



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AND
RIDGECREST REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555**

**August 4, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

Tape Recorded
Tape 04-16

This meeting was tape 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 – 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Ronald Carter, Vice Mayor Richard Martin, Council Members Steven Morgan and Daniel Clark

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Marshall Holloway

STAFF Harvey Rose, City Manager; Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Finance Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION

GC54957.6 Labor Relations - Harvey Rose

GC54957 Employee Matters - Staff Evaluations - Harvey Rose

In Closed Session Council received information of a tentative labor agreement with Local 1036. A resolution approving this MOU is on Consent Calendar for Council approval – cost of approximately 24K. City Manager discussed evaluations of senior staff and a proposed reorganization. No action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:37 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Vice Mayor Martin

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INVOCATION – Silent Moment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Martin, seconded by Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Council Member Holloway absent.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation - Vi Koehler

Mayor Carter and the Council presented a proclamation and plaque to Vi Koehler commemorating her retirement from the City of Ridgecrest after 31 years of service as a Police Dispatcher.

2. Presentation – Business Development Center

Jeff Johnson, Weill Institute, made a presentation on the activities of the Business Development Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Resolution No. 04-39, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Adopting A Sewer User Charge For The 2004/2005 Fiscal Year Pollock
4. Resolution No. 04-40, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Accepting A Proposal From Boydston Construction To Construct A Curb Return, Apron And Cross Gutter At The Intersection Of Richmond Road And Upjohn Avenue Pollock
5. Resolution No. 04-41, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving And Authorizing Execution Of A Memorandum Of Understanding With The United Food And Commercial Workers Local 1036 Rose
6. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of July 7, 2004 Gable
7. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated July 9, 2004 In The Amount Of \$281,384.58 Winegardner

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8. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated July 23, 2004 In The Amount Of \$181,141.41 Winegardner
9. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated July 9, 2004 In The Amount Of \$28,071.71 Winegardner
10. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated July 23, 2004 In The Amount Of \$5,550.00 Winegardner

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment. Motion Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Council Member Holloway absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

11. Discussion Of Local Option Sales Tax Proposal Rose

City Manager Rose updated the Council and the meeting attendees

Public comment

Richard Senn, 113 S. Lumill

- Asked if Council was going to borrow 20M dollars like in the property tax proposal or just use this extra tax to do things as you accumulate the funds
 - Mr. Rose stated by showing ability to pay back loans we can do the work now if we borrow what we need now
- Bankers love this kind of loan - keeps you constantly in debt
- Not fair to mortgage city when we still owe 15M mostly on this building
 - Council Member Martin asked what he (Mr. Senn) would do with the streets as they will not last 20 years until we accumulate the money to fix them
- Don't mortgage the whole 20M look at what we can do for various projects doing the worst and working through to the ones needing less repair
 - Council Member Martin noted by borrowing the funds now the City will also have some matching funds if we manage to get some grant funds for infrastructure projects
- Does not have a problem with the tax but with debt
 - Council Member Morgan stated the intent of the infrastructure portion is to break it up into pieces – go out and get a loan for a piece or project but not doing all of the projects all at once – there is no sunset clause on this but it goes on as long as the voters let it stay there
- Concerned about what will happen after this Council is no longer here – prefers to be more prudent on debt

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Al Huey, 1128 Windy Lynn Avenue

- Appreciates the replies Council gave to Mr. Senn
- Also concerned about when this Council is no longer sitting
- Could have other Councils who would do harm to these funds by not using them as is now intended
- Would take too long to remove bad Council through the recall process
- It was implied earlier that there is no alternative to fixing the streets other than more taxes
- He still feels it should be a special tax specifically stated for infrastructure - this is what citizens keep telling him
- Could be difficult to keep the funds for the intended things - infrastructure and police - separate in the general fund
- What if someone comes along and wants to build a performing arts center - what keeps the sitting Council from using these funds
- If he becomes a council member he will insure that the money goes to where the people want it spent
- If tax does not pass consider a special tax and include a sunset clause
- Hears from the community that the citizens are uncomfortable with a general tax
 - Council Member Martin stated that this is a general tax and if it does not pass we will find some other way to fix the infrastructure
 - Council Member Morgan stated this has been discussed over and over in many meetings and venues
- Specific/special tax is easy to do with all the projects defined
 - With a special tax say just for infrastructure if we received project grant funds we would have to decline the money for a specific item because we have a specific tax for that project
 - With general we can accept the grant funds and use the general tax funds as matching funds
 - We started with 1/2 percent for infrastructure and then the public said we needed to help the police department so we added another 1/4 percent – this is general tax funds – we could not have added police if a specific tax
- Mr. Huey stated he has done research online on special taxes and they don't indicate they are as specific as Council is saying
- He is uncomfortable with it and does not support the general tax
 - Mayor Carter stated Council has made a decision and have put the measure on the ballot and now it is up to the voters to say yes or no
 - This came about through many discussions and inputs from the citizens over the past few years - about what they wanted in their community
 - Council Member Martin stated general tax gives more ability to maximize the funds where they are needed most

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Randy Jenkins, 3827 W. Robertson Road

- Maybe on the next ballot why not pay another 1/2% and put it into a trust fund for the future
- Would make it easier to fund the police department and fix the roads and maybe attract people to come here to live

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

Reminded council of special meeting at 5 pm August 5 in Council Conference Room pertaining to the Reallocation of C.D.B.G. funds

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

None

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Dan Clark, Mike Biddlingmeier, Howard Laire

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting August 10 5:00 pm

Legislative Committee

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting August 18

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Chair Steve Morgan, Duke Martin, Chuck Roulund, Jim Smith

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

Next meeting August 10

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:00 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting August 12 at 5:00 p.m.

Quality of Life Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Ron Carter, Mike Biddlingmeier, Howard Laire

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Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Kerr-McGee Center
No meetings in July and August - Next meeting September 23

Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Members: Chair Ron Ketcham, Vice Chair Lois Beres, Harley Baker, Bob Peoples, Gary Charlon. Ex-officio Members Council Members Steve Morgan and Duke Martin, Planning Commissioner Shelia Torkelson

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM, Council Conference Room

Next meeting August 17

RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Dan Clark - Alternate

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8:00 a.m., RACVB Office

Met July 21 –

Next meeting September 18

Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions

Council Member Clark stated Senior Ad hoc will meet on September 23 just before Quality of Life Committee

Council Member Martin distributed a press release regarding Proposition 1A Meeting of the LAFCO will be August 24 - agenda will have sphere of influence Shafter and Bakersfield - meetings are on 3rd Tuesday each month

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clark

- 100 Voices for Women Steering Committee invited medical services to participate
- Attendees included Ridgecrest Regional Hospital group, National Health Care Services that took over Sage, and Drummond Medical Group representatives attended
- Positive dialogue took place – much support for doctors practicing here
- The concept of a women's health care center needs to be defined
- Next meeting of the Steering Committees is September 16
- Noted article in Daily Independent today regarding local health care
- Stopped to talk to Craig Peterson in McQuiston's office regarding funding of 2M for senior housing - we have till July 2005 to appropriate those funds
- September 14 Youth Advisory Committee meeting 1145 to 1 pm
- Spoke with economic development people today about new restaurant coming to town

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- Condolences to Tina Holland and family and person who was struck by a car last evening
- Congratulated other candidate who have entered the Council race

Morgan

- Condolences to Holland and Ernst families
- Encouraged by reports on medical services – talked to hospital and clinic after the first 100 voices women's conference
- Council is still willing to talk to groups on the tax issue
- Requested full presentation of the 2M received for senior housing and asked what are strings attached - would like a catch up on the issue

Martin

- Congratulated Council Member Morgan on election as Lions Club President
- Congratulated Mr. Rose for 30 years as a city manager and being put up for ICMA award
- Congratulated Mary, Lois and Al for stepping into the fray by running for Council seat
- Congratulated all the other candidates for all the boards holding elections
- Should not take our enemies for granted and we are at war
- Also condolences to Holland family and Bill Ferguson family - they are some of our pioneering families
- Women's Center received 1M grant

Carter

- Governor has signed a budget - thanked Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy for trying to make changes
- State is still taking way to much from cities and counties
- July 16 Assemblyman McCarthy was here with update on doings in Sacramento - we are the only Council that meets with him regularly and flies to Sacramento to meet with him
- There is a State Commission with recommendation of Governor soliciting input on how to change the way we do business
- Noticed many young people who have moved away coming back here to Ridgecrest and getting jobs

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk