

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, April 24, 2006

*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, April 24, 2006 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking L.A. County Sheriff Lieutenant John Benedict to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council:	Mayor Jim Cohen Mayor Pro Tem Monty E. Fisher Council Member Steve Freedland Council Member Stuart E. Siegel
Staff:	City Engineer Dirk Lovett City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	Council Member Ron Berg

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of Council Member Berg.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the April 24, 2006 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements at this time.

### **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Consideration of Submittal of Support Letter for Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Applications for Federal Assistance**

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) Board President Charles Caspary addressed the Council as follows:

LVMWD was faced with obtaining a new Regional Water Quality Control Board permit for the Tapia Sewage Reclamation Facility; this permit was obtained; LVMWD will be spending approximately \$15 million to meet the discharge requirements of the permit; the District does discharge water into Malibu Creek five months of the year, but there is no discharge during the other seven months; during that time the water is highly treated and served back to green belts, golf courses, etc. within the service area; the District has asked its Congressman and Senators to include partial funding for two projects that directly relate to changes in operation that are required by the new permit; the District has asked for a grant of \$1.5 million toward a \$10 million reclaimed water pump station that would allow the District to better pump water out of the Malibu valley when water cannot be discharged into the creek; LVMWD can divert to the L.A. River, and push more reclaimed water to users in the L.A. River watershed; only a portion of Hidden Hills drains to Malibu Creek, with a majority of the City draining towards the L.A. River; a good portion of Calabasas also drains to the L.A. River; so the District is asking for a \$500,000 grant to provide engineering for a raw untreated wastewater diversion to the City of Los Angeles for them to treat that water; April 15<sup>th</sup> was the cutoff date to be out of the creek; just last week there were heavy rains, and that means there is less demand

for reclaimed water; the District does divert about 1 million gallons per day of raw sewage to the City of Los Angeles when there is no demand for reclaimed water; if raw sewage is not shipped to Tapia, there is less reclaimed water coming out; the grant is needed to provide engineering to increase the capacity to divert sewage generated within the L.A. River watershed to the L.A. Hyperion plant to allow the District to better comply with the current permit's requirement to not discharge to Malibu Creek during the seven months; the District does have rainfall exemptions to discharge to the creek if there are no other options, however, the new permit has tightened these requirements; the third request to the Federal Government is for an education grant to work with the Las Virgenes Unified School District on an innovative outdoor environmental education program; if the first two grants are obtained by the District, those projects would then be 90% funded by the District's rate payers, rather than 100% funded, reducing the amount of costs that will be passed on to our residents.

Council Member Siegel asked if there was any chance that the reclaimed water would be provided to Hidden Hills residents. Mr. Caspary responded as follows:

There are some difficulties related to that; the District is already spending \$40,000 per acre foot of capital expenses to expand the reclaimed water system; that is a very expensive capital expense just to divert 326,000 gallons of reclaimed water; the big issue is to ensure that there are no cross connections to the potable water system; there are very strict requirements, inspections, etc.; realistically, the staff has looked at every possible reclaimed water customer that could be served; the staff would feel comfortable distributing reclaimed water for use only in front yards, which are usually lower and easier to inspect to minimize the potential for cross contamination; ten years ago in the City of Calabasas there was a resident who hooked into a clearly marked green belt irrigation system of reclaimed water to get irrigation for his back yard; this raised the potential to go through his house and backfeed into the service main that served his neighbors; so the District is very diligent about where reclaimed water can be installed; if the Hidden Hills Community Association wants to be the responsible managing entity to control the use of reclaimed water for individual homeowners, that would be another step forward; but at this time the District is uncomfortable leaving the use of reclaimed water under the direct control of individual homeowners.

As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to send a letter to Congressman Henry Waxman, signed by the Mayor, expressing support for the grant requests for federal assistance made by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for the projects as outlined above.

**B. Tentative Map 63567 - Update**

Developer Mike Ashley presented the following information:

The Tentative Map has been presented to both the Community Association Board of Directors (BOD) and the Trails Committee; the Trails Committee had some desires and conditions; those were taken into consideration and drafted, with the map being returned to the Committee for further review; he believes everything that was requested has been addressed; he also met with the BOD; since the BOD recently completed an agreement for another development, he believes that agreement will be used to a large extent as a model for his agreement; therefore the Board Members should have their concerns addressed earlier so the City will know where they stand; his engineer in charge of this project received a list of corrections from City Engineer Dirk Lovett; they met again this morning, and hopefully the questions have been answered to the satisfaction of the City staff; all the requested deposits have been submitted; he has met with some of the people who live in the area, but is finding that the proposed development is difficult for some to understand due to its complexity; that is why he has prepared this overlay map (which he showed); there are eight separate lots, four of which are existing legal lots already in both the City and Association; one of these lots on Lasher has an existing house (probably built in the early 1960's) that will be torn down; the rectangular piece consists of two parcels – one is approximately 2.5 acres and is in the City but not the Association; the other is approximately 7.5 acres and is in neither the City nor the Association; he will have to address the annexation of this parcel with LAFCO; the density of this proposed tract map has been lowered from that of the tract that was approved in 1993; there were one or two more lots than shown now, but it is basically the same area; when he went before LAFCO at that time, that organization felt this land should be annexed into Hidden Hills, as it is encircled by the City except for the bottom side abutting Far West Farms; he felt it was a good meeting with the City Engineer earlier today, and that everything is proceeding well.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett commented as follows:

A considerable amount of information was received today from Mr. Ashley; staff is now in the process of reviewing that information to determine if the application is complete; since the deposit for the EIR has been received, staff will put together a team to prepare requests for proposals, etc. in relation to the EIR; ongoing updates on the project will be provided to the Council.

Council Member Freedland asked about the order of events in relation to the City's consideration of this project and the request to LAFCO for approval of the annexation of the 7.5 acres into Hidden Hills. Mr. Lovett thought the approval of the map could be conditioned on the approval

of the annexation by LAFCO. The City Manager offered to again provide to the Council a memo that had been prepared by the City Attorney explaining the procedures. Council Member Siegel reminded everyone that LAFCO had already approved this once, and that LAFCO is usually happy to rid the County of small island parcels in the unincorporated areas such as this. He also pointed out that Mr. Ashley would be paying for the annexation request, and it would be his loss if the annexation was turned down. Mr. Ashley stated that the last time, LAFCO wanted to see the approved EIR, and that the recording of the tentative map was conditioned on the approval of the annexation by LAFCO.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan provided the following report:

There were three calls during the month of March – one EMS, one false alarm/good intent, and one service call to investigate a possible spill from an overturned tractor on private property; there was no hazardous material involved; there were also 9 station inspections, a total of 665 hydrant inspections listed, 3 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections, and 2 plan checks; special activities included 2 pre-plan walk-throughs and 2 fire station tours for a total of 8 adults and 21 children.

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

Mayor Cohen introduced Lieutenant John Benedict, who presented the following information:

In March there were no Part I crimes in the City; there was one misdemeanor domestic violence involving a skirmish between a boyfriend/girlfriend, during which the female suffered an injury to her hand; the investigation continues; there were two false alarm calls; 49 citations were issued, with 47 of those being hazardous; the most frequent cite was for failure to stop at a stop sign; no collisions occurred.

### **C. Consideration of Appointment of Public Safety Commissioners**

The following report was provided by Public Safety Commission Chairman Jim Doran:

The terms of two Commissioners will expire on April 30<sup>th</sup> of this year; notices of the two openings were posted and placed in both the March newsletter and on cable TV channel

3; the two incumbents have both applied for reappointment, with no other applications being received; he would recommend reappointment of the two incumbents.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to reappoint Anne Falotico and Larry Weber to the Public Safety Commission, each to serve a two year term effective May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – April 10, 2006**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – March**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – March**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A, B, C, and D of the consent calendar as submitted.

**MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. Report from 4/18/06 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The report was received and filed.

- B. Selection of Two Council Members for Ad Hoc 2006 Budget Committee**

Mayor Cohen and Council Member Freedland volunteered to serve on the 2006 ad hoc budget committee.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

- A. Consideration of Proposed Resolution and Agreement with the City of West Hollywood Regarding Sale of Prop A Funds**

The City Manager provided the following staff report:

The City has been accumulating Prop A funds for several years, as there is very little on which the City is able to spend these restricted funds; some Prop A funds are spent on the Calabasas beach bus, but the funds cannot be used for school buses; the City of West Hollywood, which has quite a bit of public transportation, is willing to buy the Hidden Hills Prop A funds in the amount of \$94,201 at \$ 0.70 on the dollar; this would result in the City receiving \$65,940.70 from West Hollywood that would be placed in the City's general fund with no restrictions.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 783 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS ASSIGNING TO THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD \$94,201 OF ITS AVAILABLE PROPOSITION A LOCAL RETURN FUNDS.

As West Hollywood was still in the process of reviewing the Assignment Agreement for the exchange of the funds and could possibly request minor changes, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the proposed Assignment Agreement between the City of Hidden Hills and the City of West Hollywood, subject to final approval of the agreement by the City Attorney.

**B. Consideration of Proposed Resolution Regarding Park Grant Funds**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 784 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE PER CAPITA GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2002 AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 722.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of April 24, 2006 at 8:02 p.m.

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Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk