is an opportunity for business improvements to enhance the customer experience.
 - Gary Parsons – could be improvements to façade, signs, etc.

Eddie Thomas

- Questioned chamber membership
 - Gary Parsons – no, do not have to be a member of the chamber to apply and chamber has agreed to this provision.
- Will staff be involved with this process?
 - Gary Parsons – two committees, application to chamber and their recommendation comes to the City for City committee review.

Mike Mower

- Asked about staffing for committee
 - Gary Parsons – Committee will consist of me, a member of finance, and a support staff member.

Lori Acton

- Requested this discussion be tabled for City Attorney review for liability.

Jim Sanders

- Expressed concerns with program. Regarding industrial funding, Council went wild and funded more than we had funds to do. Pulled money from much needed roads projects to fund Economic Development. Opposed the previous funding and we had a hope of a return on the investment. Asked if there are estimates for return on investment with these grants.
 - Gary Parsons – difficult to determine until we can receive applications. Would be part of the evaluation process. Developing the program to maximize this. Do need to support local small business and expand that industry. Need to have some part of our program dedicated to this part of the industry.
- Gave a scenario of business owner revamping appearance and potential customer base. We only collect 1.75% of the increase and having a hard time with this.
 - Gary Parsons – talking about expansion but also retention. Small businesses may not be able to support the need and might close the business.
- Have a hard time supporting this, there are other ways to support the small businesses without giving away money.

Tina Warren

- Commented on changes to name and logo, building improvements that have increased business. Spent around \$5,000 to make improvements and \$2000 with new website. Customer's sales have increased 8% to 10%. The little things made the difference. Employees took pride in the new look and working better as a team.

Dan Spurgeon

- Retaining small business is critical and will determine how we are going to grow. This program has opportunity to reach across the community and encourage Council to adopt.

Lori Acton

- Funds are to be used for brick and mortar; marketing is a big part of changes. Will these guidelines be amended?
 - Gary Parsons – TAB funds have strict rules. Installing a sign in front of the building is allowed but advertising in a paper is not.
- Is there a way to make this work? Need to take a hard creative look at the guidelines.
 - Gary Parsons – program requires a match so is possible the portion of the match could be used for marketing. The small business is putting money into this program also.

Lori Acton *(continued)*

- Who will review and approve invoices. Fear there will be micro-managing.
 - Dan Spurgeon – Chamber of Commerce will be evaluating these items on behalf of the City. Chamber has agreed to track this for compliance. If the printer is the same cost as requested and went thru the same guidelines. We would provide the original cost requested and the business will have to provide the excess. Cannot pocket savings and there is a retention of 10%.
- Additional items needed require a new application.
 - Dan Spurgeon – correct. There is a requirement for the business to do the research.
 - Gary Parsons – if a business does not use all the money requested then unused portion is retained for other applications.
- Asked about EDC and other participation.
 - Dan Spurgeon – reviewed current participation.
- Asked if all chamber members or will there be an at-large member
 - Dan Spurgeon – persons on the board is not eligible for program and will have an at-large member.
- Support this program; just want all the details taken care of.

Tina Warren

- Chamber has requested hold harmless in the agreement.

Mike Mower

- Reviewed potential number of businesses which could be served.
 - Gary Parsons – if more funding were to become available then would ask to increase the amount. At this level will be able to see how the program works. Chamber was deeply involved and a lot of effort put into this.

Eddie Thomas

- Good idea, takes pressure off staff and chamber members are viable participants in the program.

Peggy Breeden

- Commented on past chamber service and number of board members who have sacrificed in their business to serve the community as chamber board members?
- Noted some businesses need improvements and may not be able to afford the improvements.
- May have the best product in the community but nobody knows because the building is old and needs improvement.
- I believe this is investment and don't know that \$350,000 is enough but could be too much. Would like to look at this and if it goes quickly then need to make sure we have administered it well. Commented on costs of improvements and how much can be accomplished with \$5,000. Think it is appropriate for us to support this and appreciate the amount of work done on this program.

Peggy Breeden *(continued)*

- Spoke on comments on Facebook. Streets are being repaired and Measure 'L' report indicates the committee is pleased with the amount of work done with the money.
- Can the money amount be changed in the long run? What happens in the event of an emergency? Not a lot of money in the disaster fund, can we cut funding off. Don't want to promise what we can't give and can't provide what we promise.

Gary Parsons

- Funding is TAB which was previously allocated. Already cut to give to Code Enforcement. Parks funding available in TAB and potential of \$3 million return from the State. Can change the allocation but caution about moving money from Economic Development to somewhere else.

Peggy Breeden

- Understand, don't want someone coming back later saying we need to take some of the money away.
 - Gary Parsons – commented on Balsam Street improvement project and this being a way to accomplish some of the previous plan.

Lori Acton

- City offered to make improvements on Balsam Street and businesses did not want it. This program is different.

Dave Matthews

- Asked about contract with Chamber.
 - Gary Parsons – proposed contract for administration and marketing.
- Asked what Chambers fee will be.
 - Gary Parsons - \$1.00 and chamber will request and application fee for processing applications and this fee paid by applicant.
- Asked about Mayor and Council Members small businesses and eligibility.
 - Mike Mower – Council will not be eligible so no need to abstain.
- Asked Tina Warren about time improvements were made.
 - Tina Warren – two years ago.

Eddie Thomas

- Asked Tina about offers of training, teaching, mentoring of small business applicants.
 - Dan Spurgeon – set easy to define guidelines, but administering and processing the grants prohibit our assistance due to conflict of interest.

Mr. Mower temporarily left the meeting.

Justin O'Neill

- Asked about businesses pooling funds.
 - Gary Parsons – did not consider this idea, key is the item must be a capitalized item. Will depend on application.
- Thinking about installation of fiber for internet. Suggested several businesses pool funds.

Chip Holloway

- Addressed Jim Sanders and Gary Parsons comments and concerns about moving funds from streets for industrial projects.
- Referenced savings from Walmart project and Ridgecrest Blvd. project. Downs project had no bearing on industrial development plans.
- Initial TAB was for \$19 million but with interest we received \$25 million.
- Commented on support for Economic Development. Never had any serious general fund revenues that could be dedicated for Economic Development. The nature of TAB funds is to increase tax increment, no streets.
- \$25 million available to dedicate and with projects will be under \$3 million for Economic Development. Gave \$2.5 million to industrial but need to be willing to give \$350,000 to local business.

Jim Sanders

- In favor of Economic Development. Know several businesses that would benefit by this but do not believe it is government's role to give away money. It is government obligation to get out of the way. Don't see why the government should be giving away money. Support the businesses but not in support of this. There are other ways businesses can fund their needs.

Peggy Breeden

- Commented on Economic Development town hall meetings. Requested the committee include Jim Sanders in their next meeting.

Item tabled to next meeting.

8. Discussion And Request For Approval Of Commitment Of Financial Support In The Amount Of Up To \$2,000 And Various Other In-Kind Services For The USO Event Breeden

Peggy Breeden

- Presented Staff Report and Introduced Justin O'Neill
- Requested SWAP Sheet budget item be removed. Will personally donate an amount determined by me.

Justin O'Neill

- Will eliminate the item listed as SWAP Sheet. Plan on reaching out to all groups to request sponsorship.
- Reviewed budget, confirmed the USO troop show will be coming and will be working with Chamber of Commerce for vendors and other entertainment.
- Looking for support from USO
- Concerned about the level of support from other agencies. Opportunity for base and community to come together but base cannot put financing into the event.
- Police chief discussion reviewed.
- Requested waiver of special event fee and insurance, Kerr McGee facilities have been offered as in-kind
- Cash need for marketing materials and logistical needs. Requesting City put some money in to assist with these items.
- RACVB has committed a monetary donation and working on getting confirmation of contribution from Chamber of Commerce.

Eddie Thomas

- Struggling with this in reference to City already doing a lot of the in-kind and Federal Government can't contribute financially. Navy is dictating what they want and do not know why the City should be contributing monetary along with the in-kind.
 - Justin O'Neill – Want this event off-base as a coming together for both community and base workforce. Asking for everything from everyone. Base has volunteer support and made inquiries from MWR resources. Cannot be made available outside the base fence. Cannot be deemed a base event if held outside the fence. Working on resources from County Parks also.

Peggy Breeden

- Mick Gleeson confirmed they will be coming up with significant funds.

Lori Acton

- Suggested Navy Officer and Enlisted spouses could do fund raisers.
- This is important as a Navy Community to support the USO and we have \$10,000 set aside for these and will work to find other ways of replenishing these funds.

Eddie Thomas

- Concerned with the strong demands they want to see but then lack of participation.
 - Justin O'Neill – Admiral started this event and personally asked USO to add Ridgcrest to their tour. They have done a lot to get this started and they are operating within tight confines of laws that bind their finances. This is opportunity for community to let the base know how important they are. This event is launch point for future event. Commented on meeting with young professionals to find out why they don't participate locally.

Jim Sanders

- Asked about the fund for this event.
 - Dennis Speer - \$10,000 set aside for Petroglyph event.
 - Lori Acton – labeled marketing and petroglyph was last year but we could shift \$2,000 for this. Will also look for other funds. Spouses will do fundraiser for something like this.
 - Justin O'Neill – looking to get national sponsorship like Coca-Cola

Mike Mower returned to the meeting.

Peggy Breeden

- Captain Scott and Admiral addressed this with us and the hope is this will work toward the community working together with the navy. If we think the \$2000 is difficult or unconscionable to spend or is inappropriate then I will contribute the \$2000 and find other businesses that will be able to donate. The businesses believe in this and will benefit from it. Advertising for print media is not enough; need to involve all forms of advertising available in the community.

Al Huey

- Commented on Justin O'Neill's capacity as marketing consultant. and advertising falls under this contract.
 - Justin O'Neill – it is part of the job.
- There are other forms of media. Television and radio. Have placed phone calls to Mr. O'Neill and Captain Edina and have not received a response. In favor of the event.
- We are celebrating the USO and the building. The building opened after the war and closed two years later so did not service the community during the war.
- Frustrated with the Navy demands for the 70th anniversary. Disagree they can't spend money outside the fence. They don't want to do it outside the fence and I understand but wish they would keep their demands inside the fence. Commented on the ground management plan and the base involvement. Have reached out to public affairs office and have not received a response. Uncomfortable, perturbed, unhappy with what I am seeing with local Navy.
- Captain Wiley encouraged me to call but when I call, I do not get the call back.
- Commented on demand for golf carts.

Al Huey *(continued)*

- Troubled that \$2000 can't be raised in sponsorship. Suggested a couple veterans' organizations might be willing to donate.
 - Justin O'Neill – responded the total need for sponsorship is \$8000 and not confident in being able to collect all the needed sponsorships.
- In favor of the event and praised the historical society for their efforts since taking over the building. Would support this item.

Lori Acton

- Motion to approve

Jim Sanders

- Asked Council wait until budget update, motion to table

Justin O'Neill

- Job remains the same.

Lori Acton

- Already in the budget.

Motion To Table The Item Until After The Budget Update Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Did Not Carry By Roll Call Vote Of 2 Ayes (Council Members Sanders And Thomas); 3 Noes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Acton And Mower); 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent

Motion To Approve \$2000.00 From The Petroglyph Fund For The USO Event Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 3 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Acton And Mower); 2 Noes (Council Members Sanders And Thomas); 0 Abstain; And 0 Absent

9. Adopt A Resolution Urging The State To Provide New Sustainable Funding For State And Local Transportation Infrastructure AND Authorize The Mayor To Send A Letter Of Support To Ridgecrest District Senators And Assembly Members Breeden

Peggy Breeden

- Presented Staff Report

Jim Sanders

- Does not understand the funding structure for the bill.

Dennis Speer

- Asked by League of California Cities to show support for funding mechanism for streets
- Disturbing comments by staff person at TTAC. Future State transportation funds will not include funding for construction and maintenance. Transportation is taking on the idea of going green and future infrastructure will have to be funded with Measure 'L' type funding. Funding will be for electric vehicles, rail services, solar and not for infrastructure. Transportation funds should meet the needs of all forms of transportation but the future is supporting going green only. Only legacy projects will receive money along with non-roads transportation funding.
- It is time for League of California Cities to have a grass roots bill passed as an initiative requiring all gas tax funding to go first to roads.

Peggy Breeden

- This is asking for a sustainable funding which will provide steady funding for roads.
- I want to support this with a reserved right to make comments at time of passing.

Jim Sanders

- So this is not a specific funding mechanism.

Peggy Breeden

- What concerns the most is in the past the State has not funded roads Statewide and can't deal with what wasn't done yesterday, only support what is being done today.
- Asked Chip Holloway to review Pat Morrison's article in the LA Times. Read highlights from the article.

Chip Holloway

- Summarized the League is demanding the State do something to help maintain the roads. Committee agreed anything they pass will be in a locked box and only go to transportation funding, dedicated. Republicans are saying no new taxes. Democrats want to use several taxes. Commented on Cap and Trade dollars. League want cities to demand action, local government needs money to help resolve the problem with roads.

Tom Wiknich

- Shannon grove and jean fuller both warned this is coming. They are already diverting money that is supposed to be locked into transportation. Sacramento knows they can do it and people will support roads initiatives. The trickery is they pass the taxes then use the money to fund other things.
- Read a portion of the letter which would encourage the taxes be raised at the pumps. Would not encourage anything in Sacramento until they can't find a way to unlock the box. Every time they want money for something else is they will find a way to unlock the box. They are diverting money now and this wording in the letter supports telling them to raise the taxes.

Dave Matthews

- The supporting documents are confusing. Was going to ask Council table this item. Think the Cap and Trade is unconstitutional and as a citizen won't support the other increases. Without the other under the table things then don't want Council to approve this. Needs re-written.

Robert Eierman

- Commented the same thieves that have stolen from citizens for years and now Council want to support them?
- By definition a sustainable funding source is a tax. Raising gas tax and licensing fee and registration fee, then average household increase is over \$250 per year or more.
- Instead of supporting the spenders, then turn to the republican method and see what their method is for providing money for highways and roads.
- Do not think Council really wants to support this type of tax increase.

Chip Holloway

- Don't disagree with anything said but with experience with the League. If you look back at the letters they were talking about SB16. Paragraphs in the letter are appealing both republican and democrat proposals. League is trying to say to have the final session but demanding something be given to local governments. if we do nothing it will move regardless.

Robert Eierman

- If you throw in with the bad guys then losing their moral State. If they pass it anyway then we will get our share.

Lori Acton

- Read the second to last paragraph which discusses protecting local government assets. We are saying this is what we will support. We only support the first part of the letter providing the local government controls are included.

Robert Eierman

- There are other ways of doing this and is not a good idea to give the same thieves more money even though they say they won't rob the lock box. Exemplified the transportation bonds. They will find ways around the restrictions. Force them to use more conservative means for transportation. Suggested changes to Measure 'L'. There are better ways. Asked Council to reject this and not send the letter.

Tom Wiknich

- Clarified where Ms. Acton was reading in the draft letter.
- Just want to make clear Council is aware they are supporting increased taxes with this letter.

Eddie Thomas

- The numbers mentioned would we only get \$1.3 back from the projected tax increases. So we could potentially be taxed more than what we would get back.
 - Current gas tax is proportional already

Mike Mower

- The problem I have with the proposal is democrats will raise the taxes anyway.
- 3 projects State has spent money on that I disagree with. Highway 395, Kramer junction passing lane removal, and others
- Have no faith with California legislature and cannot sign this letter.
- High speed rail is the biggest waste of money in the history of California.
- Cannot support this letter

Jim Sanders

- How many times do we need to be fooled by the State?
- We have control over local taxes so more in favor of raising local taxes and detach from the State as much as possible. Stand along and not depend on the State so much.
- Not in favor of this.

Lori Acton

- Apologized for getting so heated.
- We know the State is going to raise the taxes anyway, would rather have a seat at the table.
- Believe the way the letter is worded States what we would support.
- Asking congress to do this in a special session.
- Think they need to discuss and make it work.

Peggy Breeden

- Brought this to Council because it is time sensitive. Wasn't sure how I felt about this and after discussion with people I respect are both supportive and against this as a concept. This is a concept.
- I want a place at the ballot box and if I don't like what they did I want to be able to vote against it.
- Not sure the rest of the State will do the right thing anyway.

Dennis Speer

- Suggested approving the resolution after the first whereas and then second minute motion authorizing the mayor to sign the letter.

Jim Sanders

- Want increased funding for transportation without increasing taxes. They can move funding around that already exists.

No motion or second received, item closed.

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

- No Report

Infrastructure Committee

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

- No Report

❖ **Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee**

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

- No Report

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

- Arranging a special meeting

❖ **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

- No Report

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 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

Lori Acton

- Read directors report (Copy Available In The City Clerk Office)

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Peggy Breeden

- East Kern Air Pollution Control District
 - Air sensor on City hall to be installed
 - Mobile sensor located at Mike McGee field
 - Other sensor funding available.
- Bowman Road Committee meeting
 - Discussion of development of Walmart area and potential for roads accommodating future businesses.
- Economic Development Town Hall Committee
 - Update provided for sub committees

Mike Mower

- Requested progress report for Walmart
 - Dennis Speer – construction bid has been awarded.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- State highway projects nearby, State Route 14 and 395. Construction projects
 - Phase I of Freeman Gulch widening on Route 14 is funded and engineers have completed obtaining all right of ways. Construction dates will be in 2017-18
 - Highway 395 4 lane section south of business 395 to Inyokern road shelved until funding comes available
- Budget approved by Council, once input into our financial system, there is a deficit.
 - Based on omissions and incorrect entries. Deficit is \$590,000 and staff is making proportional cuts and will be returning to Council to show proposed cuts and alternatives in dealing with the cuts. Council encouraged asking questions of Dennis or Tyrell.
 - County funding was not omitted from revenue and also revenue counted twice in total revenue, new PERS rates not added into expenditures.
 - Information of proposed cuts will be returned to finance director and will present proposed cuts and alternatives at the August 19 meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Sanders

- Glad we had the discussion of the letter even though we did not take action. Glad I am not the only one dealing with the frustration with State government and the irresponsible way funds are being treated.

Lori Acton

- Glad for the discussion also, learned from it and important to get all perspectives
- School starts next week, so watch out.
- Saturday is food truck fest
- Farmers market has started
- Attended function for RoboRita
- Will email Mr. Matthews
- Good evening

Mike Mower

- Apologized for missing last meeting
- Iowa would like to build a large pipeline to give us some of their water, a lot of rain this year.
- Picking up spouse at 3:00 a.m. at the train station
- Don't always have to vote the same, appreciate the Council.

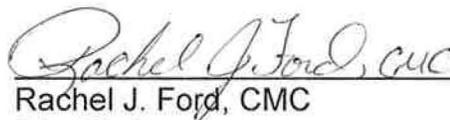
Eddie Thomas

- Thanked Mayor and Gary Parsons for allowing participation on Economic Development committee meetings. We are small fish in big pond, happy to see Ridgecrest doing something and people wait for Mr. Parsons to get up and tell them what we are doing.
- Learned we can agree to disagree and talk about things. Proud we have the liberty to vote our consciences.

Peggy Breeden

- Someone commented this Council goes along to get along. Proud we do not do this.
- Want to follow up on military banners.
 - Dennis Speer – have two alternatives to bring to Council
- Mr. Parsons had talked about conducting audits on the industrial Economic Development programs.
- Requested an audit on any entity we give money to and an audit of TOT funds.
- Want to know about the RACVB sign and the funds we gave them.
- We got to listen to Congressman Kevin McCarthy at the Chamber luncheon. Makes you proud to be an American. Most wonderful speech and came from the heart and the mind. He has ideas about wastewater treatment and I am enthralled that he understands what we need and has promised help. We will have the opportunity to have our say and he offered solutions.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:49 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk