



**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**

**July 15, 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; and Council Members Eddie B. Thomas

Council Absent: Council Member Mower

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deleted From Closed Session:

GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease Or Acceptance – Leroy Jackson Park – Agency Negotiator Jason Patin, Parks Supervisor

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (Closed Session)

- None Presented

Council Member Thomas arrived for Closed Session at 5:15 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease – Parcel Map 10819, Parcel 36 of the Ridgecrest Business Park – Agency Negotiators Dennis Speer, City Manager, And Gary Parsons, Economic Development Program Manager
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease – Parcel Map 10819, Parcel 5 of the Ridgecrest Business Park – Agency Negotiators Dennis Speer, City Manager, And Gary Parsons, Economic Development Program Manager
- GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease Or Acceptance – Leroy Jackson Park – Agency Negotiator Jason Patin, Parks Supervisor
- GC54956.9 (d) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Indian Wells Valley Water District – Claim No. 15-04
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – City Of Ridgecrest v. Dale Howard

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- Closed Session
 - GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease – Report Received No Reportable Action
 - GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease – Report Received And No Reportable Action
 - GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation For Lease Or Acceptance – Leroy Jackson Park – Pulled From Agenda Prior To Approval
 - GC54956.9 (D) (1) Conference With Legal Counsel – Liability Claim Of Indian Wells Valley Water District – Claim No. 15-04 – Report Received, No Reportable Action.
 - GC54956.9 (D) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – City Of Ridgecrest v. Dale Howard – Report Received, No Reportable Action

PUBLIC COMMENT (*Regular Session*)

Tom Wiknich

- Questioned action of Planning Commission to change municipal code to permit chickens in the City.
- Asked if Council has asked Planning Commission to look into this matter.
 - Peggy Breeden – as a Council we have not asked the Planning Commission to do this.
- Asked that Planning Commission to stop this action unless directly requested by Council. Is not appropriate for them to take action without Council desire.
 - Lori Acton – prior Council gave direction for Planning Commission to review ordinances and propose changes.
 - Jim Sanders – Planning Commission is advisory to Council and if they would like to advise Council on appropriate changes then no problem with this.
- Remember the Council authorizing planning to review but in the line of building permits and codes that hinder contractors from building and streamline process.
- Asked Council to stop the action regarding chickens. Asked Council to discuss the issue.
 - Lori Acton – people don't like ideas and Planning Commission has opportunity for people to speak against or in favor of items.
- Feel we are out of sequence on this process for this item.
 - Peggy Breeden – concerned about cost to City to do this and do not know how I feel about it until I can see the cost. Commented on two members of the public who were against and the majority of comments were in favor. Feel Planning Commission has the right to follow direction given on some issues.

Warren Cox

- Commented on focus of chickens for Planning Commission however animal control code has other issues. Committee trying to give some reasonability for responsible care of animals. Community is focusing on chickens but planning is working on reasonable animal control and enforceability.

Dave Matthews

- Thanked Mr. Cox for comments. Reports cover pets in general and limits on pets. Against a limits at this time because some people breed cats and dogs which have several offspring per litter. Setting a small limit is out of the question. May consider raising chickens personally because of the fresh eggs.
- Goodbye to Goodwill. Sorry to see the store leave town.
- Want public to be aware and request Council individually and collectively write letter to stop the following:

Dave Matthews *(continued)*

- Medicare is putting a local business in jeopardy, High Desert Medical Supply. Is a struggle to jump thru Medicare restrictions and now they are trying to open the business of supplying medical supplies to larger companies. Petition is currently being circulated. Medicare could close the local business down. As a patient do not want to deal with an out of town business. Medicare is putting restrictions on medical procedures and is getting worse.
- Obamacare is implementing end pay providers for end of life counseling, reason is because they don't want to pay for old people to get a procedure. Past presidential candidate referenced.
- HUD is implementing new regulations where Cities may have to move inner-city people to move to suburbs. Encourage Council to look these up and will provide links to everyone and the paper. Community needs to get behind this.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation By Warren Cox Updating Council Regarding The Median Art Project **Alexander**

Warren Cox

- Gave a PowerPoint presentation with photos of the median art project.

Eddie Thomas

- questioned Caltrans ability to deny an application
 - Warren Cox – applications reviewed prior to forwarding to Caltrans, can be denied but not likely they will deny an application.

Matthew Alexander

- Locations of artwork are placed to avoid any line-of-sight issues.

Warren Cox

- Commented the artist installing the artwork is liable until installation is complete, afterwards the City becomes responsible.

Peggy Breeden

- Understand the people installing and paying for the artwork will maintain and clean the artwork regularly

Warren Cox

- For safety, all artwork is equipped with break-away base to prevent injury or damage in an accident.

Lori Acton

- Future plans for other areas once medians are finished
 - Warren Cox – Committee is responsible for all medians in Community, process is established so Committee will not continue to meet regularly, only on an as needed basis. Duty of the Committee was to provide the application process. Program allows people to get involved to beautify the Community.
- Will there be sponsor signs
 - Warren Cox – No. Perpetual care is part of their donation. Don't want to create a long-term expense for the City.
 - Matthew Alexander – intent is not to have a sign at each piece but could do a sign in Petroglyph Park or at City hall.

Tom Wiknich

- Questioned participants getting specifications for artwork that could be given to an artist.
 - Warren Cox – at this point, each artist is responsible for engineering and then City engineer will approve the art. Commented on footings and wind. A 4x4 or 6x6 artwork with proper footings has been approved by Caltrans.

Dave Matthews

- Asked for clarification of 18 locations and if all were spoken for.
 - Warren Cox – 18 sites with 12 being reserved.
- Asked for clarification of the dimensions
 - Warren Cox – footings have to stay within the pre-laid square and other restriction is no greater than 12 inches off the face of the curb. Opportunity for depth for the artist including three dimensional.
- Asked for clarification of plans for other medians and the process.
 - Warren Cox – reviewed the process and exemplified the Ridge Project application. Planning Commission has reviewed and made changes to plan. Application to Committee and Planning Commission gives final approval. Denials can be appealed to the City Council.

2. Presentation By Ridgecrest Parks And Recreation Regarding Park Irrigation Patin

Jason Patin

- Gave a PowerPoint presentation to Council regarding the irrigation cycles of City Parks. *(Copy Available In The City Clerk's Office)*

Peggy Breeden

- Asked for this to be addressed because it is important the Community understand what is going on. Think the parks are part of the quality of life in this Community and some families who are trying to make the state mandate then is good to have a place with green grass to take your families. If public sees water running down the street then let us know. But overall is important to keep the parks green.

Lori Acton

- Where are we with exploration of smart water sprinkler systems?
 - Jason Patin – eventually will eliminate 90% of the flow issues, will shut down the system when it detects a broken sprinkler, controls the amount of watering, connected to the weather station and monitors the soil. This is a project for our TAB funds and is currently putting together the new plan for parks and will be included in the plan when it comes to Council for approval.
- Asked about another way we can notify the public when addressing their concerns.
 - Jason Patin – City website already has phone and email contact information. Encouraged public to contact us.

Jim Sanders

- Appreciate the presentation and addressing the concerns of the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The Acceptance Of An Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Strand
4. Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Application For And Acceptance Of The State Of California, Office Of Traffic Safety STEP Grant Strand
5. Adopt Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into Memorandum Of Agreement With Sierra Sands Unified School District For Law Enforcement Services (School Resource Officer Program) Strand
6. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated June 17, 2015 Ford
7. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated July 1, 2015 Ford

Items Pulled From Consent Calendar

- Item Nos. 3.

Motion To Approve Item Nos. 4-7 Of Consent Calendar 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 Thomas); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Mower)

Item No. 3 Discussion

Dave Matthews

- Requested statement clarification of in-kind off-road events.
 - Ron Strand – responded with event information.

Motion To Approve Item No. 3 Made By Council Member Sanders, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members Sanders, Acton, And Thomas); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Mower)

DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

8. Appointment to the Measure 'L' Citizens Advisory Committee

Ford

Rachel Ford

- Presented Staff Report

Robert Gould

- Urged Council to delay appointment for two weeks. Citizens need more notice and have opportunity to put in applications. Suggested notification in paper.

Eddie Thomas

- Feel comfortable with appointee. Committee will be well served and he is excited about serving
- Nominated John David Edward Milam as new member to Measure 'L' Committee to replace Mike Peterson for a 4 year term.
- Mr. Milam is available for comments.

John David Edward Milam

- Thanked Council for nomination for appointment.
- Personally sought out application because I wanted to serve this Community. People invest in many things but someone once suggested the best thing to invest in is the Community.
- If Council will accept nomination then will do the best job I possibly can.

- Review the City website daily and I went after this because I wanted to serve. Have already read the agenda for tomorrow night's meeting and am ready to go.

Peggy Breeden

- Appreciate your integrity and willingness to serve.
- Encouraged public to participate.

Motion To Approve Nomination Of Mr. Milam To The Measure 'L' Committee 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 Thomas); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; And 1 Absent (Council Member Mower)

9. Discussion, Revision, And Approval Of A Draft Response Letter Regarding The Kern Grand Jury Report Of May 27, 2015 **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Presented staff report

Peggy Breeden

- The letter says ever

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

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 week

Infrastructure Committee

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

Next meeting to be determined

❖ **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

Next meeting the 20th

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 meeting, excellent presentation by Mr. Patin

❖ **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

No report

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Peggy Breeden

- Bugs in the Community. Met with Dennis Speer who suggested calling the Agriculture Commissioner. Received information and have printed for the public. Elderbox beetle, hides during the day and comes out at night but due to mild winter they have multiplied. These bugs are not like aphids that die when sprayed with detergent. They breed in 3 cycles and it looks like maybe by September they will be gone.
- Read Caltrans median construction announcement. Understand this puts a burden on the Community; please continue to shop the businesses that are being affected by the road construction.
- Asked Justin O'Neill to speak on USO activities and requested agenda item for next meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Report – USO Event

Justin O'Neill

- Provided draft budget for USO Event.
- Is requesting a \$2000.00 monetary contribution from the City in addition to in-kind contributions.
- Working on getting other in-kind from the county which may offset City cost.
- Objective is to request free or reduced before money.

Peggy Breeden

- Asked Dennis Speer and staff to review draft budget to get in-kind service numbers for discussion. Want a firm answer of costs to the City.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Follow up to Caltrans commuter alert and in response to comments made previously about Caltrans not being in compliance with posting requirements. Have been in contact with Caltrans and have been assured by the manager the engineers have been allowed to make determinations on traffic control. Other issue raised was duration and length of control. Caltrans determine how long to leave signs up based on encroachment permit needs. Encroachment permit identifies as a long term project so allows for signs during the entire time of construction.
- Re-introduced Tyrell Staheli as Interim Finance Director.
 - Tyrell – happy to be back, wife's family is a part of the Community, hope my service can help Council meet their goals for the future.

Eddie Thomas

- Questioned enforcement of 25 mph speed limit. Will this still be in effect on weekends, holidays, and evenings?
 - Dennis Speer – yes.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Sanders

- Apologize for being gone so much. Busy June and appreciate Council patience.

Lori Acton

- Thanked Lions club and Community for fireworks.
- Symposium was off the charts; want to go back to college. Good stuff to look forward to in the future and good collaboration between the city and the base.
- Original intent of establishing City organization committee was to meet only as assigned, does this still hold.
 - Peggy Breeden – return to Council with committee recommendation.
- Kern County has an ordinance which limits number of animals without a business permit.

Eddie Thomas

- Applaud audience for asking questions and staff for providing responses to these questions. Did not know the history or information on chickens and grateful for the interaction.
- Thanked the Mayor for her ideas of expanding and changing how we operate and the concept of changing the diversity of the Community.

Peggy Breeden

- Congratulations to merchants on Balsam Street. 2nd Saturday of the month will be doing another walking event. Encouraged public to participate and meet your neighbors. Will continue until weather gets too cold. Appreciate Community for banning together to bring in sales to this Community.
- Related comment from intelligent individual who learned new ideas at the symposium. Want City to get involved with the Idea hub and base symposiums. Thanked parks and recreation staff for their work. Applaud everyone who helped make this happen.
- Military Banners – working on cleaning up the program. If you see a banner down, please let us know.
- Economic development committees working diligently to bring a full report back to Council.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:37 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk