



**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**

**June 3, 2015
6:00 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 – 6:00 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 (via Teleconference), and other staff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To Approve Agenda 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

REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- No Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Matthews

- Commented on the small size of the agenda.

Mike Neel

- Commented on planning commission item regarding pre-abatement hearing on property owned by elderly limited income couple with health disability.
- Stated hope that City is not losing compassion for the people in the town.
- Reviewed the abatement citation process.
 - Peggy Breeden – responded with information regarding the back yard conditions and couple refused to accept help from family members and other citizens.
- Asked City to offer help in cases with similar circumstances.
- Invited Council Members to take a stroll in a wheelchair down Ridgecrest Blvd. to experience first-hand what handicapped persons face daily.
- Commented on reducing the width of bulb outs which would address the problem.
 - Lori Acton – clarified locations.
- Issue of left hand turn vehicles sharing occupancy with wheelchair.
 - Eddie Thomas – reminded Mr. Neel about Handicap Access Committee.

Bill Logan

- Volunteered persons from Immanuel Baptist Church to assist with code enforcement clean up.

Chip Holloway

- Representing Chamber of Commerce and role will be ending shortly.
- Referencing Kosmont, net savings would only be \$8000 annually so will not be pursuing the issue.
- Chamber's role was not to be adversarial, it is to spread the message on behalf of Council. ideas, issues and things council deal with exceed comprehension.
- Chamber will seek out opportunities that can help the community and council.
- Seeking ways to increase general fund revenues.
- Goal was not to embarrass council, but to encourage council to pursue these opportunities.
- Desert valley's credit union, presenting pins to council from the credit union.
- Volunteered Ridge project and other organizations to assist with code enforcement.
- Will always try to help council as much as I can.
 - Peggy Breeden – has learned a lot from Chip and will continue to learn.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation Of Employee Service Award

Council

Council presented certificates to employees who have reached certain milestones in years of service.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Receive And File The Investment Report For Four Month Period Ending April 30, 2015

McQuiston

3. Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The Application For And Acceptance Of The Department Of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Grant Assistance Program

Strand

4. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated May 20, 2015

Ford

Items removed from consent calendar

- Item no 3

Motion To Approve Item Nos. 2 And 4 Of The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Sanders, 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

Item No. 3 Discussion

Dave Matthews

- Understand City needs funds however there are two actions within this grant that I feel are unconstitutional.
- Realize aimed toward juveniles but do not know that the constitution differentiates between senior adults and children
- Young adults have a right to assemble
- Decoy program concerns, is same as entrapment
- Hope council will agree with me
- The shoulder tap program may also be a concern
- Need to find a better way to do this, don't think ABC bureau has the constitutional right to do this type of program, should be up to the police or federal agency.
- There is a better way to get funding than apply for these grants.

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Ron Strand

- Shoulder tap program is designed to stop adults from buying alcohol for minors
- The decoy is to keep adults from buying alcohol for kids. The persons approached are adult to adult.
- The minor decoy is a minor attempting to purchase alcohol to ensure owners are obeying the laws.
- This does not violate constitutional rights because it is not lawful to sell alcohol to minors.

Mike Neel

- Observed that military members are under 21 so they get the privilege to go into the battlefield to die but can't enjoy full privileges of being an adult.
 - Peggy Breeden – takes exception to the comments, being enlisted is a choice. It is the choice of the state that says the drinking age is 21, it is our responsibility to ensure they follow the law.
- Commented on the number of drunk drivers and suggested asking military members for their opinion.

Mrs. Neel

- Mr. Matthews was questioning whether this is the type of grant we should be pursuing.
- If we are concerned about our community and young people, then we should put our own money forward or find other ways to address the issue.
 - Ron Strand – past six years have reduced the numbers of minor arrests due to alcohol. Have the teen court which aid in reducing the juvenile issues. Important to keep alcohol out of the hands of children, if grant money will assist in this effort then Ridgecrest police will pursue it.

Mike Mower

- Requested explanation of the conducted tap
 - Ron Strand – complied, large parties and pursuing the persons hosting large parties. Each year police support safe grad party because of a local teen who was killed by driving drunk.

Lori Acton

- This has saved two teenagers lives that I know of and am grateful for the police for their efforts.

Eddie Thomas

- Asked about the offenses related to the minor tap
 - Ron Strand – adult is charged with providing alcohol. Is a felony. Business establishments will pay fines and could lose their license.

Dave Matthews

- I don't condone teenage drinking; my objection is that the items mentioned are unconstitutional.

Jim Sanders

- Asked about party patrol, what if alcohol is not being served.
 - Ron Strand – most attendance is due to complaints, if no alcohol is present then attendees are told to quiet it down. If alcohol is present then address as needed.
- Sensitive to views of unconstitutional and do not see anything in the provisions of this grant that violate a person's constitutional right.
- If business owners are told ahead of time and reminded about the law then no problem
 - Keith Lemieux – spoke on the constitutional concept of entrapment would be viewed on a case by case basis, nothing here indicates constitutional entrapment

Motion To Approve Item No. 3 Of The Consent Calendar Made By Council Member Acton, 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

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

Lori Acton

- Covered impact fees and are reviewing other fees which have been referred back to staff for next meeting. Looking for cohesiveness in getting building permits.

Mike Mower

- Study of our fees shows ours are lower than comparable cities. Continuing the discussion.

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, need to set date for July

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

- 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, next meeting in July.

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Peggy Breeden

- Last kern COG meeting there was survey taken by their consultant that reported questions about communities. Answers were broken down into supervisor districts so I want to get a copy of the survey for our area. Air quality was not addressed on this side of the valley; they volunteered to come here and give the presentation and would like to invite them to come here possibly July.
- China Lake Blvd. will be done by September, tired of the Blvd. being blocked and would like to ask Caltrans if they can block only sections that are currently being worked instead of the entire road. Would like this taken to Caltrans.

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Peggy Breeden *(continued)*

- Thanked Jessica for her article about the Banners, we have received several responses, Elks and Rotary, in addition to individuals. Want to set up a meeting with all volunteers so after budget hearings will get together with these people. Thanked everyone who helped make this happen. Jerry Taylor will work with the groups to share issues he experienced while working with the banner program
 - Dennis Speer – street department will take down the banners that are damaged.
- Have attended every planning commission meeting. Proud of the commission. I see the packets they have gone thru and they helped me understand why they are doing the things they do. Proud of the commission and staff who are making the effort to make our communities look better. Some of the changes are less dramatic than others but some are very dramatic and we are making progress.
- Establishing a gateway beautification committee and have asked for council members to participate so Lori and I will be attending these meetings.
- Looking forward to budget hearings, can't wait to see what is happening. Expect it to be good news.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Dennis Speer

- Budget hearings Friday at 1:00 and will continue Saturday from 10:00a.m.to 2:00 p.m.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jim Sanders

- No comments

Eddie Thomas

- Commented on the growth of Ridgecrest, looking forward to seeing China Lake Blvd. when done. If we are going to continue to grow Ridgecrest then need to continue to let this develop. My email and Facebook gets hit by complaints but think it will turn out good just like Ridgecrest Blvd.
- Asked about a solar plant in Ridgecrest that generates revenue.
 - Dennis Speer – have a solar park which significantly reduces City electric bill. SCE does not have capacity to buy electricity.
 - Speaker- commented on SCE and ground squirrels, and Diane Feinstein getting in the way. There is a project in the planning stage but have to take care of the little wildlife. Spoke on multiple projects and solar millennium leaving because of Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein.

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Mike Mower

- China Lake Blvd concerns about left hand turns. Hard to traverse the street and no construction in the areas. Agree with talking to Caltrans about the issue.

Lori Acton

- Suggested putting solar back into the community rather than storing.
 - Speaker – spoke on 10 gigawatts being shipped away.
- With help of Former Senator Ashburn the desert tortoise was removed from the endangered list. Suggested contacting him for issues with the Mojave ground squirrel
- BLM WEMO comments due in tomorrow.

Peggy Breeden

- Announced Wednesday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m. Town Hall meeting regarding Economic Development with Cedrick Knight mediating the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:12 p.m.



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk