

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 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, March 28, 2011 at the hour of 7:32 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council:

Mayor Jim Cohen  
Mayor Pro Tem Stuart E. Siegel  
Council Member Steve Freedland  
Council Member Marv Landon  
Council Member Larry G. Weber

Staff:

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz  
City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

Everyone is invited to stay after the meeting for a reception to honor former Council Member Larry Goldberg, former Mayor Larry Weber, and the three newly elected Council Members Stuart Siegel, Marv Landon, and Larry Weber.

A big thanks to Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill for planning, organizing, and providing refreshments for tonight's reception.

Congratulations to Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill who will be celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary with the City on Sunday, 4/10.

## **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

## **CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. To Former Council Member Larry Goldberg**

Presentations were made to outgoing Council Member Larry Goldberg by the following:

James Bozajian, Mayor – representing the City of Calabasas (plaque);

Jason Levin, Field Representative – representing State Senator Fran Pavley's office and State Assemblymember Julia Brownley's office (certificates);

Jill Gaines, Board President/Dave Moorman, Board Member/Dr. Donald Zimring, Superintendent – representing the Las Virgenes Unified School District (artwork from an Agoura Hills High School student and a certificate);

John Benedict, Lieutenant – representing the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station (certificate);

Maria Grycan, Community Services Representative/Anderson Mackey, Battalion Chief – representing the Los Angeles County Fire Department (certificate).

Mayor Cohen read and presented to former Council Member Goldberg a letter from U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman, a certificate from Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev

Yaroslavsky, and plaques from the cities of Agoura Hills, Malibu, and Westlake Village, none of whom were able to send a representative to the meeting. Mayor Cohen, on behalf of the entire Council and staff, then presented an encased Sheriff's Council Member badge to Mr. Goldberg.

**B. To Outgoing Mayor Larry G. Weber**

Certificates were presented to outgoing Mayor Larry Weber by the following:

Jason Levin, Field Representative – representing State Senator Fran Pavley's office and State Assemblymember Julia Brownley's office;

Jill Gaines, Board President/Dave Moorman, Board Member/Dr. Donald Zimring, Superintendent – representing the Las Virgenes Unified School District.

Mayor Cohen read and presented to outgoing Mayor Larry Weber a letter from U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman and a certificate from Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, neither of whom had a representative in attendance. Mayor Cohen, on behalf of the entire Council and staff, then presented a gavel plaque to outgoing Mayor Weber.

**C. Any Remarks**

Since remarks were made at the previous Council meeting on 3/14/11, Mayor Cohen again thanked both Larry Weber and Larry Goldberg.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - February**

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

During the month of February, there were 7 responses, including 5 emergency medical, 1 false alarm, and 1 call for service regarding an invalid; there were no fires, no plans checked, and 1 Fire Prevention Bureau inspection.

Ms. Grycan then introduced Battalion Chief Anderson Mackey, who was on duty here this evening, but is normally assigned to the City of Inglewood.

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

Lt. John Benedict presented the following report:

There was one residential burglary in February on Bridle Trail Road; unknown suspects damaged a sliding glass door lock to gain entry, taking a television receiver and projector and a vintage pay phone; they are looking for useable prints at the scene; there were five false alarms during the month, but no collisions; 24 citations were issued, with 21 of those being hazardous and 3 non-hazardous; one driver was reported to the STTOP program, that being a resident speeding on a private driveway; a warning letter was sent.

In response to Mayor Cohen, Lt. Benedict stated that most matters reported earlier in the year have been resolved, either through arrests or otherwise.

**C. Presentation to Outgoing Lieutenant Liaison John Benedict**

Mayor Cohen announced that Lt. John Benedict, who has served as this City's liaison for approximately five years, has been promoted and will now serve downtown as the Aide to this Region's Chief Neal Tyler. Mayor Cohen read and presented a City plaque to Lt. Benedict, thanking him for his service, commenting that this is a good promotion for Lt. Benedict but a loss for Hidden Hills.

Lt. Benedict thanked the Council, stating that it has been a real pleasure and a real partnership working with this Council and the entire community, all of whom have been very supportive of the Sheriff's Department. The City Manager, on behalf of the staff, thanked Lt. Benedict, who has been great to work with. She added that he and the staff have had a very good working relationship, and he will be missed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – March 14, 2001**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – February**
- D. Financial/Treasurer's Report – February**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem 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 3/15/11 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The following report was provided by Board Member Ron Wolfe:

He would like to thank Larry Goldberg for his service; it's always nice to have someone step up as a volunteer, especially when that person is here for nothing more than doing what's best for the community; congratulations to Larry Weber on his reelection, and for this past year as the Mayor; it has always been easy to come in front of him at a meeting, and he has done a good job; congratulations also to Stuart Siegel for his reelection, and to Jimmy Cohen on being elected by the other Council Members as Mayor; he is glad to have all four of the current Council Members still on the Council, all of whom the City is lucky to have; congratulations to Marv Landon, newly elected Council Member – the City is very lucky to have him, although it is a loss for the Association Board; it has been great to serve with Marv, and to have someone who is interested and conscientious, which the City will benefit from; Marv's election to the Council leaves an open spot on the Association Board, with a term of about six months until the November election; anyone interested should contact the Association office; the Board will hold, for anyone who has expressed an interest in serving, a meet and greet at 6:00 p.m. next Tuesday (4/5), after which someone will be appointed; the Board also approved some funds for repairs at the Saddle Creek arena; Parks & Recreation Committee Chairman Brett Katz announced that the Welcome Party would be held on 5/21/11.

#### **B. Consideration of Assistance for Hidden Hills Community Association Projects Beneficial to the City of Hidden Hills Community**

Association Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe informed the Council of the following:

The Association has a reserve study where they do repairs on an annual basis and replace items; last year the Association spent about \$400,000 on the roads; this year they need to do some slurry sealing and some other items that will result in extra expenses; oil prices have gone up dramatically, and of course, the oil is used for the slurry; there are also some manhole covers that need to be raised and some swales that need to be replaced –

again, unscheduled expenses; this has led the Association to ask for a grant, as there will be repairs over and above normally scheduled items.

Council Member Freedland, knowing that these are hard times, asked Mr. Wolfe to elaborate on how the Association has been affected by possible increases in delinquent assessments, a reduction in the assessed value of homes in the community, and probably more residents than usual on payment plans. Mr. Wolfe replied as follows:

They are not sure how the assessed value will come in, but it will be less; they would like to try and maintain the current rates, but to have the same revenue with the same assessment rate, they will have to reduce other expenses; they have seen foreclosures and short sales; he is aware of one home near him where the assessed value has gone from \$4.2 million to \$1.5 million, and there are others; they do not want to raise taxes, and are hoping to get by where they now are.

Council Member Freedland stated that in light of Mr. Wolfe's comments and looking at maintaining the quality of the amenities we have here, he felt this would be an appropriate use of City funds.

Mayor Cohen explained that the Association has requested monetary assistance from the City in the range of \$200,000 - \$300,000 for the road project. Council Member Weber asked what roads would be done this year, as he has noticed that a lot of them have been really affected by the abnormal amount of rain. Mr. Wolfe said he did not have the exact schedule with him, but they would be slurring almost all the roads and sealing all of them. He added that the cost of the sealing has gone up as it is an improved product consisting mainly of oil. In response to Mayor Cohen, Mr. Wolfe stated that the proposed road work would be done in the summer, as it always is, when there is less stress on the community.

As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Community Assistance Grant request from the Community Association in the amount of \$200,000 for use on the roads and unanticipated road repairs as described in the grant request.

Mayor Cohen stated that the City Attorney would draft a short agreement between the City and Association reflecting that approval.

### **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

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

The following report was presented by City Engineer Dirk Lovett:

The project is essentially complete; some minor clean-up needs to be done on the parkways and trails, along with slurry sealing of the roads where they were cut; this should be done within the next few weeks, if we get a stretch of warm weather; eight poles are now gone, which lessens the potential danger of trees damaging wires and transformers; he believes this was a really good project; it was expensive, but the benefits are there.

Since the Association would be doing road work in the summer, Mayor Cohen wondered if the road work from this project would be duplicative. Mr. Lovett said no, that the Association was well aware of which roads would be done now, and they would not be redone later.

#### **B. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - February**

The report was received and filed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 28, 2011 at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Jim Cohen, Mayor

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk