



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

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

**September 1, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded
Tapes 04-18 & 04-19**

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 – 6:03 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; Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Finance Director; Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Director; Jerry Helt, City Engineer; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; James McRea, Community Development Director; LT Kurt Fowler, Acting Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations - Parcel Map 10819, Lots 21 RHDA, Medical Facility - Negotiators Harvey Rose, Gary Parsons, and James McRea

GC54957.6 Labor Negotiations - P.E.A.R. - Negotiator Harvey Rose

REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Carter

INVOCATION - Silent Moment

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

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Council was updated on the progress of negotiations with P.E.A.R. The Real Property Negotiations item will be deferred to a continuation of the Closed Session the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose stated presentations items 1 and 2, - Habitat For Humanity and West Nile Virus, have been removed and rescheduled for the September 15, 2004 Council meeting. Item 3 will be presented under CITY MANAGER REPORTS. Items 12 and 13 under Ordinances and Resolutions have been moved to follow PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Items 1 and 2 removed from agenda

1. Presentation - Habitat For Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Indian Wells Valley Board Members Barbara Manning, Lois Landrum and John Anderson will make a presentation to update the Council on the status of current houses under construction, activities related to September's "Building on Faith" week, and the October "Women Build project.

2. Presentation - West Nile Virus

Representative of the Kern County Health Department will give a presentation on the West Nile Virus.

Item 3 moved to CITY MANAGER REPORTS section

3. Presentation - Public Works Department

Gerry Helt, City Engineer and Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director will present an overview of the Public Works Department accomplishments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Ryan Hedman, Boy Scout Troop 68 is working on his Eagle Scout project on September 18 beginning at 7 a.m. to clean up of Bowman Channel and Road. Mayor Carter presented City lapel pins to the Scouts and leader.

Items 12 and 13 moved to this point on Agenda

12. Introduction And First Reading Of An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter XX Section 11 As Adopted By Ordinance 04-03 McRea

An Amendment to Section 11 of Ordinance 04-03 as published and adopted on May 5, 2004.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Clark TO INTRODUCE FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY, AN ORDINANCE OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER XX SECTION 11 AS ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 04-03. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 abstention. Council Member Martin abstained.

13. Resolution No. 04-49, a resolution of the Ridgecrest City Council Adopting Budget For The Fiscal Year 2004-05 Winegardner / Rose

Finance Director/City Treasurer Winegardner gave the staff report

- Draft budget was presented to Council at the August 18, 2004 meeting
- The Council may discuss the budget, schedule future budget discussions or adopt the budget.

Mayor Carter

- ❖ Requested that 250K be put back into budget for two police officers
- ❖ Wants police department staff increased within the next 6 months and task staff to find the means to do this
- ❖ Feels we are at point where we need to put more people (officers) on the street if we are going to maintain a safe community for our citizens
- ❖ We need to do this
- ❖ Stated he wants the budget passed tonight

Council Member Martin

- ❖ If 250K is added back into the budget we need to find where we are going to get it
- ❖ Tax Measure Q may not be passed and if not funds need to be found

Morgan

- ❖ Has no problem with recommendation made by Mayor Carter

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Holloway

- ❖ Happy this subject was brought forth as officers spend most of their time on service calls
- ❖ They have no time for actual patrolling the community
- ❖ Supports the proposal

Council Member Clark

- ❖ Supports this recommendation 100%
- ❖ Found some statistics - in 1990 we had 40 sworn officers and if this goes through we will have 31
- ❖ If Measure Q goes through it will help increase and support the department

Council Member Holloway had specific questions regarding summary pages

Public Comment

Mary Ash, 624 S. Gold Canyon Drive

- Thinks police department does a fine job – sees 35 positions for PD – 30 sworn
- Standards for departments show 1 officer for every 1000 in population
- 2000 census showed approximately 25K in Ridgecrest so why would you increase officers when funds are so tight
- Why are officers running call to call
- How much is cost for one officer
 - 75K including benefits
- Sharing with China Lake may not be good with security restrictions in place on the base

Mr. Rose stated that the 1 to 1,000 ratio of officers to population is a recommended minimum and a community can want or need or desire more than the minimum.

Council Member Martin complemented Ms. Ash on article clarifying the tax measure

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- 2 positions in PD due to be eliminated 1 January 2005
 - Putting back 250K includes the 2 officers with a 6 month review of how to expand the department
 - We'll need to go to the Chief to find out what he wants to reinstate
- clarified what measure Q is – a local sales tax option

Lois Beres, 637 N. Sunland Street

- Questioned code enforcement costs of 53K
 - Increase in workers comp and PERS costs

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Mr. Winegardner noted that last year we had large claims in the safety category mostly police officers. Mr. Rose explained all that it encompasses

Al Huey, 1128 Windy Lynn

- 350K cut was to alleviate the 800K deficit - where is the 250K going to come from
 - Mr. Rose stated last year staff was tasked with finding where to cut – Chief recommended 280K
- Any idea where this will come from

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite

- Large audience here and watching on TV who has no idea what are on the pages Council is looking at
- PD statistics do not take into consideration that another PD is watching over about 5K of us during the day
- Why have we not raised fees for services
- Looks like new positions are being created and assume it raises salaries

Randy Jenkins, 325-327 Robertson Road

- Complimented the police department – best in the country
- When cutting the budget in PD look at from sociality view
- Asked how much it costs to transport prisoners in a year
 - It is a 5 hour round trip to the Kern County facility at 5-6 trips a week at shift pay and overtime
- Asked if was 35K a year
 - Yes

Jerry Taylor

- Asked again where the 250K is coming from
- The Council Members up for re-election should put forth where they stand

Council Member Martin stated the hardest decision councils make is where to spend the citizen's money. Thanked Jim Winegardner and Harvey Rose and all other staff members for the efforts put forth to bring us a balanced budget.

Moved by Council Member Martin, seconded by Council Member Clark TO ACCEPT AND ADOPT THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED WITH THE TWO ADDITIONS RECOMMENDED BY COUNCIL. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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4. Resolution No. 04-50, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Setting A Public Hearing To Consider Comments And Recommendations For Expenditures For Funds Received Under The Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund Avery
5. Resolution No. 04-51, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Setting A Public Hearing To Consider Comments And Recommendations For Projects To Be Considered In Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program Year 2004-05 Avery

Item 6 removed for discussion

6. Resolution No. 04- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Accepting A Proposal From Boydston Construction To Construct Concrete Work And Install Five Bus Passenger Shelter Rose
7. Resolution No. 04-52, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Out-Of-State Travel To Attend The International Public Management Association For Human Resources Annual Training Conference In Phoenix Arizona Winegardner
8. Resolution No. 04-53, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The City Manager To Execute An Agreement With Kern County For The Collection Of Special Assessments For The City's Waste Water Fund Winegardner
9. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of August 18, 2004 Gable
10. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 20, 2004 In The Amount Of \$333,988.83 Winegardner
11. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated August 20, 2004 In The Amount Of \$284,882.61 Winegardner

Council Member Martin requested removal of item 6

Moved by Council Member Morgan, seconded by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ITEM 6 REMOVED. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

6. Resolution No. 04-54 , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Accepting A Proposal From Boydston Construction To Construct Concrete Work And Install Five Bus Passenger Shelter Rose

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Council Member Martin asked where does matching funds come from

- Mr. Pollock stated shelters were approximately 36K 40K was Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) funds –

Al Huey, 1128 Windy Lynn

- Thought City had a dial a ride system
- Why do we have bus shelters without a fixed route system
 - We already have the shelters – the were obtained when we were considering a fixed route system
 - Proposing to put two at Cerro Coso College, one at City Hall to accommodate the intra-city buses that do pickup there
 - Others at the Triangle area and one at W. Drummond Avenue and N. Downs Street area

Mary Ash, 624 S. Gold Canyon Drive

- Will the shelters at the College help with the riders who feel they are not being served
- Have we increased the routes up there
 - Believe the shelters will offer more comfortable waiting areas than sitting upon the rocks as has been heard
 - Routes will increase with increased rider ship

Motion by Council Member Martin, seconded by Council Member Holloway TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 04-54 , A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM BOYDSTON CONSTRUCTION TO CONSTRUCT CONCRETE WORK AND INSTALL FIVE BUS PASSENGER SHELTER. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Items 12 and 13 were addressed earlier when moved to beginning of Agenda

12. **Introduction And First Reading Of An Ordinance Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code Chapter XX Section 11 As Adopted By Ordinance 04-03** McRea

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

14. Discussion Of Local Option Sales Tax Proposal

Rose

City Manager Rose stated we are quickly coming up on elections. If not registered do so as last day to register is October 18 before 5 p.m. Do yourself a favor vote yes on Measure Q to make up damage State has done to the City of Ridgecrest. Get involved-vote.

Voter registration cards are in the first floor and second floor lobbies at City Hall, at the Kern County Administration Building, at East Kern Superior Court, and most likely at other County buildings.

Richard Senn, 113 Lumill

- Council has received lots of information on how to spend the money
- No where have you heard how to spend or manage the money
- City cash reserve as declined from 3.5M to under 1M
- Wants 500K a year put into that reserve fund
- Of the 1M remaining leverage 300K toward the debt
- Public should have some control of 1.5 M
- Feels City should form a financial management advisory committee

Mr. Rose addressed this issue – previous Councils had determined to put 30% of the annual budget into reserve funds

Mr. Senn came with information on how to handle the 1.5M

Al Huey

- Does not support this tax – disagrees with it being a general tax
- Report from tax foundation is that California is a high tax state
- Increase in our sales tax will be compounded by many other taxes – taxes on gasoline, retail items, licenses, etc.
- Disappointed that this item is reappearing on each agenda and feels it is an infomercial

Lois Beres

- There will be booths at Fair that will have voter registration – if not registered to vote please do so and vote

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Jerry Taylor

- Is a permanent absentee voter due to work related travel
- Is taking a serious look at Measure Q
- Discovered that 1M paves about 5 miles of road
- Wants a smooth road without potholes
- City needs good, decent roads and we don't need fancy medians

Randy Jenkins

- Don't always have to redo all the roads, do crack filling
- Do need a quick fix in favor of the tax but not forever
- Need to bring in more revenue instead of taxes

Mary Ash

- How much did it cost for environmental studies for Ridgecrest Boulevard
 - 1M-we got a grant for the whole thing – flora, fauna, historical structures, impact on traffic flow, water runoff
 - Streets needing repair are not just patching jobs – every street has a life span but eventual needs reconstruction and Pavement Management System (PMS) helps us evaluate what and when and where
- So Goal of tax is to bring them up standard
 - Yes

Dave Matthews

- Thinks he has a good basis for being a historian – at current residence for 38 years
- Seen two road projects come through – overfill and crack fill
- Needs work again – intersections are taking a beating with standing water
- Need to be fixed or replaced

Council Member Martin

- Most citizens understand this – 20 years of no maintenance has taken it's toll on our streets
- The ballot measure is intended to do this
- This tax allows us to keep the funds here and you are represented locally
- Once things are brought current we will be able to get more into reserves

Council Member Morgan

- Ironic when Mr. Senn talked about a financial advisory board – OK if through City Org Committee
- Building of reserves would not be an option if we had a specific tax instead of general tax

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- Idea of debt – we could borrow ahead – build it up instead of spending right away – do a number of projects – have to wait to see if projections are accurate and it will take a time to see that happen
- Would be nice to build up the reserve again
- Every year we fall behind on infrastructure
- Measure Q is an option for the public to consider
- Understands Mr. Huey's position and respects it
- Not easy decisions for us up here

Council Member Clark

- Has talked about Measure Q with citizens – what if 1/4 goes into PD and then it goes back to general
- Put 2 officers back into budget – crime suppression unit is vital to the community to reduce drugs in our community
- A lot of reasons for Q to be passed for the community

Council Member Holloway

- It's about local control of our dollars and it is necessary to have a revenue source no one can take away
- Amounts to 8-20 dollars a month to most of us
- Won't change things overnight but will stop a sinking ship

Mayor Carter

- Appreciate the comments of the citizens
- Council has always represented this community
- The citizens have a right in having a say in how things are done
- No one wants taxes but we are limited in our resources
- He was brought up in Santa Monica and brought his family and grandkids to live here about 15 years ago
- PD needs more officers on the street
- Citizens have made it clear they want better streets
- It is up to our citizens to pass or reject Measure Q

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

We will Move the Property Negotiation Closed Session item to next meeting, September 15, 2004.

City Engineer Jerry Helt made the presentation on Public Works activities

- Reported on projects worked on and completed over past 4 years
- About 4M total funds expended
- Not enough funds to do all the projects to bring to 100%
- A lot of work – about 1.2M - has been done on the wastewater treatment plant for retrofit

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- Will be ready to bring to Council at next meeting or one after

Dave Matthews

- Did you mention South Norma Street – Upjohn to Bowman Road and Allen Street that was recently completed

Mayor Carter stated we have had to be very creative to get things done with funds we have received from KernCog

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 September 15

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 September 14

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway, Ron Carter

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

Next meeting September 9

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 September 23

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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 September 21

RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Dan Clark – Alternate

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

Next meeting September 15

Other Committees, Boards, or Commissions

Council Member Martin noted the League of California Cities Annual Convention would be in Long Beach September 16-19. He also attended the State Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) September 10 in Anaheim.

Council Member Clark announced the Senior ad Hoc Committee would meet at 4:30 p.m. – before the Quality of Life Committee

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Morgan

- Welcomed RADM David Skinner
- Question was asked - tax issue is old business so why are we still discussing it each meeting – we are still discussing the tax issue Measure Q to get information out to all citizens

Martin

- Had the honor of presenting the Key to the City to RADM Venlet and his wife Bunny at their going away party
- October 5 the Sister City Tepatitlan will be here for a visit
- City will host a luncheon at the Carriage Inn
- Suggest we invite Supervisor McQuiston and the principal of St. Ann's and other schools as well
- New President of League of California Cities Desert-Mountain Division is Chad Maize
- Council Member Holloway is 3rd Vice president and he (Martin) is Environmental Chair

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Carter

- Talked about Measure Q and how important it is for the City
- Talked about being registered to vote – everyone eligible should vote
- We have many heroes in the community – go up, shake their hand and say HI – most teachers spend their own money to fill the gaps in school budgets
- Firefighters and police officers are truly great they do so much

Clark

- Thanked police department for radar trailer they put on Drummond Avenue near Mesquite School
- September 14 is the Youth Advisory Committee – if you want to participate you need to talk to counselors to get approval
- September 13 6 p.m. is steering committee for 100 Voices For Women

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Carter adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Rita Gable, Chief Deputy City Clerk