



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

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

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

Tape Recorded  
Tape 04-02

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 – 6:32 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ronald Carter, Mayor Pro Tem Marshall Holloway, Vice Mayor Richard Martin, Council Members Steven Morgan and Daniel Clark

**STAFF** Harvey Rose, City Manager; Wayne Lemieux, City Attorney; Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Finance Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director; Jerry Helt, Public Works Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Council Member Clark**

**INVOCATION – Reverend Ed Jayne, United Methodist Church**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Holloway TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes

**PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Presentation – Valentine Tribute**

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Dorothy Bennett, Marianne Kistler and the members of the Desert Planters Garden Club presented a floral Valentine Tribute to the City of Ridgecrest in the City's 41st year of incorporation.

### 2. Presentation –Annual Financial Report

Finance Director Winegardner gave staff report. And introduced Gary Caporicci, partner in Caporicci and Larson, CPA, the City's the Independent Auditor. The City Council and Redevelopment Agency had been provided with a copy of the Audit and Fiscal Year 2003 Comprehensive Annual Financial Annual Report prior to the meeting. (Copy in Agenda packet)

### PUBLIC COMMENT

E.B Earle, 216 W. Rader Avenue

- Upset by news articles in local press regarding mandatory trash pickup
- Has lived here since 1950 and as had an independent trash hauler, Robert Pierce, for over 30 years
- Not fair that Benz should get all of the business and put hard working people like Mr. Pierce out of business

Dorothy Brown, 221 N. Gold Canyon Drive

- Also spoke on subject of mandatory trash pickup stating it was not the remedy for illegal dumping
- Most illegal dumping is in the county not the City of Ridgecrest
- Additional amount will go on tax bill along with other additional taxes
- Understands that the City has no ordinance pertaining to illegal dumping and littering
- If this is true then the City needs to get one on "the books"
- Is aware that a number of people are hauling trash

Matt Feemster, 724 Sydnor

- Commented on a Council Comment statement by Mr. Holloway that transit employees were taking Spanish lessons
- If it is a City policy to give these lessons it is wrong – if the city mandated the Spanish lessons it is wrong
- There are many people living in city who cannot speak English - they can learn but will not
- He was born and raised in Los Angeles which has a many ethnic groups but they all spoke English
- Quoted California constitution which delineates that English is the official language of the State
- Language tends to be a dividing factor in a community
- Teach the Spanish speaking people "ESL" not the other way around

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Mayor Carter Stated there is no City policy but have agreement with bargaining unit on the subject.

Al Huey, 1128 Windy Lynn

- Compliment council and Finance Department on the good financial report and audit
- Is a member of Ridgecrest Citizens For Democratic Government
- The groups is starting a 12 week lecture series on the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights based on concept for the documents at writing
- Series will start Tuesday February 17, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. – it will be every Tuesday until it ends in May – cost is \$25 - Fellowship Hall at Calvary Assembly of God
- Extended invitation to Council and City employees to attend – passed out 5 passes to the Council
- Call 375-6971
- Asked when will mandatory trash discussions be on the agenda
- Asked about intersection of Ridgecrest Boulevard and Sunland

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- Remarked about beautifying Ridgecrest and (with humor) a beginning would be not o re-elect Chip

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

3. Resolution No. 04-11, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Award Of The Contract To Reconstruct Allen Street From Upjohn Avenue To Bowman Road To The Lowest Responsible Bidder Subject To The Approval The Kern County Department Of Community Development Pollock
4. Resolution No. 04-12, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council And The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Agency Accepting The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 And The Redevelopment Agency Basic Financial Statements Together With Independent Auditors' Reports Winegardner
5. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of 1/21/04 Gable
6. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated 1/23/04 In The Amount Of \$207,371.78 Winegardner

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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 5 ayes.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

7. **Public Hearing To Discuss And Receive Public Input On A Grant Request To The State Of California Department Of Transportation For Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Program Funding In The Amount Of \$40,000 For The Purchase Of One (1) 8 To 10-Passenger Gas Powered Van With Wheelchair Accessibility** **Helt**

City Engineer Helt gave the staff report

- The City was allocated FTA Section 5311 funds in the amount of \$30,000 towards the purchase of one (1) 8 to 10-passenger gas powered van
- The estimated total cost of the vehicle is \$40,000
- City's match is \$13,441
- A Public Hearing was held in December and CalTrans has asked the City to repeat the hearing process
- Purpose of the hearing is to present the project to the general public and to receive input from the public regarding the project

Public Hearing opened at 7:10 p.m.

Dorothy Brown, 221 N. Gold Canyon Drive

- Asked if gas means gasoline – yes
- There are programs with grants for alternate fuels – has City investigate this possibility
  - City has looked at alternates in the C&G program for the next 6 year cycle

Public Hearing closed at 7:13 p.m.

Council Member Holloway noted that the Kern County Air Pollution Control District had Committee that works with DMV grants and has obtained a number of hybrid cars for various cities in the County

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

8. **Ordinance No. 04-01, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code To Prohibit Smoking In Or Near Municipal Building** **Rose**

City Manager Rose gave the staff report

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- This ordinance was approved on first reading, by title only, at the regular meeting of the City Council on January 21, 2004
- Cost will be \$100-200 for new signage
- It is presented here for second reading and adoption.

Moved by Council Member Clark seconded by Council Member Martin TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 04-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN OR NEAR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 3 ayes, 2 noes. Council Members Holloway and Martin voted no.

### **CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS**

As City Clerk, Mr. Rose imparted information regarding the March 2 Primary Election

- Last day to register to vote in the Primary is February 15. Registration cards are available at the County Administration Office, Superior Court, Library, Sheriff's Office, DMV, Post Office, and here at City Hall
- Many things to vote upon – Presidential Candidates, Congressional, State offices and several propositions - 55, 56, 57, 58

### **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 to be announced

#### **Legislative Committee**

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

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

Next meeting February 18, 10:00 a.m. Texas Cattle Company

#### **Infrastructure Committee**

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

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

Next meeting February 10, 5:00 p.m.

Meeting on February 23 between the City staff and CalTrans staff regarding E. Ridgecrest Boulevard and Sunland Street

### **City Organization Committee**

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

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

Next meeting to be announced - cancelled for February

### **Quality of Life Committee**

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

Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting February 26

Proposed Paintball Park and additional hours for Skate Park will be discussed

### **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 February 17

### **RACVB**

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Dan Clark - Alternate

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

Next meeting February 18

### **Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions**

**Clark** - February 10 Youth Advisory Council will meet 11:45 a.m., Kerr-McGee Center

February 26 Senior Ad hoc Committee will meet at 4:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center – main topic will be mandatory trash pickup

**Martin** – Desert-Mountain Division of League of California Cities met at California City on January 30th. Council Members Martin and Holloway attended. Out

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SCE representative Debbie Hess was there and is here tonight. Received information on the League's proposed initiative for the November ballot to prevent State from taking funds from cities and counties

**Morgan** – Attended the BLM Steering meeting last week on the West Mojave Plan. Their next meeting will be February 26 at BLM offices. There is an archeological survey going on in Searles Valley. Next Quad State meeting is March 5 at which time the City will be voted into the group – he will attend.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

#### **Morgan**

- Hazardous Waste Roundup is on Saturday February 7, 9:00 a.m. to -noon at Kern County Landfill
- All containers must be properly labeled as to contents and sealed
- No business wastes will be accepted – only household wastes
- Lions Student Speakers Contest is February 17, 7 p.m., in Council Chambers – subject "Democracy, Is it For Everyone"
- Economic Outlook Conference is February 6, 7 a.m. breakfast – Senator Ashburn, Assemblyman McCarthy, Supervisor McQuiston and other speakers
- He loves the mandatory trash issue because it brings forth a dialogue with the City and citizens
- There are unlicensed trash haulers which is a problem for this City
- County may go to mandatory because it is a problem for them too

#### **Martin**

- KernCOG awards presentation is March 4 in Bakersfield
- Read an LA times article on the Governor's bond issue
- If issue fails on the March 2 ballot it can damage States credit standing and will adversely impact all cities and counties
- Citizens need to educate themselves on the issues on the March 2 ballot

#### **Holloway**

- LCC is sponsoring the ballot initiative to prevent the State from taking funds from cities and counties
- Should be an announcement by February 9
- Mandatory trash issue will not be rushed through Council and will be discussed in the City Organization Committee
- City needs to receive input from citizens
- We all will be bombarded with commercials regarding ballot initiatives and props and candidates for March and November – study the issues carefully before you make decisions

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### Carter

- The Sister City group is meeting tonight and will look at March 22 for a trip to Tepatitlan, Mexico
- Group wants all of the Council Members to go – usually a 5 day trip
- Asked who wants to go – Holloway, Clark, , maybe Morgan, possibly Martin
- Props 57 and 58 are crucial to pass – these will impact colleges and school districts
- There is a rally on February 27 on these props with School District
- Will have resolutions for Council at next meeting February 18
- Appreciate the LCC moving forward
- Met with Supervisor McQuiston on Monday about the mandatory trash issue
- Will protect our landfill and ground water – City will work with county and educate citizens on the problems
- Will be having town hall meetings and meetings with county

### Clark

- Youth Advisory Council will bring to the February 26 Quality of Life Committee an option of expanding of hours of Skate Park from 10:00 p.m. to midnight for those over 18
- Skate Park is the most utilized park in City
- Lighting has been damaged – no lights now – lots of trash and graffiti
- Youth need to be pro-active in keeping the park clean and damage free, etc.
- 100 Voices For Women is March 13 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm at Kerr-McGee Center – 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. is a continental breakfast with lunch at noon
- Surveys for this conference are being printed – and committee needs RSVP for those planning on attending
- A prioritized needs assessment will come forth from this conference
- No news recently regarding the senior retirement housing

Council Member Martin noted the home economics class from Monroe Middle School was in the audience

Mayor Carter cannot attend the Economic Outlook Conference but has written a letter to be read there

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carter adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk