

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, April 25, 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, April 25, 2011 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking resident Mathy Wasserman to lead 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 (7:35 p.m.)  
City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the April 25, 2011 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Cohen wished a Happy Anniversary to Council Member Weber and his wife Nanette, which they will be celebrating on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **AUDIENCE**

A.E. Wright Middle School PFC President and resident Mathy Wasserman addressed the Council, first expressing appreciation for the tremendous support that this City has given the Las Virgenes Unified School District, and then asking for the Council to consider approving a community assistance grant in the amount of \$7000 for the Save Our Schools campaign. The Council suggested that Ms. Wasserman complete a formal application for such a grant that can then be addressed at the next Council meeting. Ms. Wasserman agreed, and was provided with an application form by the staff.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - March**

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

During the month of March there were 14 responses; technically, there were more, but about 8-9 calls were all related to one incident on 3/20, involving the downed tree and power lines on Clear Valley; there were no inspections, plan checks, or fires; water and flooding resulted in 4 service calls; there were 3 hazardous calls (related to downed wires with no fires), 3 medical, and 4 false alarms.

In response to Council Member Freedland, Ms. Grycan stated the following in relation to the Clear Valley incident:

A tree fell and knocked power lines down on Clear Valley; the Fire Department contacted Southern California Edison (SCE) to come out; SCE had their hands full as did the Fire Department, with Battalion 5 alone having about 130 trees down, many involving power lines; due to the number of calls, the Fire Department brought a strike team in to deal with all the trees and flooding; one of the Fire Department engines stayed at the Clear Valley incident for approximately 8-9 hours, after which they secured the area and then had to leave (before SCE arrived) to respond to other calls; she isn't sure when SCE did get to the site, but thought it might not have been until the next morning; one of the Fire Department camp crews did help with the Clear Valley problem, removing portions of the tree that were away from the downed power line.

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

The following information was provided by the City's liaison Lt. John Benedict:

He has not been officially replaced yet, so is still spending some time at the Lost Hills Station; in March, there were 2 incidents, one being a residential burglary on Lewis & Clark; jewelry was taken from a locked wooden cabinet, with no signs of force into the residence or the cabinet; the other was a theft on Hoback Glen, resulting in the loss of two bronze lion statues from the front yard; both of these cases are still under investigation; there was one collision unfortunately resulting in the death of a pet on Paradise Valley; 23 citations were issued, with 12 being hazardous, 1 non-hazardous, and 10 parking.

Council Member Landon asked if there was any resolution for some of the previous burglaries, to which Lt. Benedict responded as follows:

They are following leads which have taken them out of state where they are working with two other police departments; they believe some of the individuals who have plagued our area before are still involved with some of their associates in this area; the investigation is still ongoing, but they hope to resolve it soon.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – April 11, 2011**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – March**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – March**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Landon 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 4/12/11 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe presented the following report:

Rob Raznick has been appointed by the Board to fill the seat formerly held by newly elected Council Member Landon; the Gate Committee discussed proposals for two different items – one being for a license plate recognition system, and the other for software; these are being reviewed, hopefully in time for next year’s budget; the adult welcome party will be held on 5/21; they approved a sizeable contract, with the help of a grant [\$200,000 from the City], for roadwork and repairs that will hopefully start within 30 days; they will be changing the bylaws to eliminate the nominating committee, which is no longer necessary, as anyone meeting the required qualifications is eligible to run for the Board.

- B. Report from 4/19/11 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting**

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel informed the Council of the following:

Dennis Washburn retired from the Calabasas City Council, and has been replaced on the COG Board by Council Member Jonathan Wolfson; staff will be scheduling a meeting with Calabasas to discuss the Hidden Hills sphere of influence issue, and where Calabasas is in relation to possible annexation of areas such as Mt. View Estates; the South Coast Air Quality Management District made a presentation; of note was the fact that 80% of pollution in the State can’t be regulated, but they are working, with large budgets, on the other 20%.

**C. Selection of Two Council Members for Ad Hoc 2011 Budget Committee**

Mayor Cohen and Council Member Landon offered to serve on the ad hoc budget committee, to which all the other Council Members agreed.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. 2011 Fiesta**

The following was reported by the City Manager:

The Fiesta co-chairmen have been having some problems finding a company that can provide good rides on the date already selected for this year's Fiesta; they did find one company that sounds promising, and just met with that company late this afternoon; hopefully a proposal will be available by the next Council meeting; this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's incorporation, so we are looking at hopefully some bigger and better rides with a little more pizzazz for the occasion; a couple of the rides that are being looked at are too big to be torn down on Saturday night at the completion of the festivities; this has always been a tight schedule anyway, causing problems with cleaning and getting ready in time for the Sunday morning gymkhana; therefore, if there is a new Association horsemen committee and they wish to hold a gymkhana this year, they would not be able to do it the following morning; we will suggest any gymkhana be scheduled the weekend before the Fiesta, as a kick-off to the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration; Council Member Landon also suggested that if the Saddle Creek arena is not yet under construction, a gymkhana could be held at that location.

Mayor Cohen wondered if it would be possible to reserve the rides a year or two in advance, to assure the rides can be obtained on the selected date. The City Manager stated the following:

If everything goes well and the Fiesta co-chairmen like this company and the rides that they are able to provide, staff would suggest that a meeting be held right after this year's Fiesta with the company to possibly lock in dates and rides for the next 2-3 years; many organizations do this, in fact scheduling events for even five years out.

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

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

The slurry seal portion is the last phase of the undergrounding project, and the slurry has been completed; the only thing left to do is the striping, which cannot be done for at least one week to allow the slurry seal to cure; once the striping is done and the final invoices submitted to the City, he will return to the Council with the notice of completion.

Council Member Freedland suggested the Council look at identifying the next area to be undergrounded.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

**A. Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a): Number of Potential Cases - 1**

**Paul Ottosi v. City of Hidden Hills, et. al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. LC 089678**

**B. Anticipated Litigation  
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b)(3)(E): Number of Cases – 1**

**A statement has been made threatening litigation against the City. A record of that statement is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 7:56 p.m., at which time Mayor Cohen announced that the Council in closed session would be discussing the items listed above.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:45 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 Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of April 25, 2011 at 8:46 p.m.

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Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk