



**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 7, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded
Tape 07-02**

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 – 6:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall Holloway, Mayor Pro Tem Steven Morgan, Vice Mayor Thomas Wiknich, Council Members Daniel Clark and Ronald Carter

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

REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Don Cortichiato, Vice-President IWW Water Dis Board

INVOCATION – Reverend Jim Weston, Desert Christian Center

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Carter TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote 5 eyes.

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PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Kern Regional Blueprint

Darrel Hildebrand, Assistant Director, Kern Council of Governments, gave a Power Point presentation on the Kern Regional Blueprint Program. A folder with materials and information was distributed. A copy is in this Agenda packet.

Ridgecrest will be the first city for the planning process with a meeting on March 14 in the evening. Meetings will be open to the public and will be advertised in newspapers.

Mayor Holloway wants this item added to added to City Org Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

Walt Maurer, 209 W. Mariposa

- Noted a couple of article in the local newspapers
- Asked about the gang task force
- How and what identifies the kids as gang members
- Are the youth not being taught to obey the law
- Read a verse from Ramos 13
- How is the task force going to enforce the laws
- Second was the school board approving a second campus cop
- Police found 40 Plant pot garden with a street price of 100K
- Eagerly anticipating the ordinance for the medical marijuana dispensary

Council Member Clark indicated to Mr. Maurer that he would speak about the task force during Council Comments

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite

- Compromise needs to be made regarding the proposed Vaughn development
- Understand that the parties have met to try for a resolution of the issue
- When accomplished don't take it back to committee - bring to Council for the final decision

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- At Council retreat heard suggestion about moving Council Comment to beginning of Agenda
- Stated that Council Members can go to the podium to speak as citizen at any time during the meeting
- They do not have to wait for Council Comment

Craig Bradley, Felspar

- There is a Flu A outbreak in the City with lots of folks ill

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- We need to keep it from going into an epidemic stage
- Especially crucial for little ones
- Reminded everyone to wash hands often, use antiseptic wipes, etc.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Resolution No. 07-05 A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Entering Into An Agreement With The County Of Kern For Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Activity CD#17.06.1 Ridgecrest Handicapped Access Improvements And Authorizing The City Manager, Harvey Rose, To Sign Said Agreement Pollock
3. Resolution No. 07-06, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Final Payment To Coast Roof Company Incorporated For Re-Roofing Of The City Hall Building In The Amount Of \$138,876.30 With A Retention Of \$15,430.70 Which Will Be Held Until 35 Days After Recordation Of The Notice Of Completion Pollock
4. Resolution No. 07-07, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Payment Request 4 In The Amount Of \$183,555.76 With Total Retained Funds To Date In The Amount Of \$107,942.43, Approving A Final Balancing Change Order In The Amount Of Minus(-) \$23,337.10 And Authorizing A Notice Of Completion To Be Filed For Asphalt Construction Company For The Construction Of Mahan Street From Upjohn To Ridgecrest, Graaf Avenue From Norma To Wayne And Reeves Avenue To 660 Feet East Pollock

Item removed for discussion

5. Resolution No. 07- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Setting A Public Hearing To Consider Comments And Recommendations For "Unmet Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet" In The Public Transportation System Speer
6. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of January 17, 2007 Gable
7. Minutes Of The Special City Council Meeting Of January 20, 2007 Gable
8. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated January 19, 2007 In The Amount Of \$174,815.43 Winegardner
9. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated January 19, 2007 In The Amount Of \$115,775.23 Winegardner

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Council Member Clark requested item #5 be removed

Council Member Wiknich had a question about item #3 – Why retain the funds for 35 days – Mr. Pollock answered that it is in the public law.

Council Member Clark asked if the 35 days was also for checking for leaks – Mr. Pollock stated that the roof has been inspected and tested for leaks and it is sound.

Moved by Council Member Morgan Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH ITEM 5 REMOVED. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

Removed item

5. **Resolution No. 07-08, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Setting A Public Hearing To Consider Comments And Recommendations For "Unmet Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet" In The Public Transportation System** **Speer**

Council Member Clark noted that the transit system was of great concern to the seniors of the community and wanted to know how we are advertising this so as to alert them to the meeting and to encourage them to attend with their comments.

Mr. Speer stated we can extend hours of buses to accommodate their attendance. We are doing press releases with time and date; it is being legally advertised 30 days before the meeting.

Council Member Morgan noted that if persons have input to the unmet needs and cannot attend the Public Hearing they can write a letter with their comments and concerns or they can call their comments in to City. All input received this way will be presented by staff at the Public Hearing.

Dave Matthews suggested posting notices on the buses and also provide address and phone numbers to send letters or make comments. One unmet need is that college students have no bus to take them home after their evening classes.

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Carter TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-08, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR "UNMET NEEDS THAT ARE REASONABLE TO MEET" IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

10. **Ordinance 07-01, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of**

Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Pertains To Carrying Concealed Weapons Avery

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Carter TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 07-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS. No public comment. Voice vote of 5 ayes.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

11. **Resolution No 07-09, A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Approving A Contract For Expert And Professional Services Between The City Of Ridgecrest And Matrix Design Group** McRea

The resolution authorizes the City Manager to pay Matrix Design Group (MDG), up to \$295,568.00 during FY 2006-07 and FY 2007-08 for expert and professional services on behalf of the preparation of a General Plan Update, EIR and new zoning ordinance.

Council Member Wiknich noted the issues he brought up at last meeting had been addressed

Council Member Morgan noted there was a repeat of a paragraph in the resolution - strike the 4th "whereas"

Mayor Holloway asked if we should have a water element in the general plan – Mr. McRea replied that our developments are not large enough to require this

It was noted that the EIR was moved to the second phase of the contract and Kern County will be involved in a joint EIR

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO 07-09, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR EXPERT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AND MATRIX DESIGN GROUP. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

12. **Resolution No. 07-10, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The City Of Ridgecrest And The Indian Wells Valley Water District** Rose

A resolution authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for preparation of a draft ordinance regulating the installation of water efficient landscaping at new developments.

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Tom Mulvihill, Executive Director, Indian Wells Valley Water District stated the District is in the process of planning for growth in the valley and doing a study to meet those expectations of growth. This is a step to good stewardship and will keep the costs as low as possible. Other southwest cities such as Phoenix and Scottsdale have seen growth even with stringent water consumption. Will use consultant to meet with City Planners and Planning Commission to further our goals.

Mike Neel, Randall Street

- Questioned if this MOU came about due to lack of water in the valley
 - The answer is not yes or no
 - No crisis now
 - The District has plans in place to meet future water usage
 - District wants to have a plan in place to meet those new demands
- Normally a governmental body is to restrain evil and promote good
- That does not extend to private property
- Council should not be telling anyone what to do with their property
- Leave us alone to enjoy our private property

Jerry Taylor

- Water table is going down as it has over the years and will continue to do so
- Thinks this is a good idea to have some foresight and planning in place

Mayor Holloway thanked Water District for having vision to take this stand. To immediately assume it is a negative thing is wrong – conservation is good. thanked Mr. Mulvihill for writing a concise document that is easily understood.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-10, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AND THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT. Public Comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

13. Resolution No. 07-11, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Pertaining To The Creation Of And Membership On Various City Council Committees Rose

This resolution restructures City Council standing committees as discussed at the Special Meeting of the City Council on January 20, 2007.

Council Member Carter stated he had a problem with a statement under Section 7 "Committee Functions" – No. 5. states "The committees will be recipients of information in their particular areas of focus, will make recommendations to the City Council, and

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will not direct staff". He stated that all the committees have always given direction to staff, at least for as long as he has been on the Council.

It was noted that in a Council-City Manager form of government directions to staff are given from the council through the city manager. The wording was not changed in the resolution.

MOVED BY Council Member Clark, second Council Member Morgan TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-11, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL PERTAINING TO THE CREATION OF AND MEMBERSHIP ON VARIOUS CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes

The re-organized committees, Council appointments and meeting dates are as follows –

- ❖ Community Development Committee – Clark and Holloway – 1st Thursday – 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ City Organization and Services Committee – Holloway and Wiknich – 2nd Thursday – 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee – Morgan and Carter – 4th Thursday 5:30 p/m.
- ❖ Infrastructure Committee – Morgan and Wiknich – 2nd Tuesday – 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Activate Community Talents and Interventions For Optimal Neighborhoods Task Force (ACTION) – Carter and Clark – date and time to be decided

Council Member Clark expressed the desire to remain active on Arts Council and the Youth Advisory Council if it did not cause any problems or conflicts.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Absent - none

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Chip Holloway, Mike Biddlingmeier, Howard Laire

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Met February 1

- Discussed land concepts for the future
- Discussed annexation

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

Last meeting of this committee – assimilated into Community Development

Legislative Committee

Members: Chair Chip Holloway

Meetings: probably quarterly - at 8:00 a.m.; Council Conference Room
Committee has been assimilated into City Organization and Services

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Chair Steve Morgan, Tom Wiknich, Jim Smith, Lois Beres

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

Committee has been restructured

Planning and Zoning Ad Hoc Committee

Members: Chair Steven Morgan, Chip Holloway, and Jim Smith

Met January 24 – held in the Council Chambers

- Spirited discussion of Vaughn project - in cc chamber
- Issue sent to staff for mediation
- Meeting with staff has been held– no report yet

Committee has been assimilated into Community Development

City Organization Committee

Members: Chair Ron Carter, Steve Morgan

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

Committee has been restructured

Quality of Life Committee

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

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

Met January 25

- No report given

Committee has been restructure and renamed Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee (PR&Q)

Redevelopment Advisory Committee

Members: Chair Mike Hogan, Vice Chair Nicole Guerrero, Bob Peoples, Gary Charlon, Ron Ketcham; Ex-officio Members Council Members Steven Morgan and Ron Carter, Planning Commissioner Lois Beres

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Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:15 p.m., Council Conference Room
This committee has been disbanded

RACVB

Council Member

Council Member Steve Morgan- Alternate

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

Next meeting February 15

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Council Member Clark –

Arts Council meetings will be reset

Elks at 6 p.m. BINGO for Arts fund raiser

Mayor Holloway –

- Attended the League of California Cities policy committee meeting
- Jean Fuller will come to Ridgecrest for education bill
- Met with Debra Bowen, California Secretary Of State – her big push to get younger poll worker
- Redistricting of the state is still on
- League of California Cities Desert Mountain Division meeting January 25 was great - held at BLM corral Thanked everyone who assisted in staging this meeting

Dave Matthews

- CalTRANS representatives from Fresno were here today for meeting with citizens regarding the negative impact for Highway 14 project
- 3 alternatives for the highway – convinced him that #1 was the best
- Several citizens attended the meeting

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clark

- Noted a report that 800K gang members exist across the US
- Thanked Council for validating the ACTION Committee
- Intervention before it happens is the key
- At an intervention one kid was invited to join a gang but said no
- Excited about the ACTION Committee
- Intent is to nullify development of gangs
- Will send out letters as soon as dates are established for a meeting
- This is a community cooperative effort
- Need participation of service groups, churches, school district, city, businesses, etc. to be successful

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- First six months will be planning and establishing guidelines and procedures
- If you are called or invited please come to the meeting

Carter

- Proud of Council for forming the ACTION group
- Attended a focus group at Burroughs High School
- Youth are saying they want jobs, structured activity, a teen club, and discipline etc teen club
- They want more discipline at home and at school
- Los Angeles is asking to put a bond on the ballot to fight this gang infiltration
- We all belong to gangs – gangs are groups of people doing the same thing
- Father Boyle was successful because he gave the youth jobs
- Appreciate what we are doing

Wiknich

- Attended the meeting at Burroughs that Mr. Carter mentioned
- They filled out surveys and questionnaires
- Wants agenda item that "just says NO" on the agenda when the marijuana ordinance come back to Council
- Wants a milestone chart for developing the budget on the City Organization and Services Committee agenda
- Wants the Community Development Committee to look at our sign ordinance
- Wants update on what projects are in the FY 07 and 08 plans like streets on the Infrastructure Committee
- Also on Infrastructure wants information regarding the street sweeper problem
- And wants Infrastructure to discuss process for repairing utility company cuts through the roads
- Noted that he has a copy of the Highway 14 project map

Morgan

- Will attend February 9 meeting in Palmdale regarding land use
- ACTION task force – curious as to how it is going to work
- Interested in evolution of the group – within three years wants it not to be a Council Committee but a community group
- Concerned with jobs for youth where City pays 1/2 of the salary
- Wished all the Lovely Ladies a happy Valentine's Day

Holloway

- Thanked Kathy Armstrong for chocolates and decorations in the Chambers
- Boroughs focus group was an enlightening experience
- Positive experience
- Gangs have not permeated the school system as yet

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- Met with Code Enforcement Officer Bob Smith
- Construction debris is a large problem
- Mr. Smith has been able to get action without fining them
- Wants to bring him back to Economic Development (now Community Development Committee) if he needs more tools to do his job of enforcing our codes
- Wants sign ordinance brought back too
- Marijuana issue has been addressed for another meeting
- At Economic Development Committee stated he wanted to see the Solid Waste Committee Ad Hoc disbanded
- Asked staff to bring report back to Council regarding landfill and recycling program
- Four year university has been a hot topic – Ridgecrest has been well represented at all the meetings
- Lancaster and Palmdale are working to get it in their area
- Board of Trade down there stated it was a regional effort
- Effort is not dead yet
- Received a letter from the DOD Inspector General in answer to my letter of February 2006 regarding BRAC
- Letter is basically a no answer to his letter

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 8:38

Rita Gable, City Clerk