

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, February 13, 2012

***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 13, 2012 at the hour of 7:30 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 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 February 13, 2012 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Both Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and Council Member Landon congratulated everyone involved in this past weekend's Valentine's Musicale for presenting an excellent show. Mayor Pro Tem Siegel said his wife Peggi (a performer), thought this was one of the most fun groups, as well as one of the largest groups. Council Member Landon said he attended all four shows, as his wife Jill and daughter Bliss both were in the cast.

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

Thanks to the directors, and all the participants, in the Valentine's Musicale, including newly elected Community Association Board Member Bret Katz, for a job well done.

CERT classes will begin here at City Hall on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and continue on Thursday nights through May 24<sup>th</sup>. The classes are free. Call City Hall for information.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone on Tuesday, 2/14.

City Hall, Building & Safety, and the Community Center will all be closed, and there will be no inspections on Monday, 2/20, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Happy Birthday to Council Member Landon's granddaughter, who tonight is celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Council Member Weber informed the Council that today he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Raytheon's Public Safety Regional Technology Center in Downey, which is partnering with technology companies for communication products. It is very impressive, and he will recommend that some or all of the Public Safety Commissioners take a tour of the facility.

### **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Introduction of Newly Elected Los Angeles County Assessor John Noguez and Outreach Staff**

No one was in attendance at this time.

### **B. Consideration of Approval of Community Assistance Grant to Calabasas High School for Support of the *Every 15 Minutes Program***

Mathy Wasserman, a member of the Every 15 Minutes Fundraising Committee (who was also joined by another Committee member Cyndi Bartok), reminded the Council of what this program involves, how it works, and its goal of educating students on the hazards of texting, driving while distracted, and driving while under the influence. She then referenced a letter from the Committee and an application requesting funding from the City of Hidden Hills for this program (which is conducted every other year at Calabasas High School, alternating with Agoura High School), and invited the Council Members to attend the program.

Mayor Cohen expressed his belief in the program, which he has attended, and suggested that Council Members who have not attended, should do so. He noted that instead of asking this year for funding for specific items, it appeared that the Committee was asking for sponsorships; he did not feel that the recognition for the City as a sponsor was that important, but he would like to know how the money, which the City does have available, was going to be spent.

Ms. Wasserman and Ms. Bartok explained that it is very expensive to conduct the program (grandstands, audio, give away items, etc.), and that all of the individual costs have not yet been determined, but they based this year's request on what the City gave two years ago. In response to Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and Council Member Freedland, they suggested the total cost for the program was around \$30,000, but after grant funds from the State and the California Highway Patrol, they still had to obtain over \$20,000.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve a community assistance grant to Calabasas High School PFC/Every 15 Minutes Program, which will be conducted on Monday and Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the amount of \$2500.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – January 23, 2012**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Annual Financial Audit – June 30, 2011**

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

**MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Invitation from the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Donald M. Zimring for a City Council Tour of the New Performing Arts Education Centers**

Mayor Cohen announced that an invitation was received from Superintendent Dr. Donald Zimring on behalf of the LVUSD Board for a tour of the new Performing Arts Education Centers, one at Calabasas High School, and the other at Agoura High School. Mayor Cohen suggested that if any of the Council Members were interested in a tour, they should contact the City Manager, who can then schedule the tours such that no possible Brown Act violations occur, since the tour would be outside the jurisdiction and not totally open to the public.

## **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

### **A. City Landscaping Improvements – Final Report**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following report:

The City recently completed two projects, with the first being at City Hall; the demonstration garden put in approximately ten years ago needed to be updated with new irrigation, new plant material, cleaned up, and repaired; the Council authorized the expenditure of \$15,631 plus a 10% contingency; \$12,920 was covered by the same Parks & Recreation grant that was used for the original demonstration garden; not connected with the original project, new lights were added on the stairs and new stairs added for access to the propane tanks for the new generator, which resulted in a cost of \$2630, paid from the City's general funds; the second project was completed, at the request of the Council, at the intersection of Round Meadow and Mureau Roads, on the northwest corner (opposite of the northeast/gazebo corner done several years ago); irrigation, plants, trees, and a handicap ramp were installed; a bike rack was to be added, but since the one desired to match the other existing racks is no longer manufactured, it has been omitted, which did not affect the funding; irrigation had to be brought from the gazebo corner, by boring under the road; the Council authorized the expenditure of \$21,018.80 plus 10% contingency; this entire project was paid from gas tax and TDA bicycle funds; both projects were under budget.

Council Member Freedland wished to reiterate the point made by Mr. Lovett that no City general funds were used for this recent Round Meadow/Mureau corner project. Mayor Pro Tem Siegel thought both projects turned out very well and look great.

### **B. Discussion and Direction Regarding the Discontinuation of the Los Angeles County Bookmobile Service**

Mayor Cohen reported that a letter was received from the County of Los Angeles Public Library, stating that the bookmobile service provided to Hidden Hills would be discontinued due to no or very little use. The City Manager added the following information:

The Las Virgenes bookmobile is being discontinued, which will not only affect Hidden Hills but unincorporated areas also; the County library system collects approximately \$258,000 (based on the last fiscal year ending 6/30/11) from Hidden Hills residents; this is from a dedicated share of the property taxes, based on a very complicated formula, that is collected from each property within the City; some cities in the past, like Calabasas,

have withdrawn those collected property taxes and built their own libraries; this can still be done, but the County must be notified by January 1<sup>st</sup>, and now a City must meet many more stringent requirements to do this, per a new law; Calabasas has been interested in having Hidden Hills' funds directed to that city's library, which does raise the question of whether or not Hidden Hills, if withdrawing from the County system, would have to comply with all the requirements if giving those property taxes to a public entity.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel stated that Calabasas has a fabulous library, and that Hidden Hills residents would most likely be using that library before any others in the area. He suggested that Calabasas be contacted to see if they are interested in looking into whether or not and how Hidden Hills could withdraw from the County library system and transfer those funds to the Calabasas library. Council Member Weber pointed out that there are two City of Los Angeles libraries in the vicinity, one on Platt and one on Ventura Boulevard. He also wondered if all the money, if it were to be withdrawn, would have to be used in one location. The City Manager stated that, per the County librarian, Hidden Hills residents could use, without charge, those libraries in the City of Los Angeles.

The City Manager suggested two Council Members volunteer for an ad hoc committee to work with the County and the City of Calabasas to study this issue, with Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and Council Member Freedland both volunteering, as they have previously met with Calabasas representatives in relation to Craftsmen Center, and could address both issues at the same time. Mayor Cohen and the rest of the Council agreed; the ad hoc committee can then return to the Council in the future with recommendations.

Resident Wes Myers asked if the money could be withdrawn and given to the Round Meadow School library. The Council and staff felt that was probably not possible, but it was something that could certainly be asked during the discussions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of February 13, 2012 at 7:58 p.m.

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Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk