

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, November 28, 2005

***MINUTES***

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hidden Hills was duly held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall, 6165 Spring Valley Road, Hidden Hills, California 91302 on Monday, November 28, 2005 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Ronald Berg called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking Public Safety Commissioner Mark Deitch's daughter Lauren Deitch to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council: Mayor Ronald S. Berg  
Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen  
Council Member Monty E. Fisher  
Council Member Steve Freedland  
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff: City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the November 28, 2005 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Berg made the following announcements:

There will be a public hearing on the Lasher project at the next Council meeting on 12/12/05; more details will be provided later during the meeting.

The Council Members hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving.

The Community Association/Parks & Recreation Committee will be providing snow for the winter social on Sunday, 12/4, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center; to be admitted, bring a desert and unwrapped children's toy.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen provided the following report on the Every 15 Minutes Program:

He had the good fortune to attend this program recently at Calabasas High School, where it's presented every other year, alternating with Agoura High School; the program is presented by the California Highway Patrol, the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, and various others; it is based on the idea that every 15 minutes someone dies in a drunk driving accident; on the first day, there is a simulated 2-car accident, with a memorial service on the second day, all acted out by students; it is presented only to the juniors and seniors, who are more emotionally mature, as the program is very dynamic; it is hard to measure the effectiveness of the program, but it has to make a difference; many of the students and parents involved end up crying during the two days; Hidden Hills contributed \$1600 towards the program, and he would recommend that the City continue to support the program whenever it is done again.

Mayor Berg stated he has heard nothing but very positive feedback on this phenomenal program, which is a benefit for the safety of the youngsters and the community.

Council Member Siegel announced the following regarding cell phone reception in the City:

He wished to make it clear that no cell phone companies have expressed an interest in placing a cell site in the City; but after the recent experiences with the Topanga Fire and compelling discussions from equestrians who feel the lack of cell phone reception in the City was and is a safety problem, he feels residents should become more proactive in filing complaints about the poor service; he has found a website where inadequate service reports can be filed; that website will be placed on Cable TV channel 3, on the City's website, and in an upcoming newsletter; each of the individual companies also have their own separate numbers for filing complaints; complaint calls are mapped, and if companies get enough of them, they should start paying attention and hopefully make

some effort to remedy the problems; there is new technology that can be used in place of the older large towers, that hopefully would alleviate some of the health concerns that some people have; he would encourage residents to begin filing complaints.

### **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Recognition of New Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) Members**

Emergency Services Director Jim Doran stated the following:

This is a very special night, as certificates will be awarded to those who have completed the CERT training course; these people gave up many hours for the classes and should be very proud; he wished to thank the L.A. County Fire Department, including Community Services Representative Maria Grycan and Bill McCloud, along with others, who taught the classes; seven of those completing the course have also chosen to become members of the City's Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT); additional training will be provided in the future, including a damage assessment class by City Engineer Dirk Lovett and instruction in traffic control by the Sheriff's Department; hopefully an additional twenty people will complete the training and join NEAT, to provide a good core group to respond in the City during emergencies, especially earthquakes.

At this time, Ms. Grycan presented certificates of completion, Mr. Doran issued the oath of office, and Mayor Berg presented backpacks and hardhats to the following residents who are now officially NEAT members: Frank Becker, Elizabeth De Carteret, Lilian Darling Holt, Andrew Steinberg, Alex Van Halen, Stine Van Halen, and Martin Zane.

#### **B. Recognition of Others Completing the CERT Training**

L.A. County Fire Department Community Services Representative Maria Grycan presented certificates to the following who completed the CERT training (either the recent course or previously provided courses) and are already serving the City in some capacity: Council Members Steve Freedland and Stuart Siegel; Public Safety Commissioners Mark Deitch, Gabe Nussbaum, and Larry Weber (who is also the Assistance Emergency Services Director);

Emergency Services Director and Public Safety Commission Chairman Jim Doran (who has completed these courses many times); and City Manager Cherie Paglia.

Mayor Berg thanked everyone for volunteering to serve their community.

**C. Consideration of Approval of Community Assistance Grant to A.E. Wright Middle School for Park Benches for Use on the Middle School Campus**

Mayor Berg presented the following information:

The City has budgeted \$15,000 for community assistance grants, \$1600 of which was recently spent for the Every 15 Minutes Program, while another \$5000 has been allocated for the Halloween video; he also recalled that the City provided funding for benches for A.E. Wright during the 2001-2002 school year; this is a request for \$2165.74 for three additional benches.

Mathy Wasserman, resident and PFA member, commented as follows:

The cost for each bench is \$588 plus shipping, for a total cost of \$2165.74; A.E. Wright is in need of a face lift and many items, including these additional benches; half of the Round Meadow School population goes to A.E. Wright; they want to expand the park-like setting on campus and the seating capacity.

Council Member Freedland stated that the benches provided previously (which have a small plaque stating they were donated by Hidden Hills) are used and look very nice, according to Principal Steve Rosentsweig, who does have more benches at the top of his wish list.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to authorize the expenditure of \$2165.74 to A.E. Wright Middle School for the purchase, including shipping, of three benches for the school campus.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - October**

Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee provided the following report:

During the month of October, there were four emergency medical calls, one hazmat call (gas leak), and two good intent calls, which were false alarms; there was no property loss; all brush inspections have been completed except one; the Department was involved in CERT training for the City; since this is now the holiday season, he would like to remind residents to keep their Christmas trees fresh, and to not leave candles burning; he considers this a second fire season, and does not want to see any tragedies.

Mayor Berg pointed out that the cost to suppress the Topanga Fire was almost \$16 million, with Chief Lee adding that it could have been \$6 -\$7 billion if let go. In response to Council Member Siegel, Chief Lee said that the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

### **B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Report - October**

The following report was provided by Captain Tom Martin:

There were four Part I crimes during the month of October; there were two separate burglaries from two vehicles, one unlocked and one possibly locked, on the same property on William Bent, with the same type of items taken in each case; there was one residential burglary from a home that had been sold and was vacant at the time; it is possible the perpetrators were acquaintances of those who sold the house; the fourth crime occurred on Round Meadow with odd circumstances; a resident met someone who tried to steal his new skateboard, and when he ran for help, property was taken from his vehicle; there were also three false alarms.

Mayor Berg wished to thank the Sheriff's Department for the arrest, with the use of DNA, related to the theft of a vehicle some months ago from Hidden Hills. Captain Martin stated that he was very pleased that the crime lab analyzed the DNA which resulted in a positive hit on the person arrested with the vehicle; without that hit, the person could not be connected to the City, only to the stolen vehicle in which he was arrested near San Luis Obispo.

Council Member Siegel asked why the report had been revised, with the earlier report showing two additional Part I crimes. Captain Martin explained that there were two identity theft crimes

(which are Part II crimes) involving Hidden Hills residents, but the crimes did not occur in the City. It was just a misreported clerical error which was corrected.

**C. Consideration of Assignment of 2005-2006 Brulte/COPS Funds**

Captain Tom Martin informed the Council of the following:

Each City within the Station's jurisdiction has received \$100,000 per year, for the past several years, in Brulte/COPS funds; he is asking the City to designate these funds for the following specific purposes and enforcement activities (they are restricted funds which can only be used for particular items, and cannot be placed in the City's general fund): 1) motorcycle enforcement (Motors), which is a continuance of a shared resource among the five area cities, with each City receiving an equal share of time from the two Motors; 2) continuation of the Parental Resource Program, which is a class through the Juvenile Intervention Team to assist troubled teens and their families, especially trying to teach parental skills where there might be a lack of supervision – a shared cost with the other cities; 3) continuation of support (shared with the other cities, the County, LVUSD, LVMWD) for the Community Alert Network (CAN), which was used during the Topanga Fire to provide evacuation notices, and could be used for any emergencies when there is a need to alert large portions of the population; 4) continuation of support (again shared among the five cities) of the Sheriff's Teen Traffic Offender Program (STTOP), which allows citizens to report problems with teen drivers, often resulting in a visit by the Deputy to the offender's parents, who can often assist by issuing punishment that the Sheriff cannot (taking away their license, etc.) – this Deputy also helps coordinate the very successful Every 15 Minutes Program; and 5) crime impact funds, which allow the Sheriff's Department, usually through the City Managers, to request specific overtime enforcement when needed for such things as a crime wave within the City, burglary suppression, DUI enforcement, traffic or seatbelt enforcement, etc.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to allocate \$100,000 in Brulte/COPS funds for the following: \$52,608/motorcycle traffic enforcement officers (Motors); \$2000/parenting class (Parental Resource Program); \$2000/Community Alert Network (CAN); \$24,540/Sheriff's Teen Traffic Offender Program (STTOP); and \$18,852/crime impact funding.

Council Member Freedland suggested that the detailed use of these restricted funds (and the fact that they cannot be placed in the City's general fund) be put in an upcoming newsletter, on the website, and on Cable TV channel 3.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – November 14, 2005**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – October**
- D. Financial/Treasurer's Report – October**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (with Mayor Pro Tem Cohen abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting), B, C, and D of the consent calendar as submitted.

### **MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

#### **Report from the 11/15/05 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Mayor Berg reported that the Association's annual meeting was cancelled, as a quorum was not reached, and that the meeting would hopefully be held on December 13, 2005.

### **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

#### **A. Lasher Development - Update**

Mayor Berg announced the following:

A public hearing notice regarding the Lasher project will be posted Tuesday, 11/29; the notice (most of which he read aloud) gives the details of the hearing, which will be held in the Council Chambers during a regularly scheduled Council meeting on Monday, 12/12/05, at 7:30 p.m., to consider an application for Vesting Tentative Map 54063 and a final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for proposed Vesting Tentative Map 54063; during the 12/12/05 Council meeting, when this item appears on the agenda, it will begin with a staff report by the City Engineer, after which the Council will open the public hearing; he will first ask the developers if they wish to speak and make a presentation, after which he will ask the Community Association, any governmental agencies, and then anyone else from the general public in the audience to speak; the Council Members will

then ask questions, after which they will make comments, discuss and deliberate the matter; it is impossible to say at this time whether or not all of the above will be completed on 12/12/05; it is his guess that the entire process may take longer than just this first meeting, and if so, the public hearing may be continued to 12/19/05 or to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on 1/9/06; the City Attorney will be present during the public hearing to assure that everything is handled correctly and in accordance with the law; the final EIR can be viewed or purchased at City Hall.

Mayor Berg then explained the process by which the final entire EIR (consisting of the two volume draft EIR and the final EIR document) or just the third final EIR document could be viewed or purchased.

Council Member Siegel asked if the EIR consultant would be at the public hearing, and if the EIR was available on the website – the answer to both questions was yes.

In response to Council Member Freedland, staff explained that the public hearing notice would be posted in the usual locations throughout the City, sent to the property owners within 500' of the project, as well as to everyone who commented on the project, and also put on Cable TV channel 3 and sent via the City's email/fax notification system.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen asked if the professionals who made comments on the document would be in attendance at the public hearing. Developer Ron Gonen responded as follows:

They are looking forward to the process; regarding their professional consultants, their counsel and probably engineer will be in attendance at the hearing, but none of the others unless there is a specific request or need for them.

Mayor Berg stated the following:

He cannot say what questions might be raised, but he would err on the side of caution regarding the presence of the developers' consultants and professionals, as he would hate to hold up the process if there were questions that could not be answered at the time they were asked; since he does not anticipate that this entire process will be completed in one evening, he would suggest the developers check to see if anyone they might want at the public hearing on 12/12/05 will also be available on 12/19/05 in case the hearing is continued to that date; that is actually the beginning of the holiday vacation period for

many, and everyone may not be available; he also expressed his appreciation to the developers for their patience during this ongoing process.

**B. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - October**

The report was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of November 28, 2005 at 8:20 p.m.

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Ronald S. Berg, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk