

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

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

**March 2, 2004
6:00 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded
Tape 05-07**

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

STAFF: Harvey Rose, City Manager; Rita Gable, City Clerk; Jim Winegardner, Deputy City Manager Administrative Services/City Treasurer; Jim McRea, Deputy City Manager, Public Services; Gary Parsons, Community and Economic Development Department Director; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director, Jim Ponek, Parks and Recreation Department Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police; and other personnel

CLOSED SESSION – 6:03 p.m.

GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation as member agency in Quad State County Government Coalition

REGULAR SESSION – 6:37 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Vice Mayor Clark

INVOCATION – Reverend Cliff Murray, Ridgecrest Foursquare Church

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CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

In Closed Session Council received information of possible litigation being considered by Quad State County Government Coalition of which the City is a member. Direction was given to staff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved Council Member Carter, second by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation – Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Mayor Holloway and City Council presented a proclamation to Jinny DeAngelis, Chief of Client Services, Desert Area Resources and Training, Trinity Stokes, DART client, and Bernadetta Stokes, parent, in recognition of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, March 2005.

2. Proclamation – Honoring Michael Hill

Planning Commissioner Mike Biddlingmeier, Mayor Holloway and the City Council presented a proclamation to Gregg Hill, father, and the family of Michael Hill, NAWS firefighter, currently serving as a National Guard Reservist in Iraq, who was critically injured in February, proclaiming him Ridgecrest's Favorite Son.

3. Presentation – Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau And Chamber of Commerce

Ray Arthur, Executive Director of the Ridgecrest Area Convention And Visitors Bureau, presented recommendations on the operations of the Kern County Board of Trade. Copy of recommendations in Clerk's packet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7:05 p.m.

Briana Winegardner, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

- Announced that THE LDS Church Youth were having a conference in Ridgecrest the first week in May
- The Youth Group is offering the services of 100+ youth to perform community services
- Offered to remove trash from China Lake Boulevard, clean up city parks, etc.
- The conference is May 7
- Left contact numbers and email with the City Clerk

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Matthew Morris, representing group of BMX bike riders in audience

- Spoke advocating a bicycle park in the City of Ridgecrest
- Wants Council and the City to consider building a BMX park
- Knows the main question is insurance and noted that bicycles are safer than skateboards and bike riders have far fewer accidents
- The youth presently have two bike teams in the City
- They have no place to practice because bikes are not allowed to use the skate park
- When they set up jumps in their yards neighbors complained
- Vandalism and damage to the skate park has not been caused by BMX riders - they are not criminals
- Will take any land the City could give them
- One of their main purposes is they want to get the young kids off the streets

Council Member Clark advised him to get involved in the Youth Advisory Council – they have been working toward a BMX park for several years.

Staff noted there was a BMX racing park under construction at the Fairgrounds

Robert Catlin, P.O. Box 481, Ridgecrest

- These kids are freestyle and trick riders not racers
- Said some of these kids raised money for the skate park but were not allowed to ride their bikes there
- Said the park was supposed to be a skate and bike park (not so)
- Many cities have a combined park

Parks and Recreation Director Ponek briefed Council on the things Council previously passed or agreed to for using land near the skate park. Part of the agreement was the use of prefabricated jumps and 25K was approved for that. Maintenance is another point – it would be on a daily basis.

Mayor Holloway stated that this issue needs to go back to committee or Quality of Life Committee.

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite

- Feels there is quite a bit of liability involved and that this issue should be examined very closely

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Authorization To Issue And Solicit A Request For Proposal (RFP) For A Modular Operations Building As A Portion Of The Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Improvement Project McRea

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Deputy City Manager for Public Services McRea stated that this was a request to allow staff to prepare a Request for Proposal soliciting bids for construction of a new operations building for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The old building was constructed in the 1940's and is obsolete. This was part of the original upgrade plans.

Item 5 removed for discussion

5. **Resolution No. 04-13, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving The Designation Of Applicant's Agent Resolution And Authorizing The Submittal Of The Project Application For California Disaster Assistance Act Program** Pollock

Assistant Public Works Director Pollock stated that this was a housekeeping measure to name an agent for the City to allow the City to apply for disaster relief funds from Federal and State sources for the recent rain storms and flooding damages within the City.

Item 6 removed for discussion

6. **Resolution No. 05-14, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing City Staff To Award Contract To Valley Fence For The Construction Of A Softball Field And To Authorize Budget Amendment To Reflect All Appropriate Grant Related Accounts.** Ponek

Parks and Recreation Director Ponek stated this was a moveable fence between two fields and is a temporary measure. Believes these Prop 12 funds expire in 2006 and if plans are changed we'd loose this and have to start over. The funds were approved for this specific project. It is at an existing facility that receives maintenance now. We receive user fees from Sierra Sands Unified School District. youth leagues and adult leagues. Upper field will be adult and lower two fields will be youth.

Mayor Pro Tem Martin asked if we could use this money elsewhere to better advantage because of the budget shortfall and threat of layoffs. There will be in-house maintenance costs to consider as well.

Finance Director Winegardner stated he could not speak to maintenance issue but noted Prop 12 funding still owes City approximately 20-21K from the lighting project.

Item 7 removed for discussion

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7. Resolution No. 05-15, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Amending Resolution #01-20 Adopting User Fees For Parks And Facilities **Ponek**

Parks and Recreation Director Ponek stated the Quality of Life Committee recommends these fees be adopted. Thanked Finance for running an analysis of the current fees. Have revamped the requirements behind some of the fees as well as the fee structure. There are package deals for multiple usage as well as fees for single use of facilities. Use of Council Chambers has increased 100% from \$15/hour to \$30/hour.

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- Reflected on figures he heard when first brought to the Quality of Life Committee
- Asked what cost is for maintenance and upkeep if hall is not being used- if it sit empty
 - Still have maintenance costs even when vacant do not have the figures here

Jerry Taylor

- Asked if field costs were day or night
 - They are day costs – night cost would involve additional fee for lights

8. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 18, 2005 In The Amount Of \$142,375.15 **Winegardner**

9. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated February 18, 2005 In The Amount Of \$ 517,681.31 **Winegardner**

Mayor Pro Tem Martin requested item 6 be removed

Dave Matthews requested items 5, and 7 be removed

Motion Mayor Holloway, second by Council Member Martin TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 4, 5, 8 and 9. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

Motion Council Member Martin, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM 6. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

Motion Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Clark TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM 7. Public comment heard. Motion carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

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CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

10. Request For Use Of Ridgecrest Skate Park For BMX Competition

Cathouse Freestyle BMX Team has requested the City to allow it to hold a three day competition at the Ridgecrest Skate Park. Proposed time is in late March 2005. Mr. Rose denied the request via a letter dated February 25, 2005. If the Council chose to allow the request there were several requirements listed that Mr. Catlin would have to comply with.

Robert Catlin

- Commented that it seems like every time we try to do something we hear the same thing – matter of insurance concerns
- Wants to talk to the City Attorney or Mr. Rose
- Have talented kids on bikes but no place to show it
- This event would bring in people that will spend money in town
- He and his family are moving out of town so does not expect to see any of this take place
- Had all kinds of people signed up for this event stars in the sport and TV sports coverage
- Stated they could do the 10M liability insurance
- He would sign waivers and the participants would sign waivers if city provided them – also stated he could provide waivers for the event
- Feels they could bring in 200 pro riders besides the 200-300 amateurs
- Boost to the economy

Council

- ❖ Noted the City Manager's letter to Mr. Catlin
- ❖ Asked Mr. Catlin if he would agree to meet all the "bulleted" requirements if Council approved his request
 - Mr. Catlin feels the City is not opposed to this competition and wants to do this but they are uneasy without the 10M insurance from Cathouse Freestyle BMX
- ❖ Because of short time frame involved recommend Mr. Catlin go to the Fairgrounds for their venue

Mr. Rose stated that the City's insurer does not want the skate park used by bicycles. If they only use dirt for the competition insurer may agree.

On a different note Mr. Rose introduced David Courtland from the DI

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Nothing

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COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Chip Holloway, Mike Biddlingmeier, Chuck Roulund

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting March 3

Legislative Committee

Members: Chair Duke Martin, Chip Holloway

Meetings: probably quarterly - at 8:00 AM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting to be announced

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 March 8

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Ron Carter, Steve Morgan

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM; Council Conference Room

Next meeting March 10

Quality of Life Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Chip Holloway, Howard Laire, Matt Feemster

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

Goals art council alternate art center

Next meeting March 31

Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Members: Chair Ron Ketcham, Vice Chair Lois Beres, Mike Hogan, Bob Peoples, Gary Charlon. Ex-officio Members Council Members Steve Morgan and Ron Carter, Planning Commissioner Mike Biddlingmeier

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

Next meeting March 15

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RACVB

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Steve Morgan - Alternate

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

Next meeting March 16

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Morgan – will not be able to attend the next KernCOG meeting in Bakersfield

Quad State will have a phone conference March 11

Kern County Association of Cities meeting in Ridgecrest March 31st

KernCOG Transportation / Tax Committee is moving ahead with their 1/2 cent sales tax

If we wish to participate in this we must have a "development fee" in place

Martin – Republican Women will have Senator Roy Ashburn for their 11 March meeting – at the Heritage

LAFCO meeting is March 22 in Bakersfield

Will be going to Washington D.C. for the National League of Cities next week

Civilian / Military Affairs group will meet March 10 at Mulligans at the base golf course

Clark – Senior ad hoc Advisory met with Chief Avery schooling them on the reverse 911

March 7 Women's Steering Committee

March 4 Senators Ashburn and Maize will be in Mojave regarding the aerospace industry

Holloway – Kern County Air pollution Control District will hold meeting in Ridgecrest March 9th at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers

City's CMAC funded project for a diesel street sweeper did not get approved

DMV grant request for 4 vehicles received enough for 3 1/2 vehicles

Appointments By Council May Be Made To Committees, Boards And Commissions

Council Member Martin appoints Matt Feemster to the Cable TV Committee

Mayor Holloway appoints Diane Grattaroti to Solid Waste ad hoc committee

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

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Morgan

- ❖ DI editorial regarding potholes was totally out of line
- ❖ Infrastructure Committee has been working on maintenance fund for a long time
- ❖ The 4 way stoop at Tamarisk will be on the next Infrastructure Committee agenda

Carter

- ❖ When in other cities he likes to drive around and to visit to see what is going on with their cities
- ❖ Took 30 minutes to move half a mile several times on a recent trip out of time
- ❖ Was in Santa Barbara and he have encountered many traffic problems and parking problems
- ❖ Like to talks to citizens about quality of life in their cities
- ❖ We have a great safe community with good quality of life
- ❖ We are growing again with houses being built

Clark

- ❖ Invited everyone to come to the Town Hall Meeting on March 30 6-9 p.m. at Kerr-McGee Center
- ❖ Need to have citizens come and brainstorm with Council and Planning Commission and city staff on future vision for the City of Ridgecrest
- ❖ Thanked youth for the slogan for the Youth Advisory Council – they are now working on a logo that can be placed upon their accomplishments
- ❖ Complemented the Chief for all the work he does with the youth - they love him

Martin

- ❖ March 12 is opening day of baseball in the valley - need someone to throw out the first pitch ---- Mr. Clark volunteered
- ❖ March 19 and 20 is the Coso Dog Fanciers show at Fairgrounds
- ❖ March 19 is also the Bluejacket dinner
- ❖ All governments take time to get things moving it's the nature of the beast
- ❖ Congressman Thomas is introducing a bill that includes Highway 395 reallocation of 25M – work to go from Interstate 15 to 2 miles north of Kramer Corners
- ❖ Estimated design and environmental work will take 16 years

Holloway

- ❖ Echoed Council Member Morgan's comments about the DI
- ❖ We all look for places to find funds for the streets – we are not idle
- ❖ We are criticized for spending money – when we did a loan for the need roof repairs we were told to borrow to fix the potholes too
- ❖ DI had great article on Michael Hill today as did the News Review last week

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- ❖ Thanked the community for all the help they have extended to his family
- ❖ Even Bakersfield has adopted Michael Hill as their home town hero
- ❖ Tommy Ts is selling memorial bracelets to raise money for the Hills
- ❖ There will be many car washes and benefit dinners

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk