



**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**

**March 4, 2015  
5:30 p.m.**

This meeting was recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period of time from date of approval by City Council/Redevelopment Agency. Meetings are recorded solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Council Absent: Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Sanders

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Added

Closed Session

GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation for Purchase – APN 067-040-12 – Agency Negotiator City Manager Dennis Speer

Remove

Closed Session

GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - Squillacote v. Frid

GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Eva Balfour v. City Of Ridgecrest

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT – CLOSED SESSION**

- None Presented

**CLOSED SESSION**

- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – City Of Ridgecrest v. William Dale Howard
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure Of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice The City Of Ridgecrest
- GC54956.9 (d) (4) Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation - NORTH COAST RIVERS ALLIANCE, PESTICIDE FREE ZONE, INC., HEALTH AND HABITAT, INC., and GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN, v. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, KAREN ROSS, and DOES I-XX Respondents and Defendants, and DOES XXI-CC Real Parties in Interest

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:00 p.m.**

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

- Closed Session
  - City Of Ridgecrest v. William Dale Howard, report received – no reportable action taken, direction given to staff.
  - Squillacote v. Frid, report received – pulled, item concluded.
  - Eva Balfour v. City Of Ridgecrest – pulled prior to approval of the agenda.
  - Undisclosed potential litigation – instruction given to City Attorney.
  - NORTH COAST RIVERS ALLIANCE, PESTICIDE FREE ZONE, INC., HEALTH AND HABITAT, INC., and GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN, v. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, KAREN ROSS, and DOES I-XX Respondents and Defendants, and DOES XXI-CC Real Parties in Interest, report received – City is not a party and no reportable action taken.
  - Local Agency Property Negotiation – report received – item moved to open session to take action.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### Robert Eierman

- Members of the public have requested as agenda item regarding land use management plan
  - Peggy Breeden – wanted to wait until Lorelei gave presentation, want everyone to be able to hear the presentation
- Feel Council should precede the presentation with discussion. Commented on opportunity to hear from the public.
  - Peggy Breeden – want to give everybody the opportunity to hear the presentation.
- Suggesting interchange between public and Council before a decision has to be made.
  - Lori Acton – suggested Council hold a special meeting for discussion after the presentation
- Have already heard from the County and will hear again on Saturday. Would be good to have discussion before the presentation on April 1.
  - Lori Acton – questioned if public want to have discussion after the Saturday meeting and then be prepared with questions for April 1.
- Suggested discussions prior to County meeting on April 1.
  - Peggy Breeden – suggested Saturday meeting, early in the morning.

Special Meeting scheduled March 14, 2015 from 10:30am – 12:30 pm

### Amy Hollingsworth

- Asked Council to consider building a Splash Park for young children.
- Commented on research of affordability and cost savings.
- Commented on water reclamation.
- Explained concept of Splash Park with fountains and ground drains without fear of children drowning.
- Moved here from Mississippi and would prefer to spend money locally for birthday parties and other children functions.
  - Lori Acton – will forward to quality of life committee
  - Peggy Breeden – asked if staff needs research to develop a report
  - Lori Acton – suggested meeting with Jason Patin for details.

### Al Huey

- Commented on County land use management plan. Some properties may receive a letter of non-conforming from the County.
- Commented on discussion with land owner who had paid for a letter of non-conforming and when asked about the effect, County response was 'what letter?'
- Questions the viability of the letter having any standing for the property owner in the future.
  - Peggy Breeden – suggest this as a good question on Saturday at the presentation.

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**Dave Matthews**

- Commented on the wording of the agenda item from last Council meeting regarding renaming the park. Item forwarded to quality of life committee by motion and now may come back to Council.
- Urged Council to set a meeting for quality of life committee.
  - Dennis Speer – internally wanted to research the subject. Never intent to rename the entire park, just the skate park. In the research discovered the park is County owned and County has given indication that if we want to place a memorial park would be reviewed by the board of supervisors. After being advised of the information, two members of the Quality Of Life Committee decided to refer back to Council.
- Commented on the resolution for renaming policy.
- Noted there is presently a sign at the park says 'City Of Ridgecrest Skate Park'.
- Stated that if the City was installing a memorial, that is fine. If changing the name of the skate park then have to follow the procedure.
- Feel there is still a need for the Quality Of Life Committee meeting on the subject.
  - Eddie Thomas – feels it is premature in bringing forward.

**Mike Neel**

- Referenced the bulb-outs and will await Council Member Acton's response to email.
- Hoping something can be done before a bicyclist is hit.
- Bulb-outs are fine except they are wider than necessary, could be cut down.
- If chopped then would allow room for bicyclist and bulb-outs would remain.
- Commented on the rescue islands as being unnecessary.
- Regarding land use management plan, concerned about turning private land to agriculture open space. Appears they (the County) are taking a value from the property. People now holding the property may have a reduced value.
- Closed session item on Dale Howard case – have been against this thing the whole time and another hearing coming. City has lost every hearing they had and spent a lot of money going after this. Only thing determined is nuisance and he has improved the situation. Citizens are saying there isn't a problem yet City continues to sue. If all costs are reimbursed it will be a large sum of money if they win.
- Stated the Howard's are an elderly couple with no health problems and sorry this has continued.

Public Comment closed at 6:40 p.m.

## PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Presentation of Employee Service Awards

Council

- Council Members presented services awards to employees Kelly Brewton and John Bracken recognizing them for their years of service to the City of Ridgecrest.

## CLOSED SESSION ACTION:

### GC54956.8 Local Agency Real Property Negotiations – Negotiation for Purchase – APN 067-040-12 – Agency Negotiator City Manager Dennis Speer

Dennis Speer

- Presented report of property negotiations. 32 acres of residential property, offer received under first right of refusal due to storm drain master plan. Mr. Kirchmeier has presented offer of \$315,000 for 32 acres which was discussed in closed session and is now presented to Council for public comment.

Gary Parsons

- Explained the 32 acre location with sump and drainage channel. Property bordered by Las Flores Street, Felspar Street, and Norma Street to undesignated, unpaved path.

Mike Mower

- Norma Street sump is major drainage for large center section of town. Sump needs to be expanded to avoid flooding on Norma Street
- Feels price is fair and would be beneficial to the City. Could recoup money by selling some of the land for homes.

Eddie Thomas

- Concurs with the idea

Lori Acton

- Suggested developing a pocket park in the area with expanding the sump

Tom Wiknich

- Clarified 32 acres and asked how much would be sump and what would be done with remaining property.
  - Gary Parsons – purchase entire acres and engineer would design sump and drainage with possible park. Remaining portion would be sold to a developer for residential housing.
- Asked for estimate of how much would be sold
  - Gary Parsons – do not know at this time.

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Tom Wiknich *(continued)*

- Mike Mower – estimate need 1/3 of the property for sump expansion.
- Asked about connection to neighboring parcel with sump.
  - Gary Parsons – is not connected and that sump is drainage for Home Depot. No incorporation between the two sumps.

Dave Matthews

- Been watching that property for years
- In consensus the sump needs expansion
- Las Flores drainage may have a dry well beneath it on the same property, would like to see the drainage go to the sump, still flooding during heavy rain.
- Question is where the money will come from with a limited budget.
  - Peggy Breeden – staff has presented ideas, we rejected the idea of using reserves
  - Dennis Speer – TAB funds that are unexpended and unencumbered. Part of action tonight is for staff to come back with specific source from TAB funds.
  - Mike Mower – \$2.5 million TAB funds set aside for Parks.

Mike Neel

- Have walked past the property at Norma Street, asked about section of property.
  - Mike Mower – entire parcel is being considered
- If sold to another buyer, does City lose easement for sump
  - Mike Mower – Area is a natural drainage area and part of the master drainage plan.
  - Peggy Breeden – need to wait for hydrology report, cannot speculate at this time.
- Questioned time frame and urgency.
  - Gary Parsons – urgency is because the offer expires tomorrow due to owner is already in escrow with another buyer but City has first right of refusal.
- A small expansion of the sump might take care of the needs for drainage and need to be fair to future owner.
- Commented on the lack of funding, would have been nice to have heard about this before we had to make a decision.
- If bought, how much housing development is going on and how long will City have to hold onto the land before they can sell it.

Eddie Thomas

- Asked the value of the property
  - Peggy Breeden – originally listed at \$672,0000

Warren Cox

- If City has opportunity to control this land and do the engineering, here is 32 acres that if developed would be asked to dump into the sump. That cost could be passed onto future developer for expansion.
- Support the City in this purchase.

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

### CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Accept For Filing Investment Reports For Four Month Period Ending January 31, 2015 McQuiston
3. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Approving The Contract Change Orders For Numbers Six, Seven, Eight And Nine With The Contractor, Griffith Company, For The Sunland Avenue Project From East Ridgecrest Boulevard To Upjohn Avenue And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Change Order Numbers Six, Seven, Eight And Nine Speer
4. Adopt A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Approving Contract Change Order Numbers Twenty-One, Twenty-Two And Twenty-Three With The Contractor, Griffith Company, For The West Ridgecrest Boulevard Project And Authorize The City Manager, Dennis Speer, To Sign The Change Order Numbers Twenty-One, Twenty-Two And Twenty-Three Speer
5. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated February 4, 2015 Ford
6. Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council/Successor Redevelopment Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority Meeting Dated February 18, 2015 Ford

Items Pulled From Consent Calendar

- Item No. 4

*Motion To Approve Item Nos. 2, 3, 5, And 6 Made By Council Member Thomas, Second By Council Member Mower. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

Item No. 4 Discussion

Dave Matthews

- Asked if change orders are for work already finished.
  - Dennis Speer – yes, one more coming next meeting
- Asked if any of these were connected to bulb-outs.
  - Dennis Speer – no.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

7. **Adopt A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Establishing A Finding For Unmet Transit Needs That Is Reasonable To Meet With The Public Transportation System** Speer

Dennis Speer

- Presented Staff Report

*Public Comment Opened At 7:06 p.m.*

Dave Matthews

- State the words 'reasonable to meet' is a catch that prevents anything being accomplished.
- Need to go back to the State to tell them we need a way to fund these unmet needs or quit going thru this process.
- Used to have a dial-a-ride system, explained process for scheduling rides.
- Currently have a deviated fixed route which allows handicap to deviate, but only by a certain amount.
- Suggested a smaller standby vehicle for people who cannot access the system, which allows these citizens to dial up and make arrangements.

Mike Neel

- Asked the average daily use per bus and peak usage time
  - Lori Acton – lunchtime is the busiest
  - Dennis Speer – ridership 17,000 for 3 full time busses with extra bus for lunch.
- Commented the average riders is 10 per day.
- Asked about passenger capacity
  - Dennis Speer – 22 individuals per bus.
- Stated that most of the time, the bus is less than half full and a lot of time is empty.
- Fare box ratio is hard to meet and costs are higher for running the bus most of the time.
  - Dennis Speer – total cost is approximately \$1 million with subsidies of \$470,000
  - Fare box has changed to 25% and explained County contracts to Inyokern and Ransburg/Johannesburg which can now be counted into the totals.
  - Have to meet the transit needs before using any Caltrans funding for roads.
- Commented this is the usual requirement of doing one thing before getting the funding.
- Stated there is a lot of money wasted on buses and not enough on roads. Suggested smaller buses and finding ways to reduce bus cost in order to use other funds on roads.

Lori Acton

- Commented that there are approximately 70 people per day being serviced by the Transit System. Good numbers for a small town.

Peggy Breeden

- Commented on how well the service is run and feels if we can service 17,000 per year we have done a good job

Mike Mower

- Agrees with Mr. Neel but for over 30 years have had to follow these rules and would be foolish to lose the Kern COG money.

*Closed Public Comment at 7:16 p.m.*

*Motion To Approve A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Establishing A Finding For Unmet Transit Needs That Is Reasonable To Meet With The Public Transportation System Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

## DISCUSSION AND OTHER ACTION ITEMS

**8. Discussion And Approval Of Development Impact Fee Payment Plan With  
Vimco Venture, Inc., Approve Resolution And Authorize Finance Director  
To Execute Agreement** **McQuiston**

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented Staff Report

Mike Mower

- Questioned location of hotel and if impact fees were paid on first hotel before opening.
- Is the hotel open, have they received business license and are we receiving TOT?
- When I build a home cannot get a final until impact fees are paid, asked if he has already received a final without paying the fees.
- Asked about interest on the loan.

Loren Culp

- Project has had difficulty being completed
- Owner has completed improvements to satisfaction of County and City
- Has a conditional temporary occupancy permit and the condition is payment of impact fees.
- Municipal Code does allow improvement security with impact fee payment over time. Trying to accommodate the owner.

Peggy Breeden

- Want to get our money and this has a sour taste.
- Asked if this is applied equally to all developers?
  - Mike Mower – he is keeping the property which is different for homeowners
- Asked if we would allow this for homebuilders until the property sells? Do not want to do something that would hurt this person but want equality for all developers
  - Dennis Speer – there is already precedent for another local builder.

Mike Mower

- If I finish a house, I delay the fees by not occupying the building.

Lori Acton

- What happens if he goes delinquent
  - Rachelle McQuiston – There is a lien against property so cannot be sold and can also rescind the occupancy permit.

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Mike Mower

- Commented on driving thru town every Sunday and hotel occupancy is good except at this owner's north hotel and the south hotel only had 2 vehicles.
- His occupancy is low but at least we are getting TOT

Public Comment

Tom Wiknich

- Clarified the \$72,000 with a 36 month pay off and lean being recorded upon approval.
- City would have foreclosure rights if he defaults.

Warren Cox

- Asked if the lien is a second and the bank has the first.
  - Dennis Speer – assuming this is a second.
- Important you know City position should there be a default

Mike Mower

- Asked if the retail store will also be open.
  - Loren Culp – currently in the inspection phase with County

Lori Acton

- Asked if it was ever opened
  - No

Mike Neel

- Commented it is inappropriate for the business license to be issued before this was approved.
- If bank has the loan, City is second in line should this default
- Have concerns about this property doing business
- Asked why title search has not been done.
- Suggested market research.
- Questioned if he was going to do enough business to justify him owing us money.
  - Rachele McQuiston – would get nothing without an agreement, at least will get something each month and could then remove the occupancy.
- Commented on impact fees have scared off persons developing property, perhaps we should not charge so many fees on the front end, give better breaks during development.

*Motion To Approve Development Impact Fee Payment Plan With Vimco Venture, Inc. Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Acton. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

**9. Executive Summary And Discussion Of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Projections McQuiston**

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented Staff Report

Peggy Breeden

- Asked about verification process to ensure hotels are reporting accurately.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – looking at doing an audit because the numbers did not increase during the petroglyph festival. Checking on hiring a firm to do the audit. An audit was performed a couple years ago.
- Might be appropriate to send letter of inquiry to hotels about their occupancy and let them know there may be an audit.

Lori Acton

- Suggested there may have been a reduction to base occupancy at the same time because of the holiday.

Rachelle McQuiston

- Compared like months for past 5 years and occupancy was lower than previous.

Eddie Thomas

- Suggested Rachelle McQuiston speak with Doug at RACVB

Mike Mower

- Commented about the audit process.
- Asked about tracking of individual hotels and slow payments.
  - Rachelle McQuiston – has a small problem with slow payments and has been watching totals, will break down to individuals.
- Asked about late penalty

Rachelle McQuiston

- Reviewed projection reports provided to Council as supplemental documents.
- General fund is \$140k to the good
- Gas tax fund is up
- Commented on transit grant for garage construction
- Reviewed wastewater fund. While still shows a negative balance, does have a cash balance.
  - Dennis Speer – explained the design contract which is only expended in small portions but shows in totality.
- Have issued RFP on new financial system and committee will be reviewing proposals. Hope to come back to Council in couple months with a recommendation.

Eddie Thomas

- Measure 'L' Fund is projected with increase.
  - Dennis Speer – as additional funds are received will come back to Council with requests to add streets.

Public Comment

- None presented

**10. Discussion And Possible Termination Of The Nossaman, LLP, Professional Services Agreement** **Speer**

Dennis Speer

- Presented Staff Report
- Asked Council to consider the actual value received versus the cost of the contract.
- Council discussion of whether to continue with the agreement or terminate.

Peggy Breeden

- Doesn't appear we are getting anything for what we pay, is there any possibility we will receive anything in the future?
  - Dennis Speer – at this time, do not believe we will benefit. Originally there was a proposed BRAC which did not materialize; in future this firm would be beneficial if there is a BRAC.

Mike Mower

- In three years, what have we received?
  - Dennis Speer – receive reports with information already received from other sources. Not aware of receiving any new information.

Eddie Thomas

- Has advance notice been given to the contractor
  - Dennis Speer – at this time no, brought to Council, 30 day notice requirement.

Lori Acton

- Asked if staff has interacted with this lobbyist.
  - Dennis Speer – have to have something specific in the federal arena to need their services. Already working with the Navy on the wastewater and Kern COG who provide the same information.
- Asked about relationship with Navy
  - Dennis Speer – have been involved with Navy for years and they are very accessible.
- Feel comfortable terminating the contract.

Dave Matthews

- Is it possible to request they do specific search for certain types of funding
  - Dennis Speer – main types of funding needed by the City we already receive grant listings. Most grants are matching and departments do not have matching funds available. Commented on street grants we already receive.
- Specified navy isn't paying their fair share to operate the facility, could this lobbyist find funding for wastewater plant in another area.

Mike Neel

- Recapped the money spent on the contract and have received nothing for it.
  - Dennis Speer – have received reports
- Commented on story of Death Valley Scotty.
- Asked why we took 3 years to decide we weren't getting anything. Raised opposition about lobbyists at the time this contract was approved.

*Motion To Approve Termination Of The Professional Services Agreement Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Nossaman, LLP Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Carried By Voice Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

**ORDINANCES**

**11. Introduction And First Reading, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 24 With Regard To License Tax Rates And Classifications**

**McQuiston**

Rachelle McQuiston

- Presented staff report
- Last time business license fees were raised was 1999

No Council comments

*Motion To Waive Reading In Full Of An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 24 With Regard To License Tax Rates And Classifications Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

*Requires A Second*

Public Comment

Dave Matthews

- Asked if the title has been changed.
- Asked if this affects every individual who rents or leases property in the City
  - Mike Mower – clarifies that if you have 4 or more properties for rent you have to have business license.
- If these properties were all purchased and rented before the City was incorporated, does this apply. I know an individual who had rentals before incorporation.
  - Rachele McQuiston – Making the assumption the properties were rented since the ordinance went into effect, but if rented after ordinance is approved will have to get license.

*Motion To Introduce, By Title Only, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter 6, Article 24 With Regard To License Tax Rates And Classifications Made By Council Member Acton, Second By Council Member Mower. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

*Requires A Second*

**OTHER DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**Discussion And Authorization To Submit A Letter Of Opposition Of The Department Of Finance Redevelopment Agency Dissolution Trailer Bill To The Honorable Adrin Nazarian, Assembly Budget Subcommittee On State Administration #4** Lemieux

Michael Silander

- Presented Staff Report
- Ridgecrest v. Matasantos and other cities. This bill would retroactively nullify contracts and make them unenforceable
- Also prohibits legal fees.
- Many cities and attorneys will be doing the same letters.
- Will overthrow a couple litigations the state lost.

Mike Mower

- Another way for State to money grab
  - Michael Silander – correct

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Dennis Speer

- Would invalidate the AMG loan and litigation as well as the new litigation for the solar loan
- Would not get the \$3 million ransom money back and would lose another \$3 million loan for Solar, total loss is \$6 million

Peggy Breeden

- Everyone needs to stand up and say no. Can't change a law after it is passed and go backwards retroactively.
- Feel individuals need to also speak up and write letters.

Public Comment

- None Presented

*Motion To Approve Authorization To Submit A Letter Of Opposition Of The Department Of Finance Redevelopment Agency Dissolution Trailer Bill To The Honorable Adrin Nazarian, Assembly Budget Subcommittee On State Administration #4 Made By Council Member Mower, Second By Council Member Thomas. Motion Carried By Roll Call Vote Of 4 Ayes (Mayor Breeden, Council Members, Acton, Thomas And Mower); 0 Noes; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent (Council Member Sanders)*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**City Organization and Services Committee**

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

- No Report

**Infrastructure Committee**

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

Mike Mower

- Meeting one week from tomorrow to discuss downs widening project
- Discussed crosswalk
- Discussed edge line for streets, must have 12 feet before streets can be edge lined.

❖ **Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee**

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

- No Report
- Next meeting April 6 at 5:30 p.m.

**Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee**

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

- No Report
- Did talk with Lori about memorial plaque for Ron Carter.

❖ **Ad Hoc Youth Advisory Council**

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

- No Report

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

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

- No Report

**Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB)**

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

Lori Acton

- Read directors report *(copy attached)*
- BLM filming opportunities discussed
- Next meeting April 1 at Kerr McGee center
- OHV racing opportunities discussed
- SNOR happening again this year

## OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

### Peggy Breeden

- Kern COG meeting discussed vehicle registration \$1.00 fee going to State for road cleaning, call boxes, etc. Seems inappropriate to pay this fee when they don't come to our area to clean roads. Sheriff department discussion will look at how we can benefit by some of those funds in our area.
- League of California Cities attended meeting locally, opportunities available for information and grants and will follow up on these.
- Kern County grant thru board of trade to benefit 5 cities in the County that are impacted by federal installations. Approved to move forward.
- Groundwater management meeting received report from Lorelei Oviatte on how entities will deal with the land use management plan. Encouraged everyone who has questions about this plan attend the meetings. Handout given to water district and will provide the report for Council and the public regarding sustainability.

### Lori Acton

- BLM roundtable and DRECP encouraged public to visit their website.

### Dave Matthews

- BLM Desert Advisory Council will be meeting in Ridgecrest

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

### Dennis Speer

- Received Caltrans bulletin proposing reduction to gas excise tax. Projected revenue would be reduced over 20% for next year. Part of revenue neutral prop 42 sales taxes from Board Of Equalization.
- Call for projects from Kern COG; believe the Downs Street Project will qualify for all three funding opportunities. Will be meeting with committee to explain why the project qualifies.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

### Lori Acton

- Daylight saving time is this weekend
- Highlights on the private land, commented about the tax options
- Receiving two awards from Kern COG, the Ridge Project and the Petroglyph Festival.
- Thanked Starla for all her hard work with transit. A lot better off than we used to be.
- Looking for a good spring and the wildflowers

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Mike Mower

- Wildflowers already coming out. Hope to get a few more rains.

Eddie Thomas

- Thanked staff, shouts out to Parks Department for doing an outstanding job. Parks are looking great.
- Want to change the lights in Council Chambers, bulbs are out.
- Thanked public for wanting to give input regarding the land use management plan.

Peggy Breeden

- Kern County will be here at 9 am on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March
- Asked for agenda item about impact fees, how they came about, what is their impact on the City, if not building a lot would a reduction encourage more construction of homes. If we can reduce prices on a new home, appear to be moving around in the same old homes.
  - Dennis Speer – annual report
  - Mike Mower – responded with average home costs
- Rotary club meeting announced
- Washington trip to talk to navy about community needs is rescheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Meeting with Kevin McCarthy and Admiral McGinn to discuss projects for the Navy that will benefit the community. See an opportunity for us to work together to benefit the community. Will discuss wastewater treatment; believe we need a tertiary program. Lots of dollars for tertiary water. Long ways to go and a lot of opportunities to ask for help.
- 760-382-3563, want the public to text 'yes', 'no', or 'I don't know' about the Kern County Land Use Management Plan. Council wants to know how you feel. Don't want to know why or have your name.
- Thanked everyone for coming.

**ADJOURNMENT at 8:38 p.m.**



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Rachel J. Ford/CMC  
City Clerk