



**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 18, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

Tape Recorded
Tape 04-03

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 – 6:02 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; Jerry Helt, Public Works Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:04 p.m.

GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations, Lots 23 and 24 of Parcel Map # 10819; Ridgecrest Business Park, Nickoletti's Center (NC) – Negotiators Harvey Rose and James McRea

Added Item

GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations – APN 343-041-60 – Women's Center High Desert, Inc. – Negotiator James McRea

Motion by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Morgan TO ADD THIS ITEM TO THE CLOSED SESSION. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

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Council Member Holloway arrived at 6:30 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION – 6:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Carter

INVOCATION – Silent Moment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose requested addition of two items to the Regular Session Agenda – Presentations –

1. Dorothy and Hal Bennett presenting Take Pride In Ridgecrest bumper stickers for the City Fleet – add after item #4
2. Lois Beres and Marlene Tracy representing the Legislative Committee presenting research on State Propositions 57 and 58 as requested by the City Council – add after item #7

Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Clark TO ADD THE ABOVE ITEMS TO THE AGENDA. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Award to Senior Officer Mark Marr

Chief Avery Presented Senior Officer Marr an Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the DuPont Company for his actions during an incident in August 2000 where his Kevlar vest protected him from a knife attack.

2. Proclamation – National Engineers' Week

On behalf of the City Council, Council Member Morgan presented a proclamation to Jerry David Banister, Chairman, High Desert Engineering Association, in recognition of National Engineers' Week, February 22-28, 2004.

3. Proclamation – National Brotherhood Month

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On behalf of the City Council, Council Member Martin presented a proclamation to Dr. Yolanda Pasillas, Pastor, Greater Harvest Ministries, in recognition of National Brotherhood Month, February 2004.

4. Proclamation – African-American History Month

On behalf of the City Council, Council Member Clark presented a proclamation to Bettye Sembach, NAACP, and Vice President Alexander of BOSS in recognition of African American History Month, February 2004.

Added item

Dorothy and Hal Bennett, Bennett Optical Co. and Desert Planter Members, presented *Take Pride in Ridgecrest* bumper stickers to the Council and the City to affix to the City's vehicle fleet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- The membership of all organizations is aging
- Encouraged anyone involved with youth to stress the need to participate in organizations of all types
- All organizations provide services to the individual, youth, seniors, the general community and other groups
- Feels there will most likely be discussion of City's finances later in this meeting
- Same sex marriages is against the laws of the state of California and urged Council to take a stand against same sex marriages

Ashley Dempster, 1012 Alene Avenue

- Coach of the Indian Wells Valley All-Star Cheerleaders and here representing the group of young ladies
- Displayed the top honors awards the group took in the Aloha Spirit Championships in Hawaii
- Next competition will be February 29 at Universal Studios Amphitheater
- Announced a dinner auction on Saturday February 21 to raise funds of about \$3,500 for uniforms for the group
- Dinner to be catered by Hitters - \$20 - 6-8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds
- Council Member Morgan noted that he was serving as auctioneer - his daughter Nicole is a member of the group

Gwen Jensen, 241 Panamint Avenue

- Represents many seniors - belongs to many senior clubs and attends many meetings concerning seniors

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- Wished to comment on the mandatory trash collection issue
- Recalled that when Benz was going to put the big carts into service in 1997 there was not supposed to be a charge for the carts
- Eventually a charge for the big carts appeared on the billings
- Did not know that there were different sizes in the carts
- Many seniors do not need the large carts and have little trash on a weekly basis
- The carts are hard to handle for the elderly and those with disabilities
- Definitely against mandatory trash collection

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of 2/4/04 **Gable**
6. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated 2/6/04 In The Amount Of \$289,721.13 **Winegardner**
7. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated 2/6/04 In The Amount Of \$14,495.64 **Winegardner**

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. General Plan Amendment (GPA 04-01) And Zoning Ordinance Amendment Which Includes Modifications To The City Zoning Ordinance To Ensure Consistency Between The Newly Adopted Housing Element, Other General Plan Elements, Pending Reclassifications, And The City Zoning **McRea**

Community and Economic Development Director McRea gave the report

- Hearing is to consider and approve the recommendations of the Planning Commission review and approve actions of the Planning Commission
- Public Hearing was held on the reclassifications and General Plan Amendment
- Commission also considered the Site Plan Review of the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital noting inconsistency of the existing zoning with the current use
- The Agenda and Zone Change was continued to the February 24 meeting
- The 2002-2007 Ridgecrest Housing Element was adopted June 19, 2002 and was found in full compliance on September 10, 2002 by the Department of Housing and Community Development

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- Quad Knopf, a consultant to the City, was given direction to modify the General Commercial Zoning designations to allow manager/caretaker or live-in/work type uses in certain areas of the City
 - Community comments and concerns were presented and received at the Commission meeting
 - Recommendation is to open Public Hearing, receive and review comments and recommendations and then approve the reclassifications and General Plan Amendment as presented, include site 12, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
 - An ordinance will be presented at next council meeting on March 4
- Steve Peck, Quad Knopf, 5110 Cypress, Visalia, gave brief overview and noted the various changes recommended

Council Member Martin exempted himself from comments on map 1 as he owns property nearby

number 11 comments

Theresa Atienzamoore, 429 N. Fairview Street

- Asked who decides how the City will grow zone wise
- She lives in low density residential housing and across the street will be professional office use
- There are lots of vacant commercial areas around and the City should be trying to fill them before building more

Alexander , Vice President of B.O.S.S.

- Asked if when rezoned if hey can just go to office professional or does it require other permitting and reviews
 - There would be site plan reviews and permitting required before any development could be started

Matt Feemster, 724 Sydnor Avenue

- Curious about how all these changes came about
 - Came about by the General Plan Amendments and some input and requests from business owners
 - State law requires periodic review of the general plans
 - These zonings define the land use of these parcels

Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE RECLASSIFICATIONS AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT AS PRESENTED, INCLUDING SITE 12, THE RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 abstention. Council Member Martin abstained.

Added item

Lois Beres, Citizen Volunteer to the Legislative Committee

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- Gave a general overview of Ballot Propositions 57 and 58
- Prop 57 – The Economic Recovery Bond Act allows for a one time bond issue of up to \$15 billion but will not happen unless voters approve
- Unlike Prop 55 this bond will be paid from a dedicated revenue stream
- It is fully funded by dedicating one-quarter cent of the existing sales tax rate to pay the deficit bond with no tax increase
- Without passage could result in draconian cuts in services
- The bond will not be issued unless the voters also approve Prop 58
- Supported by Ashburn McCarthy and even US senators Boxer and Feinstein
- Proposition 58 requires the state to adopt a balanced budget and if the budget falls out of balance provides for mid-year adjustment
- It will balance budget and provide a "rainy day" reserve to protect the state during economic downturns
- Prop 58 will not take effect unless Prop 57 is approved by voters

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

9. **Resolution No. 04-13, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Urging An Affirmative Vote March 2, 2004 On Proposition 57; The Economic Recovery Bond Act** Rose

City Manager Rose gave the report

- This is a one time bond of up to \$15 billion to consolidate debt and reduce the State's budget shortfall
- The bond would allow the State to restore fiscal stability without raising taxes
- It will allow local government to continue to provide necessary, quality programs and services to their constituents
- Will keep the State solvent and minimize further drastic cuts in education, health care, local government and public safety
- The bond measure will not take effect unless voters also approve Proposition 58 which amends the Constitution to require a balanced budget, requires an emergency reserve and places limits on future borrowing to finance budget deficits

Council Member gave reasons why we should not support 57 – and also reasons why we should support 57

Dorothy Bennett, 916 N. Randall Street

- Appreciates all the information the City and Council provides and their staying in touch with our legislators
- Feels this needs to pass

Dorothy Brown, 221 N. Gold Canyon Drive

- Not just two political parties

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- It is not a wasted vote to vote for anyone but the two major political parties
- We have the best community in the country
- Council is doing a great job

Matt Feemster

- Echoed the two party comment
- 57 is essentially more borrowing

Lois Beres

- There is a group in Sacramento trying to make cuts in spending

Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 04-13, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL URGING AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE MARCH 2, 2004 ON PROPOSITION 57; THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BOND ACT. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

10. Resolution No 04-14, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Urging An Affirmative Vote March 2, 2004 On Proposition 58; The California Balance Budget Act Rose

City Manager Rose gave the report

- Prop 58 is entangled with 57 and both must pass
- It requires the Governor and Legislature to enact a balanced budget, and to postpone other action until a budget is adopted
- Requires spending not exceed income each fiscal year, and establish a fund reserve, and prohibits future borrowing to pay off State deficits
- Provision of 58 would become operative only if the voters approve Prop 57
- If measure fails result will be massive reduction in education, health care, local government and public safety
- Does not increase taxes
- Appears to be the only solution at this time
- Imperative to pass both 57 and 58

Dr Milligan and the Sierra Sands Unified School District board are meeting tonight and considering passing a reso on these propositions. Also Cerro Coso Community College has already done this. Resolutions urging passage of these two propositions is happening all over the state.

Matt Feemster

- Questioned the balanced budget to be passed by Governor and enacted by Legislature and would they consider short term borrowing as revenue
 - Under balanced budget they have to show where they expect the revenue to pay back will come

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- Many cities and counties use this method from time to time

Unidentified lady, St. George Avenue

- Wanted to know who "makes the money" – does it still come from P and D
- And, if government "makes the money" why are we in debt – just make some more

Motion by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO 04-14, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL URGING AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE MARCH 2, 2004 ON PROPOSITION 58; THE CALIFORNIA BALANCE BUDGET ACT. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

None

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

Met today February 18

- Received presentation by Lois Beres on props 57 and 58
- Students from Cerro Coso Community College will become active with the committee
- Mr. Rose commented on what will happen if props 57 and 58 are not passed by the voters

Next meeting to be announced

Infrastructure Committee

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

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Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m., Council Conference Room

Met Tuesday February 10

- Discussion CFID vs. the proposed County 1/4 cent sales tax increase
- Action on the sales tax deferred till after primary
- Received info on the State mandated diesel engine retrofit – sent info to Council – we must comply by 2007
- Received info on DMV funding – not good
- Sunland Street and E. Ridgecrest Boulevard intersection and interface with CalTrans is ongoing
- Phone system at City Hall took big dump over the last weekend
 - Committee will recommend to Council to get Cerro Coso Community College system as they are getting new one

Next meeting March 9

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

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

Asked for letter re dog barking problem be put on next Organization Committee meeting agenda

Next meeting March 11 4:30 p.m.

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

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

Met February 17

- Asked for explanation of proposal for business park federal grant
 - Creating CC&R's for the park
- Next meeting to be announced

RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Dan Clark - Alternate

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

Met Feb 18

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- Pending Supervisors approval RACVB will receive grant for \$24,000 for a Toyota Prius hybrid car
 - News on \$5,000 grant to complete 178 Corridor tourism kiosk is expected February 27
 - New tourism billboard which has been delayed for over a year by CalTrans is moving forward
 - Assemblyman Kevin McCarthy plans to introduce emergency legislation to secure billboard's location
 - Went to Costa Mesa for Orange County Travel Show and Long Beach for L.A Times Travel Show
 - Attendance and participation at both shows were much larger than last year
 - Over 5,000 pieces of Ridgecrest tourism literature was distributed
- Next meeting March 17

Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions

Council Member Clark – Senior Ad hoc Advisory Committee will meet February 26 at 4 with a discussion on trash pickup

Council Member Morgan - BLM Steering Committee is February 26 at BLM offices

He will be going to Arizona to a Quad State meeting March 5

Council Member Holloway said he was asked by Assemblyman McCarthy to be on Small Business Committee which will lobby the Legislature. Committee will get to sit face to face with Governor or his cabinet to discuss workman's comp, unemployment, minimum wage, etc.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Martin

- Have explained many issues to the public this evening
- We meet continually with our legislators
- Ads on TV are meant to be misleading
- Prop 56 changes 2/3 vote to pass has been reduced to 55%
- Don't let this fool you
- Educate yourself before you vote

Holloway

- Another organization destroying the state is judges

Carter

- Four former governors met yesterday 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans
- Reasons for State's problems is former legislators

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- No faith in current legislators
- Redistricting is wrong
- Term limits harmed state
- Assemblyman McCarthy says redistricting is wrong and must be fixed
- He has been asked by Cerro Coso Community College to make trip with them to Cuba
- Mayor was asked to make the trip because of economic development opportunity
- He is unable to attend April 9 to 16 and asked if any other Council Member would like to go to represent the City of Ridgecrest
- Prop 56 will help stop some of the gridlock – do not think ads are misleading
- This is a crucial time in California
- Please be informed and please vote

Clark

- 100 Voices Women's Conference on March 13 – Council invited to attend between 2:30 and 3 p.m.
- Invited all the women of the community to attend the conference
- Breakfast 8-9 a.m. - lunch will be served - facilitators will be there
- Senior Retirement Homes still on back burner
- A lot of interested developers have been here – like 8

Morgan

- Has four dinner ticket to the Indian Wells Valley All-Star Cheerleaders Dinner Auction - \$20 donation per ticket
- His daughter is a member of the cheerleaders group
- KernCOG Sub Regional Meeting February 25 6-8 p.m. for regional transportation issues
- Kern County is the 13th largest county in state
- Need to get everyone eligible to vote registered in Kern County
- Noted article in Bakersfield California about an Indian tribe and conflicts among themselves about money
- Article hit home with him because it is Brotherhood Month

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carter adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk