

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, February 28, 2011

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, February 28, 2011 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Larry Weber called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:	Mayor Larry G. Weber Council Member Steve Freedland Council Member Larry Goldberg Council Member Stuart E. Siegel
Staff:	City Attorney Roxanne Diaz City Engineer Dirk Lovett City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the February 28, 2011 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Weber made the following announcements:

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, March 8th, in the City's General Municipal Election; the poll is open here at City Hall from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; vote-by-mail ballots can still be requested through March 1st; call City Hall with any questions.

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13th (at 2:00 a.m.), for daylight saving time; this is also a good time to check/change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - January

Mayor Weber introduced and welcomed the new Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Whittle. Community Services Representative Maria Grycan then presented the following report:

During the month of January, there were 14 response calls, including 5 false alarm/good intent, 6 emergency medical, 2 service (1 water problem, and 1 police matter), and 1 outside fire on Long Valley which resulted in \$10,000 in damage to an emergency generator near a pool house; there were 2 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections, and no plans checked.

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

The following report was provided by Lt. John Benedict:

There were two incidents in January; one was a residential burglary on Wingfield where an unknown suspect lifted a locked gate off its hinges, disabled security cameras, and entered through an unlocked front door to take several items; the other was a grand theft in which numerous bottles of wine were taken from a house on Hoback Glen; both investigations are ongoing; there was one traffic collision due to unsafe speed resulting in property damage only to a fixed object on the side of the road; 31 citations were issued during the month, including 26 hazardous, 3 nonhazardous, 1 parking, and 1 DUI arrest; no dangerous drivers were reported to the STTOP program.

Mayor Weber asked if there were any leads for either crime incident. Lt. Benedict replied that in both cases, a contractor/vendor was suspected by the residents.

C. Consideration of Issuance of Proclamation for Safe Communities Month March 1 – 31, 2011

Lt. John Benedict informed the Council of the following:

Every March the Sheriff has a safe communities month; they join with the City to build a safer community through a partnership with community members, government officials, school officials, and businesses to help in fighting crime; the Sheriff then asks cities for a proclamation.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to issue a proclamation declaring March 1 - 31, 2011 as Safe Communities Month in the City of Hidden Hills. Mayor Weber read the proclamation and presented it to Lt. Benedict.

Lt. Benedict had the following additional comments:

On behalf of the Station he would like to thank the Council for the proclamation; in partnership with the City and to reach out to residents during this month, the Station has developed a tri-fold pamphlet to be placed on the Counter at City Hall, if approved by the Council; it is a Community Oriented Policing Survey which has an introduction by the Captain, and questions about concerns and how the residents feel about safety in the community; he would urge the residents to either mail the survey in, or drop it off at City Hall; it will help the Sheriff understand the community's needs regarding public safety.

PUBLIC HEARING

Request for Filming Permit at 25115 Eldorado Meadow Road and 5400 Jed Smith Road

The City Manager provided the following information:

The City has received a request for a filming permit for “Keeping Up with the Kardashians”; the City’s ordinance allows two days of filming per year per property; they are requesting two dates at the Jed Smith property (4/4/11 and 8/10/11) and two dates at the Eldorado Meadow property (3/24/11 and 11/14/11); they have paid all the required fees, provided the proper insurance certificates, and provided the mailing lists from which all those within 1000’ of the property were notified of the permit request.

Mayor Weber opened the public hearing, at which time Evangeline Shears spoke on behalf of herself and her husband Russell:

They object to the filming permit being issued, as they think it will create a traffic nuisance and interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the community; there has been a traffic problem in connection with mega-parties on Eldorado Meadow, including five minute delays during the holidays when valets were moving and parking cars; she wondered if the filming would interfere with equestrian riders on the streets and trails; once a permit is issued, there is concern that this could make Hidden Hills an open city for filming; one of the charms of the community is the rural atmosphere and sense of privacy and safety; there are many film media people, writers, and sports figures who live here, and from what she understands, they enjoy their privacy and the fact that they are not bothered here but treated like any other resident; she worries that could change; she also wondered if the filming and set-up is a violation of any by-laws, as there was no filming allowed when they first moved here; she believes the law was changed two years ago.

Mayor Weber explained that the filming ordinance was changed two years ago, but the change was to limit the filming to only two days a year, where there was no limit previously, and to also tighten up traffic requirements.

Ms. Shears said that was a relief, but still felt that the commercial use of the City goes against the grain of why most people live here; they like and want to maintain the privacy, horses, dogs, children riding bikes to school, etc.

Resident and Association Board Member Marv Landon stated that he lives right across the street from one of the houses where the filming occurs, and that even though the filming was a problem originally (some years ago), that has all changed and it is not a problem at all now – in fact, he can't even tell when they are filming.

Resident and filming permit applicant, Bruce Jenner, then addressed the Council:

This is their sixth shooting season, so they have been working with the City for a long time; they are very concerned with their neighbors; if there was a disruptive party, it was probably a birthday party, but was not for filming; they usually have two vans that park in the back and bring in eight people; they shoot inside the house, and the neighbors really don't know when they're shooting; there is construction going on right now, for which they have permits, so there are many people working in the back yard; their filming crews are very experienced; they never use the City's name, but instead always say Calabasas; they would like to continue the filming, and appreciate the City's support over the years.

Council Member Freedland asked Mr. Jenner if he could address some of the concerns by providing a few more details regarding parking, number of people involved, disruptions, etc.

Mr. Jenner responded with the following additional information:

The dynamics of the show have changed dramatically from the first year; the show has spread out, so their house is rarely used; Kim and Kourtney have their own homes outside the City, which are used; again, it is usually just two vans that park on their property in the back of the house, bringing in about eight people with two cameramen; they shoot inside the house; they originally used lights on the outside of the house and got in trouble, so they don't do that any longer; in fact, the house they show now isn't even in Hidden Hills; the neighbors are their number one concern; they've been here since 1996 and love the community, and do not want to do anything that is disruptive; it will only be two days of filming at each house.

At the suggestion of Council Member Freedland, Mr. Jenner readily agreed to provide his personal cell phone number to Ms. Shears so she could call at any time if there was a problem.

Council Member Siegel stated the following:

Ms. Shears' comments would have been appropriate a couple of years ago; however, Hidden Hills probably now has the most restrictive filming requirements; the applicants have been good sports; the community was unhappy with the filming originally, so the Council responded and tightened up the requirements; they did some shooting last year, and nobody can really tell when the filming occurs; the filming is all inside, there is no lighting outside at night, everybody is on the property, and there is no parking on the parkway; it is not like a normal shoot that you see in other areas.

Council Member Freedland reported a concern from one resident that crew members were taking breaks off the property and possibly smoking on the parkway; he asked Mr. Jenner if he could assure that crew members would be contained on the property. Mr. Jenner readily agreed.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Weber closed the public hearing. Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Goldberg and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve a filming permit to allow two days of filming at each of the properties located at 25115 Eldorado Meadow Road (3/24/11, 11/14/11) and 5400 Jed Smith Road (4/4/11, 8/10/11), for a total of four days of filming.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – February 14, 2011**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – January**
- D. Financial/Treasurer's Report – January**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel 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 2/15/11 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Association Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe gave the following report:

The Valentine Musicale was discussed, which came in under budget and collected over \$13,000 for charity; this was a larger amount from three performances than last year with four performances; the Board approved some repairs and the purchase of new patio furniture cushions; the installation of dog waste stations was tabled until more information can be obtained.

B. Report from 1/26/11 and 2/23/11 Hidden Hills Gate Committee Meetings

Resident and Gate Committee Member Patrick Finn presented the following report:

Since he first spoke at an earlier Council meeting, the Sheriff response has been very good, and he is very appreciative of that; two Sheriff personnel attended the 1/26/11 Gate Committee meeting, where questions were asked; at the end of the meeting, they decided that Sheriff personnel would meet with the security company at one of the gates where they could watch procedures to see if anything could be improved; they did spend about twenty minutes at one of the gates and then offered suggestions that were discussed at the 2/23/11 Gate Committee meeting; the Gate Committee is now looking at possible improvements and is obtaining quotes from the company currently servicing Hidden Hills and another company that services the Oaks, Mt. View, and other communities; once those quotes are provided, the Gate Committee will review them and pass that information on to the Association Board.

In response to Council Member Freedland, Mr. Finn stated the following:

The quotes will be mostly for equipment and software; the existing system is outdated, and a lot could be done to interact more with the Sheriff, such as license plate recognition and use of better cameras; he recommended a company for upgrades a couple of years ago, but it was tabled due to the recession, and the existing company at that time upgraded the software; they do need to look at what they have, what is available, and what makes the best sense for this community.

Council Member Freedland asked Mr. Finn to notify him when this subject would be addressed at the Gate Committee so he could attend that meeting. Mayor Weber pointed out that this could raise some privacy issues. Mr. Finn said the Sheriff recommended two things, one being cameras to capture who is actually in a vehicle as it is exiting – this would need a lot of lighting and is difficult, so probably would not be done. The other suggestion was license plate recognition, and there are some good systems that can catch a plate probably 90% of the time.

Council Member Siegel expressed his approval of the new RFID strip (he just got a different car and had the new strip put on, which is working great), but wondered if there could be a conflict between this new system and now possibly adding new hardware and software. Mr. Finn assured everyone that the RFID technology had nothing to do with the software company, and that they had been planning on upgrading the bar code system anyway as it is outdated. He added that they are slowly changing over from the one system to the other. Mayor Weber was very pleased with his new strips, which are placed inside the window (or can also be placed on the headlight) and are very inconspicuous.

Council Member Freedland asked about an issue raised at a recent Gate Committee meeting, where Chairman Jeff Korchek said that some people cannot produce a valid driver's license and are still being allowed access into the community with just a picture ID, and sometimes even without that. He thought this was a big security weakness, as this could produce random people in the community, and it's very likely that those with no license would also have no insurance. Council Member Freedland also pointed out that incidents and thefts in the community are often help related or inside jobs.

Mr. Finn agreed, stating the following:

He will make sure that this matter is discussed at the next meeting; he would also like to see a new policy initiated whereby everyone in a van or large vehicle (not a limo) coming into the City would have to show an ID, but this is a difficult issue; we are not the Sheriff, so there is a question of whether or not there is any liability in preventing access without a proper ID.

Mayor Weber asked Lt. Benedict if he had any comments on this matter. Lt. Benedict informed the Council of the following:

There are a couple of ways to handle this; it is really a matter of educating the gate guards; if there is an unlicensed driver or someone who does not have a license, this is a crime (misdemeanor); a gate guard could detain the person if he wanted, and perform a citizen's arrest; the guard would actually have to visually see the person driving for that

person to be an unlicensed driver; if so, the Sheriff can be called, and they will come and take a statement, book the person, take him to jail, and impound the vehicle.

Council Member Freedland thought that a driver's license was required to enter almost every gated community in this area, and that this issue should probably be addressed by the Association's attorney to see how best it should be handled. Mr. Finn said he would definitely raise and discuss this matter at the next Gate Committee meeting.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Round Meadow/Long Valley Road Utility Undergrounding Project – Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett reported that AT&T has still not finished its work, and that is why all but one of the poles is still standing (although the tops of the poles have been removed by SCE); he has been promised completion dates, that come and go, with AT&T making excuse after excuse. Mr. Lovett has continued to speak with AT&T almost every day, and will continue to push the company to finish the work.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

- A. Existing Litigation:
Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

The City Council finds, based on advice from legal counsel, that discussion in open session will prejudice the position of the local agency in the litigation.

Name of Case: NRDC v. County of Los Angeles, et. al., No. 08-1467 AHM (PLAx)

- B. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Property:	5208 Saddle Creek Road APN 2040-16-900, APN 2049-16-901
City Negotiators:	City Attorney, City Manager
Negotiating Party:	Hidden Hills Community Association
Under Negotiation:	Price and Terms of Payment

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:10 p.m., at which time Mayor Weber announced that the Council in closed session would be discussing the items listed above.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Goldberg, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:58 p.m., at which time City Attorney Roxanne Diaz announced that the Council in closed session discussed the items listed above, and that no reportable action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Goldberg and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of February 28, 2011 at 8:59 p.m.

Larry G. Weber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk