

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 14, 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, March 14, 2011 at the hour of 7:32 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
Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Larry Goldberg
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 Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the March 14, 2011 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Weber made the following announcements:

Happy Birthday to Council Member Siegel on Friday, 3/25.

Thursday is St. Patrick's Day – please be careful.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

CERTIFICATION OF 3/8/11 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS – PROPOSED RESOLUTION

The City Manager thanked Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill for all her excellent work in conducting the election, which was held this past Tuesday. She added that the Council now needed to certify the results of the election, in which incumbent Council Members Larry Weber and Stuart Siegel were reelected, and Marv Landon was elected. Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 836 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS RECITING THE FACT OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON MARCH 8, 2011, DECLARING THE RESULT AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECT – JUDGE JOHN DOYLE

Mayor Weber introduced Judge John Doyle, who said it was always a pleasure to be here to administer the oath of office to the newly elected Council Members. Judge Doyle then administered the oath individually to current Mayor Larry Weber, to current Council Member Stuart Siegel, and to new Council Member elect Marv Landon, presenting each of them with their certificates of election.

Outgoing Council Member Larry Goldberg, who chose not to run for reelection, addressed the Council and staff:

He'd like to thank all the residents of Hidden Hills and the members of the City Council (Larry, Jim, Steve, and Stuart) to whom he's grateful for giving him the privilege and opportunity to serve as a Council Member; he'd like to thank the City staff for their hard work and dedication in helping to make Hidden Hills such a great place to live; he has respect and admiration for the entire staff, who were professional and candid when he asked questions, and helped him understand issues and form his own conclusions; you need and have a heck of a team to govern as effectively and efficiently as the staff does; Hidden Hills is fortunate to have such a hard working group of people who are smart, and most importantly, thoughtful; he would like to say a special thank you to Stuart Siegel for introducing him to the opportunity to serve as a Member of the City Council, for his wisdom, and for their special friendship.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, who did not know Larry Goldberg before he came to the Council, wished to thank him, stating that Mr. Goldberg picked up everything very quickly from the beginning, and served in a well thought out and dedicated manner. The City Manager, speaking on behalf of the staff, stated the following: Council Member Goldberg has been wonderful to work with; he is a very quick study and very smart; he looked at the issues thoughtfully and carefully; the staff enjoyed having him as a Council Member, even though the time was way too short; the staff would hope to see him again in the future.

Council Member Freedland stated he also did not know Mr. Goldberg until speaking with him on the phone just before he became a Council Member, and that it has been an absolute pleasure working with him; he is very smart and logical, and took the time to study and learn about the issues, executing his responsibilities with thoughtfulness. Council Member Freedland added that he would hope to see Mr. Goldberg back on the Council at some point.

Council Member Siegel thanked Mr. Goldberg, who he thought did a superb job, and also thanked Mayor Weber for doing such a great job this past year. He commented that being Mayor was very new to Larry Weber, and he wished to thank him for all his hard work and the extra time spent in that capacity.

Mayor Weber echoed all the sentiments expressed to Mr. Goldberg, commenting that he thought of Mr. Goldberg as the quiet one who, when he did speak, spoke very well and right on target, bringing a lot of wisdom to the table. Mayor Weber added that he appreciated the addition of Mr. Goldberg to the Council, and also hoped to see him back on the Council in the future.

Remarks by City Council Members Elect

Council Member Landon thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve, as he does appreciate it and thinks he will truly enjoy his term; he thanked all those who voted for him, commenting that for those who didn't, he would try to win their votes the next time.

Council Member Siegel expressed his thanks for everyone's support, stating that this will be his fifth term, and may be his last; he has enjoyed all the past terms, and is looking forward to this one.

Mayor Weber thanked everyone who voted for him, hoping that meant he didn't do anything to bad in his first term; if somebody doesn't like something he is doing, he would welcome their phone calls. Mayor Weber promised to do his best, and hopefully do an even better job this time around since he now has some experience.

REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

A. Remarks by Outgoing Mayor Weber

Mayor Weber stated the following:

He thought about what he was responsible for as the Mayor during the last twelve months, and decided that the answer was "nothing", without everybody else on the Council and the great staff; being Mayor is running meetings, spending more time signing checks, asking questions to make sure things are running smoothly – so here is what we all accomplished as a team: 1) finished the wrought iron fence around the City Hall parking lot to protect the park below; 2) finished a parking lot and road slurry project outside the Round Meadow gate in front of the school, resulting in much better striping; 3) had a great time handing out many student achievement certificates all

summer long – this was one of his highlights, along with presenting a certificate to Daniel Deitch for achieving his Eagle Scout rank; 4) installed a very large emergency generator that can supply City Hall and the Emergency Operations Center with electricity for two weeks during a disaster; 5) adopted an ordinance regarding the grading of ridgelines; 6) almost completed the undergrounding project at the corner of Round Meadow/Long Valley, for which the City saved money for over four years; he thinks people can see the difference, as the poles are gone; there is still some road slurry to finish the project; and 7) provided to Round Meadow School a grant which has to be spent by 3/31/11, and used for parks and recreation for the general public, meaning outside of the City's gates; work has already started at the school, where there will be a new ball field, dugouts, sod and grass, drinking fountain, a track, and exercise equipment, all of which will be open on the weekends and when school is not in session; it can all be used by Hidden Hills residents, providing a park for which there is not really any other place within the City; he hopes everyone will enjoy using that area; it has been a real pleasure for him being the Mayor, and he is happy to now pass the gavel.

B. Remarks by Other Council Members

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen thought this was a good Council, and that Mayor Weber underestimated his leadership role, as he has been very conscientious and dedicated to leadership and the City's projects. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen thanked Mayor Weber on behalf of himself and the rest of the Council.

Council Member Freedland added his comments:

He would like to welcome new Council Member Landon, whom he has worked and talked with a little; he has a lot of respect for Mr. Landon, and believes he will be a good Council Member; congratulations to Council Member Siegel; Mayor Weber's first go-around as Mayor has been a great term; it does take awhile to get up to speed, and he thinks the two years Mayor Weber served as Mayor Pro Tem helped him do that and be effective; he looks forward to serving with Mayor Weber again.

C. Selection of Mayor

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland and seconded by Council Member Siegel, it was resolved to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Cohen to serve as the next Mayor. As there were no other nominations, a unanimous vote was cast, naming Mayor Pro Tem Cohen as the new Mayor.

D. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland and seconded by Council Member Landon, it was resolved to nominate Council Member Siegel to serve as the next Mayor Pro Tem. As there were no other nominations, a unanimous vote was cast, naming Council Member Siegel as the new Mayor Pro Tem.

E. Remarks by Incoming Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Incoming Mayor Cohen stated the following:

Outgoing Mayor Weber mentioned some of the projects that were accomplished this past year, and unfortunately some of these projects will continue; some things don't end just because Mayors and Council Members change; he feels the Council has a full agenda coming up, including a possible annexation and development, providing some assistance financially to the Community Association, and landscaping the Round Meadow/Mureau corner on the school side; he's sure there will be other projects that the Council will address as they come; everything seems to be running smoothly, and he is looking forward to this year.

Mayor Cohen and Mayor Pro Tem Siegel then congratulated each other on their appointments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – February 28, 2011**
- B. Demand List**

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

MATTERS FROM STAFF

- A. Application from the City of Calabasas to LAFCO for the Annexation of Property Currently Located within the City of Hidden Hills' Sphere of Influence**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

In 2008 the City of Calabasas sent a Notice of Preparation saying the city was updating its general plan, which included potential annexations of properties west and south of Hidden Hills and in the Hidden Hills' sphere of influence (SOI); at the direction of the Council, a letter was sent by the Mayor to Calabasas, reminding that city that those particular properties were in the Hidden Hills' SOI, and that Hidden Hills had no intention at that time of relinquishing its SOI; the Calabasas City Manager responded with a letter saying Calabasas intended to annex Craftsmen Corner/Center, as many of the properties in that area were in favor of being annexed into Calabasas; the Calabasas City Manager then attended a Hidden Hills Council meeting, presenting the idea of annexing Mt. View Estates, which is in the Hidden Hills' SOI and borders our City to the west; at that time, Council Members Freedland and Siegel were appointed as an ad hoc committee to work with Calabasas regarding those proposed annexations; the City heard nothing more until being notified by LAFCO in December that Calabasas was still considering the Mt. View Estates annexation; when contacted by staff, LAFCO said it was not looking for comments, but would welcome any, and that in looking at the particular area in question, it appeared more appropriate for Mt. View Estates to be annexed into Calabasas rather than Hidden Hills; LAFCO also said, as a policy, that it was looking at all SOIs within its jurisdiction, and would have probably eventually removed Mt. View Estates from the Hidden Hills' SOI; this is just for informational purposes now, since according to LAFCO, there will probably be no hearing or any action on this proposed annexation until the end of the year; if the Council would like to offer comments, that can be done; the Council could direct staff to send a letter to LAFCO requesting that Hidden Hills continue to be notified of upcoming actions and hearings on the application and that the area between Mt. View Estates and Hidden Hills remain zoned as open space.

Council Member Freedland commented as follows:

Several representatives from Mt. View Estates came to a Hidden Hills Council meeting, voiced opposition to the annexation, and asked the Council Members to do what they could to stop the annexation; he doesn't know if that's a fight this Council should have; Mt. View Estates would probably never be a part of Hidden Hills, but the open space is very important and the Council should use its influence to protect it; regarding Craftsmen Center, there were preliminary representations made at a meeting by Calabasas (Mayor Jonathon Wolfson and City Manager Tony Coroalles) to the ad hoc committee and Hidden Hills City Manager regarding a revenue split of the property taxes Calabasas would gain by annexing that area; this is potentially very important to our City moving forward, and he would like to find a way to memorialize the representations made at that meeting; he thinks a letter to LAFCO regarding the preservation of the open space would be appropriate, as would a letter to Calabasas regarding Craftsmen Center; if Hidden Hills is going to give up its SOI, there should be something provided in return.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel agreed with Council Member Freedland, and would definitely like to look into the possibility of having those earlier representations, even though only verbal, confirmed. Council Member Freedland thought maybe Calabasas could be reminded of that first meeting with a letter, and then the ad hoc committee could request another meeting to negotiate an agreement. The City Manager felt another meeting was a good idea, especially since Calabasas now has two new Council Members. Council Member Weber wanted to make it very clear that Hidden Hills wants no building in that open space abutting the City's western border. Mayor Cohen had several questions regarding what exact area was covered by Calabasas' annexation application, with the maps showing the annexation extending all the way to Mureau Road, but only including Mt. View Estates, not other properties south of Hidden Hills. Since there was no urgency in relation to the annexation application, the Council directed staff to schedule a meeting of the ad hoc committee and City Manager with two Calabasas Council Members and that city's City Manager, after which two letters would be drafted, one to LAFCO and one to the City of Calabasas.

B. Notice of Completion – City Hall Emergency Generator

City Engineer Dirk Lovett reported that the work is now complete and the generator is operational. He added that the Council authorized the expenditure of \$64,000 plus a 10% contingency; however, all the work was done for \$64,000, with no extras. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to accept the work on the City Hall emergency generator as complete, authorize the City Clerk to file and record a Notice of Completion, and authorize the release of the retention upon satisfactory clearance of the thirty-five day lien period.

C. Round Meadow/Long Valley Road Utility Undergrounding Project - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that all the poles are gone, but the streets in the project still need to be slurried and striped, which will hopefully be done by the end of the month or early April.

Council Member Freedland thanked Mr. Lovett for a job well done and for his persistence with this project, stating that it looks great.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 14, 2011 at 8:18 p.m.

Mayor Jim Cohen

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk