



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

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

**November 2, 2005  
6:00 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded  
Tape 05-25 and 05-26**

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 – 6:35**

**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; Keith Lemieux City Attorney; 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 – 6:00 p.m.**

None

**REGULAR SESSION – 6:35 p.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Mayor Pro Tem Martin**

**INVOCATION – Silent Moment**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

None

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## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose requested addition to the Agenda of a brief informational presentation by Ridgecrest Postmaster Scott Frid.

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

## PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Proclamation – Native American Heritage Month

Vice Mayor Clark and the Council presented a proclamation to Little Deer Durvin, Vice Chair, Four Winds Council, in recognition of Native American Heritage Month, November 2005.

### 2. Proclamation – National American Indian Heritage Month

Mayor Pro Tem Martin and the Council presented a proclamation to Linda Archibald, Regent, Panamint Springs Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in recognition of National American Indian Heritage Month, November 2005.

### 3. Presentation – Kiwanis Club of Ridgecrest

Marlene Altieri, Kiwanis Walk-a-Thon Chair, presented proceeds from the 18th Annual Kiwanis Community Walk-a-Thon to participating schools in the community and recognizing the top 5 students with prizes they earned.

### Added item

Ridgecrest Postmaster Scott Frid commented on the recent newspaper articles regarding changes to sorting and handling Indian Wells Valley mail. Shifted from Mojave to Bakersfield. Plans to make this change are currently on hold and will be reviewed after the first of the year.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Hal Bennett, 916 N. Randall

- Asked council not to make blanket decision not to have sea containers in the City of Ridgecrest
- Has one in his back yard – it is dropped down and screened by trees
- Would be very costly to remove and install other storage

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Nellavan Jeglum, 305 Balsam Street

- Seeing trend in government of doing to the people instead of for the people
- Hears that the sea containers will be required to be out in 18 months
- Understands there are no complaints against the containers
- Also concerned about the fines for violations to the codes
- Codes have been effect for many years and had no fines before
- We have method to add these to property taxes
- And there are other ways to enforce compliance
- Have a lot of absentee owners of rental properties raising rents without compliance to existing laws
- These renters need someone to represent them

City Manager Rose noted the Organization Committee and Council have discussed Rent Control and decided against it.

First District Supervisor Jon McQuiston stated that Kern County has a Fair Housing Authority that looks at state and federal laws and provides information to renters and those with housing problems.

Byron Bemis, 1401 N. Mono

- If City would pave roads where dirt ones now exists the lots would sell faster
- Talked to Mr. McQuiston about the county keeping them up after the City paved

George Bertrand, 1323 Autumn Way

- Not sure what is going on here as he came about the sea containers and finds that it's not on the agenda
- "Rallied the Troop" to come out on this subject
- Was a news article advertising it to be on this agenda and wants to know why didn't that happen

City Manager Rose stated it is not on agenda because the background materials and ordinance was not received in time to make this agenda

Peter Evanikoff, 132 Silver Ridge Street

- Had container at the house when he moved in and it has a permit
- Would be almost impossible to remove it now and very expensive
- Lots of junkie looking trailer right across the alley and lots of junk cars around too
- Stores seasonal furniture and garden tools in his container
- Does not think it is a liability
- Have had no complaints in 5 years he has lived there

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David Neipp, 801 S. Allan

- When did this become controversial and who considered it so
- Is the ordinance really needed – Mr. Carter has stated he doesn't think it is
- He quoted Mr. Carter and M. Morgan's comments from the last meeting – Carter no need and Morgan needs regulating
- It appears that this is interfering in the lives of the people
- Are we getting to where we consider property more important than peoples lives

Dorothy Bennett

- When first in Ridgecrest was appalled by lack of lawns or flowers and landscaping around apartment buildings
- So Hal bought some apartments and she planted them
- They are careful of their renters but rents have to go up as taxes go up
- Hate to have to sell them but may
- Commended Council on keeping the government for the people - that's why they have been reelected
- Need to continue good relationship with the government and the Council

Bud Klamt, 221 N. Gold Canyon Drive

- Not a perfect world and we need some regulations
- A ban on the containers would probably be wrong and should be on a case by case basis
- Public input is definitely needed in this matter

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

4. Resolution No. 05-69, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving The Applicant To Apply For Grant Funds To The California Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Waste Management Board; The Execution Of A Standard Agreement If Selected For Such Funding And Any Amendments Thereto; And Any Related Documents Necessary To Participate In The Tire-Derived Product (TDP) Grant Program Taylor
5. Resolution No. 05-, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving A Loan Agreement With Mojave Desert Bank And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute All Appropriate Documents Winegardner
6. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of October 19, 2005 Gable
7. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated October 14, 2005 In The Amount Of \$185,889.45 Winegardner

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**8. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated October 14, 2005 In The Amount Of \$1,409.50 Winegardner**

Council Member Clark removed item 5

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ITEM 5 REMOVED. No public comment. Motion carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent. Council Member Martin had briefly left the dais.

**5. Resolution No. 05-, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving A Loan Agreement With Mojave Desert Bank And Authorizing The City Manager To Execute All Appropriate Documents Winegardner**

Deputy City Administrator, Administrative Services/Treasurer Winegardner

- Council approved funding of various infrastructure projects during FY 04 and 05 – began with Resolution No. 03-54
- Currently, we are using a local bank, Mojave Desert Bank to secure the financing
- The two projects that have been funded are:
  - HVAC (Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning) for the Police Department
  - Roof Installation @ City Hall and the Kerr McGee Center
- There is one additional project that has been approved but not yet funded by the bank for Atrium Weather Stripping
- There are two additional projects that have not been reviewed by staff and are in the pending status stage
- These projects are replacement of the pool decking (\$65,000) and resurfacing of the Tennis Courts (\$35,000)
- It is not yet determined if the City's budget can support all of these projects
- However, it has been recommended that the Atrium project be advanced for approval and funding (this is based on engineering review).
- The purpose of this resolution is two-fold
- First, Mojave Desert Bank requires certain specific for the approval of the funding of the roof installation
- Second, to certify the Council's ongoing intent to use Mojave Desert Bank on the projects outlined above and in the attached resolution.

Council Member Clark questioned the funding asking about the resurfacing of the tennis courts – he had given his word to the tennis people that the project would be funded and accomplished. He also asked what are the processes and procedures for getting projects done.

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Council Member Carter stated the same concern regarding the tennis courts at a Quality of Life Committee - he and Council Member Clark promised the tennis people that it would be done.

- It was confirmed that there is a notice inviting sealed bids out to resurface the tennis courts and the basketball courts

Mr. Rose explained that those that are capital projects are reviewed and generated in the public works sector and go through the Assistant Public Works Director Joe Pollock. There has been a communication problem regarding the roofing project and some others. This resolution is for the roofs only.

Solomon Rajaratnam, Vice President of Mojave Desert Bank

- This is not banks fault - only started talks about the loan a few months ago

Mr. Winegardner stated the City started working on financing for the Capital Improvement Projects in late 2004 and continued into early 2005 until the present time. The original lessor an out of state bank cannot accommodate our projects. In the process Council questioned using and non-local institute so we have turned to Mojave Desert Bank for the loan and will be ongoing

Dorothy Bennett

- Need to have more taxes in order to pay the bills and the loans
- Anticipating increased population and need to keep the property values up

Brandy Garcia, 123 Church Avenue

- Her first attendance at a Council meeting
- Attends the Quality of Life Committee meeting frequently
- In favor of anything for the kids and youth

Council Member Carter stated he was confused – remembers a list of projects to fix with a loan. Asked why they don't get from the committee recommendations to staff to get into the budget?

Mayor Holloway asked why we don't have a line of credit through the Mojave Desert Bank.

- Was told we do but have to prepare a resolution for each time we use a portion of the funds

Council Member Carter wants a "big picture" listing all the projects they discussed a year ago stating he cannot operate in this "piece meal" fashion.

Moved by Council Member Martin, second Council Member Morgan TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 05-, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH MOJAVE DESERT BANK

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AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS.. Public comment heard. Motion failed with a voice vote of 2 ayes, 3 noes. Mayor Holloway, Council Members Carter and Clark voted no.

**OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

**9. Joint Land Use Planning and County of Kern General Plan Presentation**

Kern County First District Supervisor Jon McQuiston gave an overview of the Joint Land Use Planning. (a copy is in the Clerk's Agenda packet)

Director of Kern County Planning Department Ted James talked about the need to have an organized plan for the Indian Wells Valley for the growth anticipated by the BRAC. County, City, Navy Base, BLM all need to be involved. County has allocated \$150K to work on this plan. There is a possibility of receiving some grants to accomplish this. Need to coordinate planning in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the valley. This could be a sharing of resources with all the agencies within the area. It would not usurp the City's authority.

Council Member Carter likes the concept and asked if the Sierra Sands Unified School District has been included – says he couldn't support this if they were not included.

- o They have attended some meetings and will be invited to join in

Council Member Martin asked what Mr. Rose thought of the concept

- o City has allotted \$250K for a General Plan update

Council Member Morgan said he loved it.

Council Member Clark said he also loves it but how does it work when working on different concepts.

- o Discuss the differences and try to come to a mutual understanding

Mayor Holloway stated it certainly makes sense if it saves money.

**10. Safe Roads Initiative, Transportation Enhancement One Half Cent Sale Tax Ballot Measure For November 2006 Election. Return To Source Project List And Funding Potential. McRea**

The matter was placed on the City Council Agenda for general information and direction to Council Members attending KernCOG. Provided is an updated listing of projects to be contained within the Safe Road Initiative of the Kern County Citizens for Quality Transportation.

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Moved by Council Member Morgan, second by Council Member Martin TO FORMULATE A LETTER TO KERNCOG STATING THE CITY OF RIDGECREST IS IN ACCORD WITH THE LIST AS IT STANDS. No public comment. 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 Dan Clark, Chip Holloway, Mike Biddlingmeier, Chuck Roulund

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

Next meeting November 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 November 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 November 10

#### **Quality of Life Committee**

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Ron Carter, Howard Laire, Matt Feemster

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

Next meeting December 1

#### **Redevelopment Advisory Committee**

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

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

Next meeting November 15

### **RACVB**

Council Member Duke Martin

Council Member Steve Morgan- Alternate

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

Next meeting November 16

### **OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS**

Council Member Martin noted that the Kern County Association of Cities dinner meeting will be 29 November in Wasco – he will attend

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

#### **MORGAN**

- Tonight was an example of an issue where staff tried to warn Council of upcoming changes
- Parks and Recreation has not had a Capital Improvement Plan for many years
- Each committee has the ability to develop these Capital Improvement Plans to forward through Departments, to the City Manager, and to the Council
- This was a minor disconnect between the cognizant department and Finance
- We all have to be cognizant of what is going on pertaining to our budgets
- The buck stops here at the City Council

#### **Carter**

- Very important that everyone votes on November 8t
- Make yourselves aware of the ballot measures

#### **Clark**

- The secret to happiness is doing the best you can
- This was a minor disconnect
- Have met with all the pastors in the community who are working on a Teen Challenge
- Teen Challenge is a faith based program

#### **Martin**

- Last Friday was at the Desert Mountain Division of the League of California Cities presentation n "The Fair Tax Book"
- The book is good and fast reading – it's premise is to get rid of the IRS
- This country needs to get the tax situation solved

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**Holloway**

- Somewhat frustrated over this book
- The Bush administration 2 year commission re taxing totally ignored this book
- Bipartisan book has been working for ten years
- Reconfirmed that Council Member Carter stated "government controls too much of our lives"
- Has made two trips to the devastated Gulf Coast area – it still looks like the day after Hurricane Katrina
- Our local High Desert Cares has raised over \$25K
- Biggest needs of the people are the everyday, small things

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

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Rita Gable, City Clerk