



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

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

**October 3, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

This meeting was 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 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 McRea, Public Services Department Director, Dennis Speer, Public Works Department Director; Joe Pollock, Assistant Public Works Director; Jim Ponek, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department Director; Jon Wheeler, Police Department; and other personnel

REGULAR SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by **Craig Peterson, Assistant to First District Supervisor Jon McQuiston**

INVOCATION – Silent Moment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Youth Advisory Council

None

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2. Proclamation - Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Council presented a proclamation to Carol Beecroft, Chief Executive Officer, Karin Stone, Program Director, and Diane Grattaroti, Director of Development, Women's Center-High Desert, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2007. The Women's Center presented a short, very graphic video on domestic violence

3. Presentation - Sister City Tepatitlan

Roger Brower, President, Ridgecrest Sister City Association, and other Association members, presented plaques from Tepatitlan to Mayor Holloway and the Council.

4. Presentation - CTC Funding

Presentation by Ronald Brummett, Executive Director, Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG). He gave a brief overview of what KernCOG was and what it does in the county. He also talked about transportation funding, where it comes from and what it can be used for. Copy of his PowerPoint presentation is in the Clerks Agenda packet.

Public questions

Dave Matthews

- Commented on the inflation rate in the presentation
- Also on the "trust" funds used for other things
- Too many dictatorial boards making decision with no place in Constitution

David Glazer

- Sounds like there is no money coming
- How about something like a lottery for paid property tax for a year
- City gets 10K the person gets 1K

Frank Nickleson

- Where did the money go for Ridgecrest Boulevard
- Bike and pedestrian lanes have big trucks parking in those lanes
 - Against California Vehicle code for any motorized vehicles to be in a bike lane
 - Ridgecrest Boulevard was never fully funded but in increments and has been funded through the first three parts, mostly for environmental studies and reports, and is now eligible for the fourth part. The problem is the construction funding which the state keeps putting off.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7:50 p.m.

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Mike Neel

- Keep hearing about money, money, money and lack of it
- Seems we are looking everywhere but in our own pockets
- Seems like the budget went up again
- Asked how did the 15K for Art in the Medians get in the budget
- 40K discretionary funds to spend for Parks and Recreation
- In his mind there has been zero effort to cut back on the spending
- Suggestion in newspaper was that he run for council and maybe he could turn things around
- This Council has not cut the spending
- Need to cut to the bone for things that are not vital to protect the citizens and provide infrastructure

Council Member Morgan

- ❖ Noted the big City cut back in staff in the 90's
- ❖ More funds put into budget for streets this year for repairs and maintenance than in the immediate past

Bud Klamt

- We have problems with our youth
- Driving on Gold Canyon Drive with you walking in middle of street
- Had to get out and ask them to move so he could pass
- And it happens too frequently
- He is asking for more police officers on patrol
- Distributed photos of culvert on N. Gold Canyon Drive
- It is a trash collector
- Tried to contact Code Enforcement several times with no luck and voice mail full - could not leave message

Al Huey

- Chip has heartburn when he hears negative comments from community
- Noted article in newspaper re gangs and meeting put on by Assembly Member Jean Fuller
- Quoted part of article
- Police no tolerance stance in Fresno pushed gangs into the surrounding communities
- ACTION Committee started out with prevention, intervention and suppression
- Commended the police for the good job they are doing

Council Members Carter and Clark commented about what happens in the committee – community needs to work with everyone else

Dave Matthews

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- Too much energy has been put into the “roundabout”
- Asked to have this taken off the table but it still goes on
- Proponents came up with two benefits – a center piece landmark for the city and also easy traffic flow
- We have our attractions like City Hall
- As far as easing the traffic flow there will be 4 lanes in all directions
- It must be large it cannot be small
- Don’t have the real estate to make it large
- Why more stop lights if we put in a roundabout
- If traffic controllers are adjusted there will be shorter delays

Jerry Taylor

- Thanked the DI for recent articles
- Reviewing in the media prior to the meeting can be a hindrance
- Media is not letting the discussions happen here but in the media before it gets here
- Doesn't allow the planning process to take place without prejudice
- Noted T bone accidents that have happened at the areas near Bowman Road
- Majority is not necessarily good way to spend money

Walter Maurer

- Watched the program "The Rookie" last night
- Why couldn't we do that here
- Why can't we debate things - we all have convictions of our own
- Request city does not fund to hire a consultant
- Wants figures showing cuts that have been made
- Wants a measure that shows every aspect where the funds will be spent
- Commended on the Women's Center showing the video on domestic violence
- Video was very graphic
- Asked if he could show anti-abortion pictures or videos
- Commented on RRH seeking funds and abortion issue

Council Member Wiknich

- ❖ Invited Mr. Neel and anyone else to come to the next budget session and show us where the cuts should be made. Start the process with the City Organization and Services Committee but do come during the start up proceedings of the budget.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Minutes Of The Regular City Council/Redevelopment Agency Meeting Of September 19, 2007 Gable

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6. **Council Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated September 14, 2007 In The Amount Of \$328,145.94** Winegardner
7. **Agency Expenditure Approval List (DWR) Dated September 14, 2007 In The Amount Of \$9,196.19** Winegardner

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Clark TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. No public comment. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. **Resolution No. 07-50, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Approving The Issuance Of Tax-Exempt Revenue Bonds By The California Statewide Communities Development Authority To Benefit Ridgecrest Regional Hospital** McRea

TEFAR Public Hearing for issuance of tax exempt bonds by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSAC) on behalf of the Ridgecrest Regional Hospital in an amount not to exceed \$77.0 million.

By taking this action, the City of Ridgecrest does not become responsible for the payment of debt. However, in the worst case, should the Hospital default on its debt, the City would find it difficult to borrow funds of its own.

Public Hearing opened at 8:22 p.m.

Comment heard from the following persons - all are Ridgecrest residents:

Dave Matthews

- Concerned with why they City has to authorize these bonds
- Questioned if City had looked the hospital's business plan
- Concerned that many such facilities were shutting down all over the country
- Asked Mayor Holloway if he was a member of the hospital board
 - Yes, he is - the corporate board not the executive

Mr. Mechtenberg noted the IRS requires the municipality or local legislative body approve the issuance of the bonds. HUD has approved a loan to go ahead with the continuation of the two story hospital tower.

Diane Grattaroti

- Has been on the hospital corporate board for many years
- The audits show the hospital is fiscally sound and is head and shoulders above most others in the west

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Al Huey

- Has concern for the City being liable if the hospital defaults on payments
- City is discussing a bond measure for the ballot and concerned if this would impact the loan process for the City bond if the hospital defaults

City Manager Rose stated it could impact the cost of borrowing by the City in the future if the hospital defaulted

Walt Maurer

- Also noted he heard that if there was a default the city's credit rating would be affected
- If City did not approve where would the hospital go to see the funding
- If City said no that would kill the HUD deal correct? YES
- He noted that abortions are performed at the hospital and asked if there was any way for a deal here
- Also commended Ridgecrest Regional Hospital for its physicians and the good work that they do

Mayor Holloway answered the HUD question by stating it is a chance to get some of those funds out here back into the community. It is a risk to reward ratio for the City and community

Frank Nickelson

- As a senior citizen he does not want to see the hospital fail
- For many persons and especially senior there is no way to go out of town to seek medical assistance or treatment
- Thinks City should do everything they can to support that hospital
- Once you cannot drive or get out of town you will think about this

Public Hearing closed at 8:44 p.m.

Moved by Council Member Carter, second Council Member Clark TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07-50, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF TAX-EXEMPT REVENUE BONDS BY THE CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO BENEFIT RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

OTHER ACTION ITEMS

9. **Resolution RRA No. 07-02, A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest Redevelopment Agency Authorizing The Execution Of A Letter Of Understanding (LOU) And An Economic Development Loan To Mr. And Mrs. Wiley, 215 W Ridgecrest Boulevard For A Batting Cage Business** **McRea**

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Staff is recommending that the Agency authorize the execution of a Letter of Understanding and an economic development loan in the amount of \$17,132.00 and adoption of the specified resolution. The loan funding is to assist in the development of a batting cage business.

Council Member Wiknich

- ❖ Questioned the cash payment then their payment of development fees
- ❖ Is it Redevelopment Agency funds going to the City
- ❖ Did not see a clause that if they default they would pay our attorney fees

Mr. McRea stated - They will repay the loan with simple interest of 4% due in 5 years. He also noted the section of the LOU that cites the question of default.

Mayor Holloway noted it is secured by a deed of trust

Al Huey

- Asked who is the loan officer – he would like to meet him
- 4% for 5 years is pretty good interest rate
- Does not think the City should be doing this type of loan - banks are for making loans not cities
- Small amount of money but it is the principle of the thing

Council Member Clark asked Mr. McRea to explain what redevelopment funds could be spent on

Mr. McRea stated - Agency receives a set amount of funds - approximately 75K - to set aside to encourage start up businesses and can be used on many other things associated with economic development. This project will “beautify” the boulevard by eliminating the old trailer park and will provide some small amount of jobs. It will provide recreational outlet for youth and adults. The Agency is doing just what the redevelopment plan suggests. It also increases the tax increment coming into the City by developing the property.

Walt Maurer

- General question – he gets the impression that any citizen can come to the City and do the same thing
- Wants to know who does he go to see in the City to get this type of deal
 - Gary Parsons is the Economic Development Manager

Mike Neel

- This meeting sounds more like a banking committee than a City Council
- Thinks they (Council) should be out of the job
- This is not the business of government to make loans to businesses
- Asked how much time and money has been spent on this

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- Government's job is to provide for protection of the people and provide infrastructure
- Does not know why the City is even discussing this
- They should get a loan from a bank if they want to start a business

Moved by Agency Member Carter, second Agency Member Clark TO ADOPT RESOLUTION RRA NO. 07-02, A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING (LOU) AND AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN TO MR. AND MRS. WILEY, 215 W RIDGECREST BOULEVARD FOR A BATTING CAGE BUSINESS. Public comment heard. Carried with a voice vote of 5 ayes.

CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

none

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Not present

COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Development Committee

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

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m.; Council Conference Room

Next meeting October 4

City Organization and Services Committee

Members: Chair Tom Wiknich, Chip Holloway, Nellavan Jeglum, Lois Beres

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

Next meeting October 12 at 1 p.m.- note day and time change

Parks, Recreation and Quality of Life Committee

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

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

Met September 27

- Gave 1K to Knights of Columbus for Maturango Junction
- Discussed bond issue for Parks and Recreation but not at same time as road issue
- In favor of phone survey by consultant for 12-15K and preparation of the documentation for the ballot

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- Supports both issues
- Talked about Jean Fullers meeting regarding gangs
- Ridgecrest Health Center was discussed – many empty beds
- Youth Advisory Council gave presentation
Next meeting October 25

Infrastructure Committee

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

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

Next meeting October 9 and possibly October 23

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

Members: Chair Dan Clark, Ron Carter

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center

Next meeting October 15 (2nd Monday is holiday for some folks)

RACVB

Council Member Holloway

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

Next meeting October 17

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

Council Member Morgan attended Quad State in Pahrump – Center For Biological Diversity litigation was reason for the meeting

Council Member Clark noted Arts Council meeting on October 24 5:30 Kerr-McGee Center

David Matthew BLM Desert Advisory meeting was scheduled for 25-26 January 3rd here in Ridgecrest

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Carter

- Appreciates any citizen who comes to Council
- He is religious and against abortion
- Does not appreciate having others beliefs and opinions thrust upon him
- When you come to the meeting stick to the issues that are on agenda

Wiknich

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- Has not seen any reports or progress for utilization of volunteers to help Code Enforcement Officer
- Tired of hearing they call the Code Enforcement Officer and never get calls back
- We have got to stop getting pictures of trashed areas around town

Clark

- Teen court – in process of revamping and reinstating
- Jon McQuiston has secured funding for a coordinator
- Was successful when here a few years ago
- They do community service and could help Code Enforcement Officer
- Married his daughter off a few weeks ago - was thrilling experience
- Youth Advisory Council meets October 9 11:45 to 1 p.m.
- Encouraged parents to encourage their youth to get involved with the Youth Advisory Council

Morgan

- Relay For Life raising funds to find a cure for cancer - it's a 24 hour walk at the Burroughs track
- Viewfinders races at Fairgrounds this weekend also
- Desert fair is October 11-14
- Noted IG report regarding BRAC
- Noted Council has to be balanced in everything

Holloway

- Kiwanis Walk-a-Thorn was last weekend – he did 2 ½ miles
- DI and NR has been upset about IG report on BRAC but he just got it and opened it as he sat down on Council
- Leaves a lot of ambiguity
- Read letter he sent to DOD IG stating Navy did not provided adequate information and documentation on the business plan
- Good news is that there will be a business plan for the Navy soon

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

Rita Gable, City Clerk