

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, November 23, 2009

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 23, 2009 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Steve Freedland called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of both Council Member Cohen and Council Member Fisher.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the November 23, 2009 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Freedland made the following announcements:

The Round Meadow gate, which was closed today from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., will be closed again Tuesday during the same time period, to complete preparation work for an upcoming slurry seal project; we apologize for any inconvenience and thank everyone for their cooperation.

The Council would like to extend a belated happy birthday to Council Member Cohen.

City Hall, Building & Safety, and the Community Center will all be closed and there will be no inspections on Thursday and Friday (11/26-27) in honor of Thanksgiving; the Council would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

The Association/Parks & Recreation Committee winter social will be held on Sunday, 12/6, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; there will be snow, and residents should bring an unwrapped toy and a desert.

Hanukkah begins at sundown on Friday, 12/11.

Our thoughts are with Council Member Fisher, hoping he is feeling better.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber wished Mayor Freedland a happy birthday (12/6), and also wished a speedy recovery to Cary Lefton, who suffered injuries falling off a horse.

AUDIENCE

Wes Myers, representing Ashley Construction, Inc. (ACI), announced an informal Bridle Trail annexation meeting on 12/3/09 at 8:00 p.m. at the Aaronson residence; anyone interested in attending should RSVP to Ms. Aaronson or to him.

PRESENTATION

A. 2009 Fiesta

Mayor Freedland reported that the income was slightly less than budgeted, but the expenses were also less, thanks to the great efforts of Co-Chairmen Bonne Frank and Assistant City Clerk Deana Graybill, as well as the volunteers; the City does subsidize the event, but the loss was less than expected.

On behalf of the Council, Mayor Freedland presented a City plaque to Ms. Frank, after which she and resident Bret Katz, who was in the audience, agreed to serve as Co-Chairmen for the 2010 Fiesta. Ms. Frank announced that it appeared the dates for next year's Fiesta would be October 2nd and 3rd, as the ride company is available. She will also be checking with the caterer on his availability for those dates. Ms. Frank apologized for the repositioning of the rides from the arena to the street above, but explained that it took all day Thursday to set up all the rides – even though Saturday was a beautiful day and the arena looked dry, it would have been impossible to move all the rides back to the arena Saturday morning. Mayor Freedland commended Ms. Frank on a job well done, stating he heard nothing but good comments about the event.

B. Step-by-Step Tool Kit for Local Governments to Go Solar

Daniel Freedman addressed the Council:

The California Solar Initiative was established in 2006 by the Governor to promote and encourage solar energy adoption and to create new solar homes partnerships to encourage builders to include solar power in new homes; he is working with local governments; “A Step by Step Tool Kit for Local Governments to Go Solar” has been developed to provide a variety of strategies and options to encourage the use of solar energy; Hidden Hills is a small city, but it has large energy intensive homes in a region well suited for solar; he thinks the City probably pays the second highest, on average, kilowatt energy rates for cities in the State; he believes the City could be aggressive in recommending a goal of having 50% of all existing homes include solar power by 2020; he would like to see new homes be required to have solar energy and be 15% more energy efficient than

Title 24 requires; he would ask that the Council Members look at the tool kit, consider passing one of the model ordinances that he has provided, and consider him a resource.

Council Member Siegel asked what Mr. Freedman meant regarding Hidden Hills having the second highest rates, as our rates should not be any higher than surrounding cities such as Calabasas. Mr. Freedman thought that's what his research showed. Mayor Freedland suggested that the rates were most likely the same, but due to the larger homes in Hidden Hills, the usage may be higher, which would result in larger bills from the higher tiers. He also pointed out that Calabasas has a 5% utility user tax, which Hidden Hills does not.

Mayor Freedland commented as follows:

The Council and staff actually looked at installing solar panels at City Hall about a year ago, but determined at that time that it was not economically feasible, as it would have taken approximately twenty years for a positive return on expenses; for a city as small as Hidden Hills, workshops and the proposed ordinances are probably not appropriate; however, if there is anything the City can do to help residents by streamlining a process for solar power, or by encouraging residents to adopt new technology, that should be addressed; staff could look at the permit/fee structure for possible incentives, and any other strategies that might help.

The other Council Members agreed, with Council Member Siegel suggesting staff look into all components from the very simple, such as installing solar hot water heaters, to the more complex inclusion of solar power in brand new homes.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - October

The following report was provided by Community Services Representative Maria Grycan:

During the month of October there were 8 responses, including 6 medical and 2 service calls (snake removal and public assist); no plans were checked, but there were 7 Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections; there will be augmented staffing beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning, as the winds are expected to be moderate to very high, with gusts up to 45 mph.

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

The following report was provided by Deputy Robert DeSantis:

During the month of October there were no Part I crimes, but there was a vandalism incident in the 25000 block of Jim Bridger; an unknown party gained access to a sprinkler system main controller and changed the watering times, which resulted in flooding of the area and horse trail; a pool scrubber was damaged, as were some plants that were sprayed by a chemical; 35 traffic citations were issued, including 25 hazardous, 7 non-hazardous, and 3 parking citations; there were no DUI arrests; two incidents were reported to the STTOP program; Durham Transportation reported a driver passing the school bus stop sign; another driver made an unsafe u-turn on Hoback Glen; letters were sent to both vehicle owners, with only one responding to date; the Every 15 Minutes Program is currently being planned for early next year at Calabasas High School; the Bike Safety City is being constructed, and should hopefully be completed by the beginning of the new year.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – November 9, 2009**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – October**
- D. Financial/Treasurer's Report – October**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote (3-0), 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 11/17/09 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Annual Meeting**

Association Board Member Marv Landon announced that the three incumbents were reelected during the annual election, those being Ron Wolfe, Mitch Jacobs, and himself, while the Saddle Creek park project vote was 151-148 against the project.

Mayor Freedland stated that the original discussion in relation to the park project included refinancing the loan on the Community Center, and he wondered if this was now on hold or would continue to go forward. He also mentioned that some of the minutes from Association meetings were still not being provided to City Hall. Mr. Landon responded that the Board Members would be discussing at their next meeting how they wanted to proceed in relation to the Saddle Creek arena. He also assured the Mayor that minutes, even if they were not up on the Association website, would be provided directly to City Hall after approval.

B. Report from 11/17/09 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting

Council Member Siegel provided the following information:

One item of note discussed at the meeting was AB 811; this Assembly Bill applies to the County, allowing the County to create a bond, and then loan money to individuals to help them with green energy projects; the program is just in the formative stages at this point; the COG sent a letter of support for the County's application for grant funds for the program; those looking to make a large capital improvement to their homes might find this program economically helpful.

The following comments were added by the City Manager:

There is nothing for the City to do at this time in relation to AB 811; once the County establishes the program, the City will be able to adopt a resolution that would allow its residents to take part in the program if desired; the City would not be involved in the administration of the program; the loans made to individuals per this program would be placed on property tax bills, and would stay with the property, even if it were sold.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Construction Bids for the Round Meadow/Long Valley Road Utility Undergrounding Project

The following staff report was provided by City Engineer Dirk Lovett:

Staff was originally directed to obtain two separate bids to underground poles in the area of the Long Valley/Round Meadow corner; one bid was to be for the public section on Round Meadow between Wingfield and Long Valley, including one pole on Long Valley,

and the other bid would have been for the private section, consisting of the private portion of Round Meadow north of Long Valley, including one pole on the connecting horse trail; the City intended to finance and construct the public section, and would have considered constructing the private section if the residents in that area agreed to finance that portion; as only one resident was interested, but did not wish to pay for the entire private section himself, staff obtained bids only for the public section, which will result in the removal of 8 or 9 poles; four bids were received on 11/13/09, with Tidwell Excavating providing the low bid at \$256,178.43, well under the engineer's estimate of \$350,000; the City, over the last several years, has set aside general funds for undergrounding projects, with that set-aside amount currently at \$800,000+; this is a really good bid, and he would recommend awarding the contract to Tidwell, along with a 10% contingency for possible unforeseen costs.

All of the Council Members were very pleased with the bid, and very excited about proceeding with this undergrounding project to remove blight, which is something they have all wanted to do for some time. Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote (3-0), it was resolved to award the Round Meadow/Long Valley Road Undergrounding Project to Tidwell Excavating in the amount of \$256,178.43, and to authorize staff a 10% construction contingency for possible unforeseen costs and expenditures.

B. Consideration of Cancellation of December 28, 2009 City Council Meeting

The Council Members agreed to cancel the 12/28/09 Council meeting, as City Hall will be closed for the holidays.

C. 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 Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of November 23, 2009 at 8:06 p.m.

Steve Freedland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk