

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, December 14, 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, December 14, 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 Jim Cohen Council Member Stuart E. Siegel
Staff:	City Engineer Dirk Lovett City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	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 Council Member Fisher.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the December 14, 2009 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Freedland made the following announcements:

Happy belated birthday to City Manager Cherie Paglia, who celebrated her birthday yesterday.

City Hall will close at noon on Thursday, December 24th, for the holidays, reopening on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>; there will be no inspections during that time period; the Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year; have a very safe holiday season.

Christmas trees can be recycled beginning Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>; there will be bins at both City Hall and the Community Center through Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>; the trees can also be placed in your green waste cart on regular pick-up days between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The December 28<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting has been cancelled; the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

A very happy anniversary to Council Member Stuart Siegel and his wife Peggi, who just celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past weekend.

Since the Council has been talking recently about solar energy, Mayor Pro Tem Weber pointed out that residents may want to obtain more information about a solar buying collective called One Block Off the Grid (endorsed by the City of Los Angeles), a firm that pools homeowners into large communities that can get better rates by buying in bulk. Mayor Pro Tem Weber suggested that any interested residents call City Hall for the website.

### **AUDIENCE**

Wes Myers, representing Ashley Construction, Inc. (ACI), informed the Council that about six Bridle Trail residents attended a recent meeting at the Aaronson home regarding the Ashley owned 7.5 acres abutting Hidden Hills but currently in Los Angeles County. He thought it was a good meeting with the general consensus being that the property would be best served if it were in Hidden Hills, so ACI will be looking at details on how best to offer that property to the City.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **City Certificates/2009 Achievement Recipients**

This item was addressed later in the meeting.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – November 23, 2009**
- B. Demand List**

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

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

#### **Report from 12/2/09 Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD)/Four Cities Meeting**

Mayor Freedland provided the following report of this meeting that he attended along with Council Member Cohen and the City Manager:

The District is hemorrhaging money, as they have been severely impacted by the State budget crisis; the District is looking at increasing class sizes from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; they will have to be negotiating with the union; some teachers may lose their jobs; if he remembers correctly, 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades may increase in size from 19 to approximately 29 students; the District is looking at possible ways to raise money; the situation is very tough and will most likely get worse.

Council Member Cohen pointed out that the District did not ask the cities for more money at the meeting, as it was more an update on the budget and financial situation; that does not mean the cities will not be asked to help in the future, but any help would not be enough to make up for the loss of funds the District is experiencing.

The City Manager added the following information:

In the last two years the District has received \$13 million less, and had to cut \$4 million in expenditures; the District now needs to cut another \$3.5 million in the next two years in order to keep a 3% reserve, which is required; if this reserve is not met, the District's finances can be taken over by the County, removing control from the District.

#### **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

##### **A. Round Meadow/Long Valley Road Utility Undergrounding Project - Update**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

This is just an update, so no action is needed by the Council at this time; at the last City Council meeting, the contract for this project was awarded to Tidwell; before the project can proceed, special easements must be provided to Southern California Edison (SCE) from the property owners where the wires are to be undergrounded; in this case, SCE needs title information from both the Community Association and one resident property owner to allow SCE to prepare the necessary easement documents for their signature; information has already been provided by the Association; the other property owner has no problem with the request, but is still looking for the required documentation; if everything is in order, Tidwell could begin construction in late January; he will be holding a preconstruction meeting after the holidays; once all the formalities are completed and the schedule provided by Tidwell, four to six weeks would be required for the actual construction.

In response to questions from Council Member Siegel and Council Member Cohen, Mr. Lovett stated the following:

Once all the easements are in order and recorded (SCE has said it could take two months to prepare the legal documents), it would be four to six weeks for Tidwell to complete their undergrounding work; then SCE would have to pull wires through the underground conduit, remove the poles, and put the electronics in the cabinets; he will check with SCE to see how long that part would take; there will be both cabinets and vaults; those that can go underground, which should be the larger boxes, will be placed underground; however,

there will be some of the smaller transformer boxes that will have to be placed above ground.

**B. Consideration of Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Adoption of Water Conservation in Landscaping Act - Urgency**

The City Manager informed the Council that the State was requiring cities to either adopt their own water conservation ordinance by January 1, 2010 or the cities would have to enforce the State ordinance. The proposed ordinance is very similar to that of Rolling Hills, and is intended to make the process simpler by having each applicant certify that the requirements of the ordinance have been met.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett added the following information:

The main idea of the ordinance is to require landscaping that is water efficient; for example, it requires that no more than 40% of a landscaped area can be sod or any other non-drought tolerant material; each city has to use an evapotranspiration (ET) rate that has been established for the area; landscaping must be designed so water is not wasted by using measures such as certain types of sprinkler heads and rain sensitive controllers; a landscape architect must verify that his project complies with all the code requirements.

Mayor Freedland confirmed that this is something mandated by the State, while Mayor Pro Tem Weber wondered what the ramifications might be if the self-certification was not exactly accurate. Staff explained that it would be a violation of the City's Municipal Code and would involve code enforcement. Mayor Freedland pointed out that there was a successful code enforcement just last week when illegal filming was being conducted on a property, with that filming being shut down by staff with the help of the Sheriff's Department.

In response to Council Member Cohen, Mr. Lovett explained that the ordinance applied to new landscaping, or re-landscaping/modification of any area over 2500 square feet. As there were no further questions, upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Ordinance No. 329U

entitled: AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS REGARDING WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING AND AMENDING THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

**C. Consideration of Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Adoption of Water Conservation in Landscaping Act – First Reading**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give first reading by title only to an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS REGARDING WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING AND AMENDING THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

**D. Charles Abbott Monthly Report**

The report was received and filed.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**City Certificates/2009 Achievement Recipients**

At this time, Mayor Freedland presented a City certificate to New Community Jewish High School student Michael Sambol.

Council Member Cohen asked for an update on the road repairs on Round Meadow Road near Jed Smith south. City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that a majority of the work was completed by the contractor last week, but he could not finish the work due to the recent rains. Mr. Lovett added that the paving is expected to be completed by the end of this week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of December 14, 2009 at 7:50 p.m.

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Steve Freedland, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk