



**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 21, 2007
6:00 p.m.**

**Tape Recorded
Tape 07-05**

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 – 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Council Member Ronald Carter

STAFF: Harvey Rose, City Manager; Keith Lemieux City Attorney; 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, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department Director; Michael Avery, Chief of Police/ Assistant City Manager; and other personnel

City Attorney Lemieux noted request for addition of items to Closed Session - need to address these items arose subsequent to posting of the Agenda; Closed Session – Community Safety and Real Property Negotiations for 100 W. Ridgecrest Boulevard.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Clark TO ADD ITEMS TO THE CLOSED SESSION AGENDA. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 p.m.

GC54956.9 Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Public Disclosure of Potential Litigant Would Prejudice the City of Ridgecrest

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Added items

GC54957(a) Community Safety – Michael Avery

GC54956.8 Real Property Negotiations – 100 W. Ridgecrest Boulevard –
Negotiators Harvey Rose, Michael Avery, and James McRea

REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director
Jim Ponak**

INVOCATION – Reverend Bill Wilson, Calvary Assembly of God Church

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

In Closed Session Council received information regarding Potential Litigation – no action taken; Community Safety received information – no action taken; and Real Property Negotiations, 100 W Ridgecrest Boulevard – no action taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Rose requested addition an item that arose subsequent to publication of the Agenda. Emergency repairs to recently completed Church Avenue 17.02.1 and 17.05.1 curb, gutter, and pavement reconstruction damaged by a water break. Place item on CONSENT CALENDAR as item 8.A.

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADD ITEM 8A TO THE CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Youth Advisory Council

None

2. Presentation – Lions Club Donation

Erika Lowry is a sixth grade student who is battling osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer. A fund has been set up at AltaOne Federal Credit Union to help offset medical expenses. Lions Club President Steven Morgan presentation a donation to the Erika Lowry Fund. Pat Brokke accepted the \$500 check to take to Alta One. Lions Clubs throughout California are being recognized March 25th, 2007 for 50 years of support to the City of Hope. Several Lions club members present joined him at the lectern.

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3. Recognition of Kern Council of Government Regional Awards Recipients

The Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG) at their annual Regional Awards Program Dinner on March 1, 2007 recognized three outstanding Ridgecrest residents.

The Mayor and City Council acknowledged the outstanding effort of these individuals and past recipients of this regional honor and present to the community the recipients of the awards.

Kern Council of Governments 2006 Regional Award of Merit for
Journalism - Eric and Kim Kauffman

Kern Council of Governments 2006 Regional Award of Merit for
Community Involvement - Kathy Armstrong

4. Proclamation – Public Health Week

Vice Mayor Wicknich and City Council presented a proclamation to Margaret Martin and Amy Goriesky who are nurses at the Ridgecrest Branch Health Clinic of Kern County Department of Public Health, in recognition of Public Health Week, April 2 through 8, 2007.

5. Proclamation – Respect For Law Week

The Mayor and City Council presented a proclamation to Howard Auld, President Optimist Club, Timothy Neipp, President Exchange Club, Jackie Pierce, President Kiwanis Club, Mike Thomas, President Footprinters, and Curt Lumley, Exalted Ruler Elks Lodge 1913.

6. Proclamation – Honoring Cheryl Chicky

Council Member Clark and City Council presented a proclamation to Cheryl Chicky, Assistant Court Executive Officer, Kern County Superior Court, in recognition of 25 years of Service in the Kern County Court System.

PUBLIC COMMENT 7:10 p.m.

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- KernCOG made good choices in their selection
- Erik and Km have done great job
- Commented on talk by Dr Laura that he heard on the radio
- Dr Laura program today almost brought him to tears
- Demonstration in northwest about thugs that hung an American service man in effigy
- She has a son who is in the Airborne
- Hope to get a copy of that monolog

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- Asked Council and the local service clubs to join together and take out a full page ad and denounce this action

Mike Neel, Randall

- Was outside City Hall and was reminded by seeing Mr. Ponak about a 200K budget item to repaint the buildings of City Hall
- Walked around and looked the building over and feels the building does not need it - it should cost 10K at the most
- Could use the money for pot holes

Walt Maurer, 209 Mariposa

- Thanked Mr. Clark and Mr. Lemieux for the idea to do a "no" marijuana ordinance

Brook, 725 James Street

- Thanked PD for the great job at school today and yesterday

Mike Hogan, 1117 W. Robert

- When will marijuana come back to agenda
 - Just got a draft from the attorney – within the next 2-3 meetings

7:15 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

7. **Resolution No. 07- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Application For And Acceptance Of The State Of California, Department Of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant** Avery

The State of California, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is offering local law enforcement agencies overtime grants to conduct Minor decoy operations during the 12 months between July 2007 and July 2008. No matching funds are required and we will receive approximately \$ 10,300.00 to cover overtime expenses and purchase equipment.

8. **Resolution No. 07- , A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Authorizing Partial Payment 1 To Maverick Construction For Community Development Block Grant Activities 17.01.1 And 17.05.1** Pollock

This project consists of construction/reconstruction of road improvements on Upjohn Avenue from Sunset to Norma, Wilson from Sunset to Norma, Church Avenue from Sunset to Norma and on Sunset Street from Upjohn to Wilson. The improvements consist of curb, gutter, pavement reconstruction and in some locations sidewalk. The contractor, Maverick Construction, has completed the curb, gutter, sidewalk and street paving and is requesting partial payment 1 in the amount of \$161,142.12.

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Added Item

- 8 A. Resolution No. 07- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing A Force Account Construction Work Order To Maverick Construction To Repair Water Damaged Street Improvements On Church Avenue From Sunset Street To Norma Street Rose**

Following the completion of Church Avenue improvements on March 15, 2007, -- part of \$314,093 in curb, gutter, pavement reconstruction and sidewalk improvements – a water line break damaged the new construction. The original contractor – Maverick Construction – has submitted a proposal for reconstruction in the amount of \$47,098. This was a CDBG project that must be completed within a tight timeframe. Moreover, Tom Mulvihill of the IWV Water District acknowledges responsibility, and has received a copy of the contractor's proposal.

City Council is asked to waive purchasing/contracting policies and authorize the City Manager to contract with Maverick Construction to repair Church Avenue at a cost of \$47,098.

- 9. Resolution No. 07- , A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Recordation Of A Notice Of Completion And Release Of Security For The Improvements Associated With Tract 6133 Unit B Pollock**

Inyokern Land and Cattle Company, LLC provided Performance Security in the amount of \$12,406.62 and Labor and Materials Security in the amount of \$12,406.63 to secure completion of the remaining public improvements associated with Tentative Tract 6133 Unit B and entered into a security agreement with the City of Ridgecrest to complete said improvements. The security agreement and bonding procedure were approved by the City Council with Resolution 06-64 and recorded as document number 0206239962 in the Office of the Kern County Recorder. The improvements in question have been completed and Inyokern Land and Cattle, LLC is requesting that a notice of completion be recorded and that the security in question be released. The Public Works Department has inspected the improvements in question and found them in conformance with City Standards.

- 10. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of March 7, 2007 Gable**

Council Member Wiknich corrected item on page - disparaging remark was Hogan not Maurer

- 11. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 2, 2007 In The Amount Of \$1,088,387.99 Winegardner**

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12. **Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 2, 007 In The Amount Of \$19,298.47** **Winegardner**

Several request for removal of items – taken and handled in their Consent Calendar order by Council.

Dave Matthews requested item 7 be removed

Mike Neel requested items 9, 10 and 11 be removed

Regarding item 7 Mr. Matthews questioned what the program entailed and if the minors/youth were given false identification cards when approaching shop keepers?

7. **Resolution No. 07-14, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Application For And Acceptance Of The State Of California, Department Of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant** **Avery**

Chief explained what the decoy program was – young persons are used to try to purchase alcoholic beverages in local stores as a means of finding those who may be selling to minors and if ID's are asked for when the purchaser appears to be younger than legal age. The grant covers overtime cost and regular costs. No false ID's are given to the minors during this program – the minors use their own.

Moved Morgan, Seconded by Council Member Clark TO ADOPT Resolution No. 07-14, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing Application For And Acceptance Of The State Of California, Department Of Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

8. **Resolution No. 07-15, A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Authorizing Partial Payment 1 To Maverick Construction For Community Development Block Grant Activities 17.01.1 And 17.05.1** **Pollock**

And

- 8 A. **Resolution No. 07-16, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Authorizing A Force Account Construction Work Order To Maverick Construction To Repair Water Damaged Street Improvements On Church Avenue From Sunset Street To Norma Street** **Rose**

City Manager Rose explained that item 8 is payment for the curb, gutter, and pavement reconstruction work recently completed on Sunset Street, Upjohn Avenue, Wilson Avenue, and Church Avenue. Item 8A is for repairs to the aforementioned work on Church Avenue which immediately after the completion of the project was damaged by a water main break that destroyed the new work. The contractor Maverick Construction agreed to redo the project at a cost of \$47,098. The Indian Wells Valley Water District has assumed responsibility for

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the cost of the repairs. City Attorney Lemieux the emergency situation and need to take action.

Item 8.

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-15, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AUTHORIZING PARTIAL PAYMENT 1 TO MAVERICK CONSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTIVITIES 17.01.1 AND 17.05.1

Item 8A

Moved by Council Member Wiknich, second Council Member Clark TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-16 , A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING A FORCE ACCOUNT CONSTRUCTION WORK ORDER TO MAVERICK CONSTRUCTION TO REPAIR WATER DAMAGED STREET IMPROVEMENTS ON CHURCH AVENUE FROM SUNSET STREET TO NORMA STREET. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

9. Resolution No. 07-17, A Resolution Of The Ridgcrest City Council Authorizing Recordation Of A Notice Of Completion And Release Of Security For The Improvements Associated With Tract 6133 Unit B

Pollock

Mr. Neel asked what project this was and where?

City Engineer Pollock stated that it's just a matter of releasing the performance security of \$12,406.62 that has been held for the improvements on the west side of Carolyn Street. The security agreement and bonding procedure were approved by Council with Resolution No. 06-64.

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Wiknich TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-17, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING RECORDATION OF A NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND RELEASE OF SECURITY FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRACT 6133 UNIT B 4 AYES 1 ABSENT. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

10. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of March 7, 2007 **Gable**

Council Member Wiknich corrected item at bottom of page 7 corrected to read – For the record Mike Hogan did not make disparaging remarks about the Mayor.

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Wiknich TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

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11. Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 2, 2007 In The Amount Of \$1,088,387.99 Winegardner

Mr. Neel asked about a \$499,729.86 entry on page 12 for R.E.D. Electric, Inc. – it is payment for work on the lighting at the Kerr-McGee ball fields on Downs Street. He also noted there were a lot of expenditures for Sparkletts water (\$130.84 total) and said putting water filters on the faucets in City Hall would be a lot less expensive.

12. Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated March 2, 007 In The Amount Of \$19,298.47 Winegardner

Mr. Neel noted an entry for Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Inc. (RRH) with a notation that it was consulting services for DMG (Drummond Medical Group). Said he had a problem with taxpayers paying for the DMG consulting. Mr. Rose stated that the City by way of its Redevelopment Agency and RRH jointed forces for a consultant to look into the DMG problem. The Redevelopment Agency paid for it as it is our responsibility to help business in the community as well as redevelopment activities and we could not afford to lose any more doctors or medical assets. Result was we paid half and hospital paid half.

Mr. Neel also noted an entry for Rosenow Spevacek Group, Inc. for professional services. Mr. Rose stated that RSG is involved in the Redevelopment Agency 5 year plan update and this is a progress payment.

Motion by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Wiknich TO APPROVE ITEMS 11 AND 12 – COUNCIL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST BOTH DATED MARCH 2, 2007. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. Public Hearing Regarding Transit Unmet Needs Speer

Resolution No. 07-18, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council To Consider Public Comments And Establish A Finding For Unmet Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet In And With The Public Transportation System

The council will hear and receive comments related to unmet and reasonable transit needs in the City of Ridgecrest and the surrounding county areas serviced by the Ridgecrest Transit System.

Public Works Director Dennis Speer

- Purpose of this hearing is to provide a opportunity to the public to give input to the Council regarding transit needs
- After public comments are received and reviewed the results are forwarded to KernCOG to determine if there are any unmet needs reasonable to meet

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Fare box ratio is 10% for Ridgecrest

Public Hearing opened at 7:40 p.m.

Carol Erickson, 1212 Los Posas

- There are only 3 categories of persons who use the buses – old, disabled or poor
- There are not enough buses to meet the needs and not enough personnel
- Have to call in at least a day in advance to book a ride
- She needed a ride last Thursday - called in morning and was told no slots left for that day
- Asked for Saturday – they were completely booked Saturday
- She asked why not put on another bus and was told they can only have one bus
- If you call the day before and can't get on what do you do
- Taxi operates at night and weekends
- Cannot use taxi as she cannot swing her legs into it
- No bus or driver available on Saturday
- Noted article in Bakersfield that no one wants to ride the "fixed line" buses

Peggy Bush

- Has ridden bus to and from work and lunch time for about 5 years
- Problem is on Saturdays as they close transit early - maybe it could be expanded a couple of hours
- Calling a week in advance is not too bad but later in week bus is full

Roy Szymanski, 814 E. Coral

- Wife has a 5 minute walk to get bus at corner – how do we get bus to our door
- She has asthma and walks 4 days a week
- She has ridden the bus the last 2 years

Mike Hogan, 1117 W. Robert Avenue

- Several times his wife has tried to use the bus to get to her doctors
- Called in numerous times to the bus a day or two in advance
- Could pick her up but could not take her home
- She is in a wheelchair and it takes a special bus to do that
- Have small budget for this community to take care of all the needs of the citizens
- Have bus stops out but no buses will stop there even if people waiting
- Wouldn't it be awful if the Council Members had to wait a week to take a bus to accomplish their duties
- Got to be something we can do

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Penny Palm (?)

- Do not ride the bus but work with people who do
- Asked where they catch the bus
- Schedule shows that there is no paved road access
- Concerned about holidays – there is a need for some people to use the bus on those days

Dave Matthews, 717 Kevin Court

- Left out one category - a caregiver to a disabled person
- Handicap get to ride for \$1 and caregiver rides free
- Associated with a family member classified as poor using the bus to get to the college
- Classes go later than the 5 o'clock last bus down the hill
- Unaware that bus was operating on Saturday
- Student was told that he could not schedule more than 1 day in advance
- Takes Drummond up China Lake to DMG – Drummond is known as the Ridgecrest test track

Public Hearing closed at 8:05 p.m.

Council comment

Clark

- After listening to the public speakers asked Mr. Speer to refer this issue back to a committee perhaps Quality of Life for further study
- Asked if we could possibly change the dirt road access to allow entry up to 1000 feet

Holloway

- Noted that the City is right in the middle of a transit/transportation study by KernCOG
- Also that this issues is active in City Organization Committee

Wiknich

- He was also going to mention the current study
- He had meeting with Mr. Speer about the bus service who said he is looking at some of the operational procedures now being used

Mr. Speer stated that the LSC Corp report is due to KernCOG before the end of April

Morgan

- He has also had conversation with Mr. Speer and given him his thoughts
- Thoughts for Saturdays – maybe a fixed route with many stops might be workable for this
- Transit system is not an emergency service and cannot be one

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- There was a transit report to City Org that use to show the calls that were not booked and those that were no show
- Should be policy in place that if anyone is sitting at the blue bus shelters that the buses should be stopping if there was room on the bus
- City has tried college run 3 times and it has failed each time
- We cannot hold the bus to wait for the last class
- Are we meeting the fare box ratio of 10%
 - Mr. Winegardner just looked and answer is a little complicated as it is under the Kern County portion of the contract
 - As of December it is 6%
- As to personally using the system he did it in the past and took the bus to work every day for a week but had to have a coworker pick him up at the main gate
- Believes we need to go to fixed route system
- Loading disabled or handicapped persons will slow down any fixed route buses

Holloway

- Ridership is down 40% which is quite a bit
- Transit costs over \$845,000/year averaging out at \$25 per passenger
- 107 trips per day but wonder how many persons are repetitive riders
- To get a better degree of service might be a fixed route on main corridor and a modified door to fixed route
- Would cost 1M plus to implement
- Would increase use to drop passenger cost down to \$9 per passenger
- Biggest concern is the drop in ridership
- Alternative for the emergency situations was to use a voucher system to supplement using the taxi service

Clark

- On the 2nd Tuesday each month teens take buses from their schools to the Youth Advisory Committee
- He has to call several times to make contact with the dispatcher to get this done
- Is there a way to track how many calls were made to transit dispatch but not answered
- Have a lot of complaints regarding this issue

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Morgan TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-18, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ESTABLISH A FINDING FOR UNMET NEEDS THAT ARE REASONABLE TO MEET IN AND WITH THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter Absent.

Council Member Wiknich reiterated that a transit/transportation study is still going on.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

14. **Ordinance No. 07-03, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code As It Pertains To Unlawful Businesses** Avery

This ordinance was introduced for first reading, by title only, at the regular Council meeting of March 7, 2007. It is brought to the Council at this time for second reading and adoption.

Chief Avery

- Briefly read through the DRAFT ordinance that came in from the City Attorney after the agenda was published
- DRAFT was distributed to Council earlier this week
- It is not for action at this time and is discussion only
- Has been asked - should head shops and hookah bars be included
 - They are in the Health and Safety Code

Mike Neel, Randall

- Read some of Mr. Clark's comments from last meeting pertaining to his investigation into the medical marijuana dispensary issues that began last year
- Agrees that we need an ordinance that forbids dispensaries and keeps them from coming here forever

Andy Grechowski, 1559 W. Burns

- Commented on hospice and clinics noted in the new DRAFT ordinance

Mike Hogan

- Said he love being an American
- Can object at the top of our lungs
- Citizens of California voted for medicinal marijuana as legal means to provide relief to persons with chronic medical issues and suffering pain
- A member of your public has asked you to allow this in our City
- Sorry that there are doctors who can prescribe marijuana without giving you a test
- Stated his wife needs medical marijuana as does veterans coming back from Iraq
- As a government employee he cannot take his wife to the out of town dispensaries – he cannot enter them at risk of losing his job
- How can you not allow something that is for the good of many persons needing it

Morgan

- Ordinance tonight is for unlawful business
- It is also in the DRAFT ordinance just received
 - Chief stated he will eliminate that portion with help of City Attorney

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Wiknich

- Originally asked for a just say No ordinance
- This does clean up the Municipal Code while it does not specifically spell out NO MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES

Moved by Council Member Clark, second Council Member Wiknich TO WAIVE READING IN FULL AND TO ADOPT, BY TITLE ONLY, ORDINANCE NO. 07-03, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE AS IT PERTAINS TO UNLAWFUL BUSINESSES. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

15. **Site Improvements Of Design And Construction Within A Public Ingress And Egress Easement On Parcel 15, 16, 25, And 26, Parcel Map 10819 And General Ridgcrest Business Park** **McRea**

This will provides interconnection and access between projects and Ward Street.

Public Services Director Jim McRea

- Staff recommends that the Redevelopment Agency authorize the design and construction of a paved access driveway within existing easement
- This is to connect Ward Avenue, the new Taco Bell and Nickoletti's Center
- Undeveloped Parcel 25 is located between the two projects
- Agency would fund the improvements and add to the sale price of Parcel 25
- This would improve safety access and enhance existing drainage to Ward Avenue
- Drawing is attached
- Specific design and construction cost will be prepared for approval prior to any work or improvement
- Noted that latest information is CalTRANS will not fund a signal at Ward Avenue and China Lake Boulevard

Council Member Morgan stated we are just trying to create a traffic flow in the business park

Jerry Taylor, 315 Mesquite

- Bringing out onto Ward but how far is it from China Lake
 - 215 feet
- And it will be on east side of Taco Bell?
 - Yes

Mr. Rose stated that the traffic signal is programmed - 1/2 is ours and 1/2 half is CalTRANS and we need to start the design now. We will proceed with the

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project - the funds are there and we will ignore CalTRANS and hope for reimbursement.

Dave Matthews

- Perhaps we should have been assessing the developers in that area and then reimburse them if CalTRANS funds it

Moved by Council Member Morgan, second Council Member Wiknich TO AUTHORIZE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURE FROM EXISTING RIDGECREST BUSINESS PARK LOAN PROCEEDS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PAVED ACCESS DRIVEWAY WITHIN EXISTING EASEMENT OF PARCEL 25. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 4 ayes, 1 absent, Council Member Carter absent.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

16. Discussion of Financing Options

Rose

- Started at Infrastructure Committee for roads
- Became aware that other committees were also discussing options for other items such as parks and recreation facilities, drainage solutions, street lighting, police officers, etc.
- Named many methods all of which require 2/3 approval of the electorate
- Some options require them to be at a general council election
- Special elections can be costly up to 40k
- Special interest districts require a vote of the people
- Now is the time to get started on any items for the 2008 election
- Will need a bond counsel if we go that way
- Staff would like to engage you in a discussion to find out what you want to do

Council

Wiknich –

- did start in committee and he and Mr. Rose feel that we don't need to put more on staff but we needed to find out the desires of the Council

Morgan –

- in agreement with Mr. Wiknich although we need to put again an Infrastructure or roads measure before the electorate
- Wants all measures separated this time and let them all stand on their own merits, individually
- Wants to move forward with it – roads need to be project specific - what it is and what it will do
- Will support other issues
- Feels we need a measure for a new swimming pool and build a new complex
- Kern County will put another county wide measure on the ballot in 2008
- he thanks those who exercise their right to vote

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Clark –

- Still has scar tissue from the last go round
- Feels we should not lead the charge - the public/community should lead the charge
- We need an infrastructure bond and a new pool facility but let the community do it
- If we do 40K for a bond consultant it should be citizen motivated

Mr. Rose –

- We can borrow from the utility funds
- We are in pursuit of a multi-million dollar wastewater plant
- Have to have the funds back there in short time
- It could loan a short time in small amount
- Things that do not require vote of people are internal borrowing
- Would not go there for pool complex for the 8M estimated cost
- Would go up to 100K

Morgan –

- When Kern County wanted no participation from Council it was all in the hands of a citizens committee who never came over here to consult with us
- Told Mr. Wiknich he would not lead the charge this time but he said he would back him

Mr. Rose fully agrees with Mr. Clark that issues have to be citizen motivated

Clark –

- If we float a bond suggest one simple bond that they can readily see and if successful they may be more open for others in future

Morgan –

- Noted how we were not trusted to carry out the 20M specific projects of infrastructure in Measure Q
- They (the public/citizens) refused to believe we would do what we stated it was for

Wiknich –

- Wants to pursue getting some needed things done

Clark –

- One bond with one specific issue - not bonds for several individual projects

Mr. Rose suggested he come back with a specific plan with specific funding ideas

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Holloway –

- Yes it has to be grass roots but the City can use a consultant to get it started and then community can take over
- Heard specific and sunset
- Assessment district for specific areas
- The TOT can be increased to rental cars so lets look at that
- Sick of every trip that police go out to get truant kids, barking dogs, etc.
- Change Municipal; Code regarding traffic tickets to get more back from the fines
- Change Code Enforcement fines to smaller and more collectable
- He is all for moving forward

17. Mid-year Financial Review

Winegardner

Administrative Services Director Jim Winegardner

- Gave a brief power point presentation (copy in agenda packet)
- Gave them examples of how to make comparisons
- Also gave them factual figures for all areas of the budget at this mid time of the fiscal year

Clark –

- wants to have a budget report that shows the approved budget and the expenditures without revising the budget
- He and Mr. Wiknich will get with Mr. Winegardner to try to work out such a report

Morgan –

- Projected expenditures are just that but some don't come to be
- Revenues are all over the budget in different areas but they are projected or estimated and often do not meet what was counted on

Winegardner –

- Look at pages 89-98 those are the treasurer's report
- 90-91 are fund cash balance
- 92 is a cash flow statement (in and out
- 91 shows fund cash balances Redevelopment Agency in yellow assessment in purple deficits are in red
- 92 cash flow statement shows inflows and outflows from operations

Gerry Taylor

- What you don't have is a model of your month by month expenditures
- You are getting a straight line
- Load a month by month expenditure list - it would work better

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CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

None

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Development Committee

Members: Chair Steven Morgan, Chip Holloway, Jerry Taylor, Nellavan Jeglum

Met March 20

- Discussed business loan program
- We are trying to get grasp of this newly established committee
- Asked staff if there is economic development component, or RAC component or Code Enforcement component to the committee
- Discussed annexation
- Staff will come back with plans for sign ordinance
- Ask staff about a meeting with Supervisor McQuiston
- Utility districts to generate revenue
- General Plan update
- Kern County Blueprint

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

Next meeting April 5

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Chair Tom Wiknich, Chip Holloway, Mike Biddlingmeier, Lois Beres

Met March 8

- LAFCO
- Mojave Desert Mountain RC7D Council
- Discussed the transit issue
- LSC Transportation Consultants with transportation study presentation
- Asked them to come back again

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

Next meeting April 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee

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

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

Next meeting of 22 March has been cancelled due to lack of quorum

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Chair Steve Morgan, Tom Wiknich, Lois Beres, Nellavan Jeglum

Met March 13

- Discussed mandatory trash collection – will be brought back

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- Four way stop at La Mirage and French Avenue intersection
- Wastewater facility
- Budget issues
- County landfill
- General Plan
- Bond issue discussed
 - Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Council Conference Room
 - Next meeting April 10

Activate Community Talents and Interventions For Optimal Neighborhoods Task Force (ACTION)

Members: Ron Carter, Dan Clark,

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., Council Conference Room

Met March 12

- About 60 people there for first meeting
- Kern County Sheriff Donnie Youngblood was there
- Looked at what Bakersfield has adopted
- Defined our problems
 - Next meeting April 9 at 6 p.m. - a Town Hall meeting – invited community to participate with input or ideas, etc.

RACVB

Council Member Holloway

Council Member

- Dave Blake and Trudy Brown
 - Republican Central division conference was Morgan
- Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8:00 a.m., RACVB Office
Next meeting April 18

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Clark - March 28 5:30 arts council

Morgan - Quad state met Friday March 9 in St. George Utah – changing to allow more counties to join – got the intervening which has spurred more interest – changing from coalition as it tagged them as a special interest group

Morgan - KernCOG meeting appreciate article of what happened at the meeting – a project list for the STIP before the state transportation CTC – funds tied up for 6-8 years – parkway in Bakersfield west valley parkway – unanimous vote was surprising – took Dennis Speer and Jim McRea with him – still being disagreement on Ridgecrest Boulevard project – if funding available may see actual work being done in 2009 – we have to do the design and it might be up to 1M and did say we might use waste water fund in advance – if CTC approves us we

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MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clark

- Invited all to the ACTION town hall meeting April 9
- Won't be here for April 4th meeting
- May 2 would like proclamation for motorcycle awareness
- April 14 biker blessing at Calvary Chapel 10 am church
- Billy Graham Crusader Dennis Asu

Wiknich

- Welcomed hearing the public comment on unmet needs
- For the persons who shop using the transit system for groceries on Saturday – Albertsons offers online shopping and deliver in LA
- Maybe we can get them to offer it here
- Would be an advantage to some of our folks

Morgan

- We broached a couple of emotional topics tonight
- Those in public who want to take part in these discussions need to come to the committee meetings with their inputs
- Please get involved early and often and come with constructive methods to lead us to decisions
- Path least traveled will get you where you are going unless you stray off the beaten path
- Admire Tom Wiknich for the infrastructure bond and will support him

Holloway

- Told Mr. Morgan he was being very humble about the KernCOG meeting and pushing the project
- You have done a great thing for this community
- Think we are a lot closer for that
- Could miss the April 18th meeting but will miss May 2
- Caution the reporting of the BRAC process and hopefully not creating an illusion that some people are not doing enough in the process
- Don't put this community in jeopardy

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk