

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, July 28, 2014

***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, July 28, 2014 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Marv Landon called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council:

Mayor Marv Landon  
Mayor Pro Tem Larry G. Weber  
Council Member Jim Cohen  
Council Member Steve Freedland  
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 Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the July 28, 2014 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Landon made the following announcements:

The Long Valley gate is going to be closed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (7/29-31) from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. while the entrance sign is being repainted; call the Association for more information.

Congratulations to Mayor Pro Tem Larry Weber's daughter Aubrey who will be starting this new school year as an assistant teacher at Sierra Canyon (5th grade).

Happy birthday to our City Attorney Roxanne Diaz on Wednesday (7/30).

City Clerk Deana Graybill's mother just had surgery, and we would like to wish her a quick recovery.

Council Member Siegel wanted to remind everyone to attend the Thursday night BBQ's at the Community Center, as they have been lots of fun and also present a good opportunity to meet neighbors.

### **AUDIENCE**

Council Member Cohen suggested that it might be worthwhile for the Council to again address the issue of cell phone coverage in the City, and asked that this item be placed on the next agenda for discussion. The rest of the Council agreed.

Resident Lisa Moriarity asked where the City was in relation to the undergrounding of overhead wires and poles, as they are terrible to look at and also dangerous. Council Member Freedland explained the following:

the project was completed at the Long Valley/Round Meadow intersection quite some time ago; engineering and a proposal were completed for another project that was identified on Long Valley near Paradise Valley; the Association was not excited about adding some large ground cabinets that would have been required, and since their discussions went on for quite some time, the agreement with the involved property owner (who was going to contribute money to the project) expired and the Council determined that the City would have to spend too much money for a small return on the project; the

City is continuing to accumulate money and will look at other possible projects, hopefully in the next year or two; projects cannot be chosen just geographically, as there are many things that have to be considered such as the number of poles involved, how those poles are connected to and serve the homes, what kind of equipment is on the poles, how many people in the area already have underground connections from their homes to the poles, etc.; the City does require those homeowners doing remodels of a certain size to underground their drops from the poles.

Council Member Siegel added the following comments:

the cost to underground just one pole runs around \$100,000, and could be more, depending on the equipment involved; the trade off for removing poles and overhead wires usually results in the installation of large vaults on the ground, which most residents do not want in front of their homes; the Association and the Trails Committee also do not like the large vaults blocking the parkways or trails; it is a very complicated issue.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **A. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Report - June**

The following report was provided by Lieutenant Dave Thompson:

there was only one Part I crime this month, lowering those crimes down another 17%; however, the one crime was a home residential burglary, which no one wants to see; no juveniles were arrested during the month, but there was one adult arrest in conjunction with a property crime traffic collision; 33 citations were issued, with 22 of those being hazardous and 10 non-hazardous, with one DUI, in relation to the just mentioned traffic collision; most of the citations were for stop sign violations, with the Motors writing all of those; several dangerous drivers were reported to the STTOP program for speeding, with letters being sent to the registered owners of the vehicles; telephone contact was made with parents who will counsel their child regarding dangerous driving; two drivers were counseled at their residences.

In response to Mayor Landon, Lt. Thompson stated the following:

in relation to the burglary, work was being done in the back yard, which perhaps allowed more access; it is still considered a burglary, even though the house was not locked; people should always lock their doors and windows, in their homes and their vehicles; the residents were home and heard the dogs barking around 1:00 a.m., but did not notice anything missing until they got up around 6:00 a.m.; he would recommend that if you have dogs and they are barking, you should check to see what the cause of that barking is.

Council Member Freedland said he has had residents talk to him, and their perception in the City is that there are more people speeding, and kids riding motorbikes on the trails. Lt. Thompson replied as follows:

    this problem does go in cycles, and it is summer when kids have more time; sometimes they can catch them, and sometimes they can't, since the motors cannot drive on the trails; the posse was in the City recently, and they have a better chance as they can go anywhere, but even if they don't catch anyone, just their presence seems to help; he will see if the posse is available to come in again, and will also talk to the traffic deputies about the problem.

Mayor Landon commented that he recently saw a speeding golf cart being driving by a kid on the parkway near his house; he called the City Manager who asked for a Sheriff car to be sent, but he himself and the Deputies were unable to find the cart. Lt. Thompson said that a golf cart is considered a vehicle, and even if they cannot catch it at the time, any information that can be provided (such as a description, time of day, location, whole or partial plate) can often be pieced together, with new technology and the help of video from the gates, to help locate the cart or the driver.

**B. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - June**

Battalion Chief Anthony Williams provided the following information:

    during the month of June there were 20 responses, with 8 of those being medical calls, 5 false alarm/good intent calls, 6 service calls (5 of these were for snake removals), and 1 fire on June 18th; this was a small brush fire, contained to just under two acres, on Lewis & Clark Road; the fire started behind the City in the unincorporated County area, and resulted in a small amount of damage to ornamental vegetation in one Hidden Hills back yard; the cause of the fire was a downed power line; the annual brush inspections have been completed on 583 parcels, with only 8 of those parcels being non-compliant; the status of those parcels will be reported next month, as they are working with the owners for compliance.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **By Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Regarding 2014 Water Supply/Drought/State Water Resources Control Board Conservation Measures**

Mayor Landon introduced, from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD), General Manager Dave Pedersen, Board President Charles Caspary (also a Hidden Hills resident), and Public Affairs and Communications Manager Jeff Reinhardt, all of whom were in attendance. Mr. Pedersen presented information regarding the statewide drought, decreasing water supplies and storage reserves, reservoir conditions, recent actions taken by the State (allowing fines up to \$500) and how the District will address those actions, mandatory conservation measures, community outreach that's being done, the effects of a possible El Nino, and rebates available to residents.

Mayor Landon stated that he had the LVMWD come out and check his landscape and irrigation system, which was very helpful, and he would recommend others do the same if that service is still available. Mr. Pedersen assured him the District would still do the water audits. Council Member Siegel said he did his own personal audit, and discovered that his gardener was watering way too much, so he has reduced the watering to three days and is planning on taking a minute or more off of each watering station to see how that works. Mayor Pro Tem Weber added that he also checks his system every two weeks, but he does not like the idea of removing grass, as it seems to keep it cooler around a house.

Mr. Caspary commented as follows:

he has done some things on his property that have helped; he eliminated some of his lawn, but kept a little; he also put in a lot of drip irrigation to serve hedges and native plants; some of the ground is very dry and hard, but where the drip irrigation is, it is really good and attracting humming birds and bees; he has mulched heavily with the free compost from the District; the District does have a planting guide, and a lot of other assistance available to the residents; he would encourage people to either call the District or go online for information.

The City Manager asked for information regarding the water audits and other helpful hints that can be placed in an upcoming City newsletter, which Mr. Reinhardt said they would readily provide.

**2014 FIESTA**

- A. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from The Bubble Rollers for Swimming Pool Activities at the Community Center and Payment of \$700 Deposit**
- B. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Better Music Services to Provide a DJ During the Community Center Activities**
- C. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from The Outdoor Grill to Provide Saturday Night Dinner and Payment of \$10,703.62 Deposit**
- D. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Party Faces to Provide Face Painting During the Evening Activities**
- E. Consideration of Approval of Bernard's Wine Gallery to Provide Wine and Beer During the Evening Activities**
- F. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Schoeppner Shows to Provide Rides and Games, and Payment of \$17,000 Deposit to Reserve Date of September 20, 2014**
- G. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from The Fry Girls Catering Truck for the Community Center Activities and Payment of \$550 Deposit**
- H. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Sports N' More to Provide Lifeguards at the Community Center**
- I. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Hu'i Hu'i Shave Ice to Provide Shave Ice Treats During the Community Center Activities and the Evening Activities**

Mayor Landon and the City Manager pointed out that several of the costs have gone up in relation to what was approved in the budget: item B - \$50; item C - \$2207.25; item F - \$1450; item G - \$100.

Council Member Cohen expressed some concern with the deposits required for the rides and the dinner, and wondered if those could be reduced. Fiesta Chairman Lisa Moriarity pointed out that these are the same vendors used in the past, so she was sure they would show up. The City Manager added that 50% deposits were paid to those vendors last year, and that the deposits would not be paid until the vendors signed City agreements and provided the required insurance documents, which could take a few weeks or even a month from now. Council Member Freedland suggested that other vendors be aggressively sought next year, as sometimes they get a little too comfortable. Mayor Landon and Council Member Siegel agreed, stating that they would like to see a proposal for next year's dinner from La Paz, a favorite of many people. In response to Mayor Pro Tem Weber, who stated that he would like to have a band in the evening, Ms. Moriarity said she was looking into getting a quartet, but didn't think it was worth the money for a dance floor and band, when almost no one ever dances.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (including the \$700 deposit), B, C (including the \$10,703.62 deposit), D, E, F (including the \$17,000 deposit), G (including the \$550 deposit), H (not to exceed \$200), and I as submitted.

Ms. Moriarity then informed the Council that after this year, she needs to step down from chairing the Fiesta, as she has done it for so long, and suggested that the Council consider hiring a party planner to organize the event next year, since it has become extremely difficult to get volunteers to help with the Fiesta. After a short discussion, and after thanking Ms. Moriarity for all the work she has done all these years, the Council agreed to look into the use of a party planner or company that provides that type of service for next year's Fiesta. Ms. Moriarity volunteered to provide some names.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes - June 23, 2014**
- B. City Council Minutes - July 14, 2014**
- C. Demand List**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Cohen 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**

- A. Report from 7/15/14 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The report was received and filed.

- B. Report from 7/15/14 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting**

Council Member Siegel provided the following report:

a representative from Metro gave a presentation on the Metro Complete Streets Policy, which will involve establishing a standard of excellence to create safe, accessible streets for all users, including bicyclists; it seems that there is an unlimited amount of money for developing bike lanes; Measure R has also generated a lot of money for the COG cities; the other cities are using their funds for overpasses, on/off ramps, etc.; Hidden Hills has been allocated between \$3.7 million and \$4.8 million, which he has suggested we try to use for the Valley Circle Interchange project that the City looked into years ago.

The City Manager added the following:

the Measure R funds are to be used mainly for traffic congestion relief; they are not subject to use for such things as just pedestrian improvements; she and the City Engineer are working with Terry Dipple, the Executive Director of the COG, to provide a proposed project that fits within the proper use of the funds; staff is also attempting to get representatives from Metro and Caltrans to visit the front gate area so they can see that this is a unique situation where there is an on-ramp to the freeway with cross traffic across that on-ramp that then moves up the ramp against the traffic coming down and entering the freeway; then there are also many pedestrians walking in that area where

there are no sidewalks or safe passageways in order to get to Valley Circle to cross the freeway for connections to public transportation.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**Consideration of Issuance of Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month  
September 1st - September 30th, 2014**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to issue a proclamation proclaiming September 1st - September 30th, 2014, as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of July 28, 2014 at 8:32 p.m.

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Marv Landon, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager