

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, September 8, 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, September 8, 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 Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the September 8, 2014 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Weber made the following announcements:

The Fiesta is one week from this Saturday (both Saturday and Sunday, 9/20-21); everyone should have received the Fiesta brochure in the mail; if you did not get one, there are extra copies at City Hall; all tickets are now on sale at City Hall; please fill out the last page of the brochure, with all your ticket requests before coming in; dinner tickets

must be purchased no later than Wednesday, 9/17 - there will be no exceptions; call City Hall at 818.888.9281 with any questions.

There will be a CERT meeting here at City Hall this Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. for anyone interested; call City Hall for details.

Happy Birthday to Council Member Freedland's wife Susan (today), Mayor Pro Tem Weber's (my) son Connor (9/14), and Council Member Cohen's daughter Dana (9/16); and a Happy Anniversary (the 25th) to Council Member Freedland and Susan on 9/24/14.

There will be a short recess for refreshments and to honor our students right after the achievement certificates have been issued.

AUDIENCE

Resident Jane Trotman, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and other DAR members Cathey Sinai, Teri Fisher, Martha Duley, and Nina Olander, were in attendance to wish a happy birthday to the U.S. Constitution. Ms. Trotman provided information regarding the goals of the DAR and information and facts regarding the Constitution itself, in honor of the Constitution's 227th birthday on 9/17/14. At the end of her presentation, which was well received, Ms. Trotman provided copies of the Constitution to each of the Council Members.

Marisol Espinoza introduced herself to the Council, staff and audience as the new Hidden Hills representative for the Southern California Gas Company. She provided business cards and encouraged people to call her if they needed assistance, stating that there would always be open lines of communication, and that not only was she here to help, but to also learn from the City and its residents.

PRESENTATIONS

City Certificates/2014 Student Achievement Recipients

Mayor Landon presented Hidden Hills certificates to the following students, as Council Member Freedland read the names and achievements of each (as provided to the City by the individual schools):

A.E. Wright Middle School:	Max Levy Samuel Levy Dannika Liddell
Sierra Canyon School:	Colin Bernstein

Joslyn Bernstein

Viewpoint School:

Helena Heroux
Drew Shulman

Mayor Landon then called for a short recess at 7:48 p.m., reconvening the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes - August 25, 2014**
- B. Demand List**

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 and B of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

- A. Consideration of Approval of a Proposed Resolution and Quitclaim of Hidden Ridge Road and Lasher Road Storm Drain Easements for Miscellaneous Transfer Drain Number 1772 (Hidden Ridge LLC)**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

the City Council approved Vesting Tentative Map (VTM) 54063 in 2006 for eleven homes on approximately 23 acres known as the Hidden Ridge project; one of the conditions of the VTM was the construction of a storm drain that would be transferred to the County of Los Angeles for ownership and maintenance as a Miscellaneous Transfer Drain (MTD); for an MTD, storm drain easements must be granted to the County for access purposes; because the Hidden Hills Community Association (HHCA) owns both Hidden Ridge Road and Lasher Road, the County required the necessary easements be granted first to the City, and then following the storm drain construction, be quitclaimed to the County; the final map for Tract No. 54063 dedicated the storm drain easements in that tract to the City; however, because the City had no formal storm drain easements on Lasher Road, the HHCA had to prepare a grant easement to the City; in 2008, at the direction of the Council, staff signed and recorded a Certificate of Acceptance for the Lasher Road easement; since the storm drain is now complete and ready for transfer to the County, a document has been prepared to quitclaim the City of Hidden Hills storm drain easements for both Hidden Ridge Road and Lasher Road to the County; a resolution has also been prepared requesting that the County accept the transfer and conveyance of the MTD for future operation, maintenance, repair, and improvement.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Quitclaim of Easements for Hidden Ridge Road and Lasher Road, and to adopt by title only Resolution No. 875 entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF SAID DISTRICT, THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF THE STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS KNOWN AS MISCELLANEOUS TRANSFER DRAIN NO. 1772 IN THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS FOR FUTURE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND IMPROVEMENT, AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE THEREOF.

B. Consideration of Approval of Certain Road Closures on Halloween Night (10/31/14) if So Approved and Requested by the Hidden Hills Community Association

Community Association (HHCA) Board Member Bret Katz informed the Council that the Gate Committee recently discussed imposition of the following measures to improve safety on Halloween night (10/31/14), which this year falls on a Friday:

leaving Long Valley Road completely open; closing Round Meadow Road from Long Valley to Jed Smith North, possibly from 5:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.; establishing a small lane on one side of Round Meadow for the passage of golf carts through the closed section; closing Wingfield to all vehicles, including golf carts, as it is just too congested with foot traffic and a necessity; placing lights (as was done last year) at three different places on Round Meadow, and at the Community Center; adding extra guards at each gate, at the street closures, and at the Community Center (these guards have been requested, but not yet confirmed); extra guards can prescreen visitors by walking down the guest lane and checking them in so they can pass through quickly once they get up to the gate; there will be no call downs to the gates or call ups from the gates after 5:00 p.m.; guests can still be placed on a resident list after 5:00 p.m., but it has to be done through the computer system; they are looking into the possibility of getting Explorers to help, maybe with the walk-in traffic, which is a problem, especially at the Round Meadow gate where people park in the lot and then walk through; no gates will be closed to visitors or guests; they will recommend in the Round-Up that residents use the Burbank gate if possible, as that is the only gate where a backed-up guest lane does not interfere with the resident lane; radios will be used for communication purposes, and also to call the Sheriff personnel if necessary; signs will be posted, and email and phone notifications will be sent to residents (especially those on Wingfield) well in advance so they are aware of the procedures and road closures.

Mr. Katz said he would like to hear the Council Members' thoughts regarding the proposed measures for Halloween night along with any other ideas or suggestions they might have to increase safety for the residents and the community.

Mayor Landon stated he thought the extra lighting was a great idea, and would like to encourage the legal use of golf carts that evening, as they are very beneficial for those who have small children. Council Member Siegel agreed that if golf carts were going to be used, they should definitely be street legal (with all the required safety items such as seat belts, lights, etc.) and only be driven by licensed drivers. Mr. Katz added that the Sheriff did cite some unlicensed drivers and/or illegal golf carts last year, and they can do the same this year.

Council Member Freedland wanted to go on record as being opposed to the use of golf carts in the closed areas, as there are just so many people walking in the area, and there are always problems with unsafe golf carts that are not street legal and young children driving them - but he will defer to the HHCA. Mr. Katz said he personally agreed with Council Member Freedland.

Council Member Cohen asked if any of the gates could be closed to visitors, with Council Member Freedland adding that the Long Valley gate could be closed, even with the proposed road closures, as access to Long Valley and its side streets could still occur from the Burbank gate, while access to Round Meadow and its side streets could still occur through the Round Meadow gate. Council Member Freedland suggested that in the notices residents be encouraged to avoid the Long Valley gate if possible, instead using the Burbank or Round Meadow gates, depending on where they live.

In response to Council Member Siegel, Mr. Katz said it is possible for a resident to have one person's name on the guest list, and then have that person enter through the gate with numerous others in the car.

Council Member Freedland thought it was more important for any extra gate guards to prevent unauthorized walkers from coming through the gates, before using those extra guards to prescreen the visitor line. He also pointed out that in the past, a Gate Committee member would help out at each of the gates on Halloween, which really gives someone an appreciation for what the gate guards go through.

The City Manager provided the following information:

the City pays for additional Sheriff enforcement for Halloween; last year, there were two Motors and two one-Deputy cars; she is already working with Lt. Dave Thompson to

provide at least that amount of service, and most likely another two Deputies since this is a Friday night; the Deputies have to sign up for this assignment, as it is considered overtime, so there is no guarantee we can get that many personnel; however, since staff started early, there is a good possibility of getting what we want; because it is considered overtime, the Deputies are assigned and dedicated that evening, for the agreed upon time, just to Hidden Hills, so they will not be going to any other cities or areas (unless there would be some type of major incident); a request has been made for the mounted posse, but they are usually assigned to a larger area in another city; Lt. Thompson is also looking into the possibility of getting Explorers to assist the HHCA with the gate access or street barricades; the additional enforcement comes out of the City's COPS funds, not the general fund; the City does have some barricade equipment and cones that will be loaned to the HHCA for the evening; the EOC will not be opened that evening, but the City's Emergency Services Director is usually patrolling in the City, and the City Manager will be at City Hall monitoring the radios; the Sheriff personnel assigned to the City that evening check in at City Hall and are provided City radios so they can easily communicate with the City and the gates and gate guards.

As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to support the decisions of the Community Association regarding the extra measures and road closures to be taken for Halloween night, and to authorize staff to obtain additional Sheriff personnel.

C. Consideration of Approval of Proposed Resolution Regarding the City's March 3, 2015 General Municipal Election

The City Manager provided the following information:

the City's next general election for three seats on the City Council will take place on March 3, 2015; the seats that will be up for election are those currently held by Marv Landon, Stuart Siegel, and Larry Weber; even though the election seems quite a ways away, the City is required to adopt a resolution at this time calling for the election to be held and beginning the process; the filing period, when those wishing to run have to submit papers, will open in early November.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 876 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS CALLING FOR THE HOLDING OF A GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND ESTABLISHING CERTAIN PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT THEREOF.

D. Consideration of Approval of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy

The following report was provided by the City Manager:

in order to place an AED in City Hall, the City is required to do several things, even though the use of an AED is supposed to be very simple, with the device actually providing direction on exactly what to do when and how to do it; the City must first adopt a policy, which has been prepared by the City Attorney to meet State law requirements; City Hall must also have at least one person trained in the use of the AED; the CJPIA recently provided a class at City Hall which was taken by the Emergency Services Coordinator, the City Clerk, and the City Manager, along with six residents; the City has also contracted with a company that provides certain services in relation to the AED, including a current California licensed physician/surgeon to provide medical oversight; the Emergency Services Coordinator recently made sure the AED was upgraded to current standards with the correct software, padding, etc.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the City of Hidden Hills Automatic External Defibrillator Policy dated August of 2014.

E. Consideration of Cancellation of the September 22, 2014 City Council Meeting

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to cancel the September 22, 2014 Council meeting, due to the Fiesta weekend.

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Discussion Regarding Cell Phone/Wireless Coverage Within the City

Council Member Cohen stated the following:

he thinks that it is time for the City to again explore the possibility, if it exists, of doing something to provide better cell phone coverage in the City, for both safety and convenience; everyone uses a cell phone today; in fact, some people do not even have land lines anymore; if people are out walking or horseback riding, he believes coverage is inadequate; he would like to get input from a committee and/or residents regarding whether or not there is a solution, and if so, what costs are involved.

Council Member Freedland replied as follows:

that is not exactly how it works; a city should not raise money and then pay someone to come in and put up an antenna; it is not really an issue of cost, but more an issue of whether or not a company thinks this is an attractive place to do business; if it is attractive to a company, they would most likely be coming to the City with proposals; he is very familiar with a device called a microcell that is available for free from AT&T if that company is your provider; if not, such a device can be purchased for approximately \$100; when his daughter went to college, her apartment had absolutely no coverage, but the microcell provided excellent coverage; it is very small (about the size of a modem), and gets placed in a window so it has direct line of site to the sky; one microcell can

support six cell phones, so if any residents do not have service at their homes, this device can be used.

Community Association Board Member and resident Bret Katz felt individual coverage in the homes was not the issue; he was concerned that there was almost no coverage at either the Community Center or the City Hall, where people congregate. Council Member Freedland suggested that if there was a microcell that could be used in both of those locations, perhaps that was something Mr. Katz could have the Association research to determine effectiveness and costs. Mr. Katz said a small microcell would not work, with Mayor Pro Tem Weber agreeing that a more commercial grade, FCC approved device would be what was needed, which would have a maximum cost of probably no more than \$1000. In response to Council Member Siegel, Mr. Katz said he has raised this issue with both the Association and City, with not much interest being shown. Mayor Pro Tem Weber was surprised that there was no interest in placing some type of device at the Community Center and City Hall, versus the problem with a proposal several years ago that called for approximately fifteen extended poles and equipment. Council Member Freedland felt that reception in the City has been improving with additional antennas being added in surrounding areas, but he was not at all opposed to the possibility of adding some type of microcell at the Community Center that could be approved by the Board, of which Mr. Katz is a member, and here at the City, which could be approved by the Council.

Mr. Katz expressed his personal anger that the City and Association have not done anything to fix this problem, which he thinks is very serious. A short debate then occurred regarding what happened in the past, with Mr. Katz suggesting that he started the initial process of trying to find a solution for the poor coverage, but then the City formed a sub-committee, pushed him aside, and changed the parameter of what he was trying to do (provide coverage in areas where people congregate) to instead focus on providing coverage for the whole City, which in his mind became a fiasco.

Council Member Freedland and Mayor Pro Tem Weber had a slightly different recollection of what occurred, stating the following:

Bob Coffey, who works for the Association, brought a company to the City, with that company suggesting they could provide coverage for the entire City with just three antennas and/or poles; when the company came back with a formal presentation, the proposal involved approximately fifteen poles, 30' - 50' in height; the company was going to rent out space on those poles to cover costs; the City did not change any parameters - that was what was presented to the City.

Mayor Landon suggested it was time to move forward, with Mr. Katz saying he would like to help and to be involved in looking for a solution - again, not to provide coverage for the entire City, but to provide better coverage in those areas where people congregate and have communication issues. Council Member Freedland thought Mr. Katz identified a critical area at the Community Center, and felt that would be a good place to start. Council Member Siegel thought it was also important to include City Hall, with Mayor Pro Tem Weber agreeing, pointing out that City Hall also serves as the City's Emergency Operations Center in case of a disaster or emergency. Mayor Pro Tem Weber thought a separate microcell or device would be needed for each carrier, with Mr. Katz adding that there are multi-band antennas.

Council Member Cohen suggested that Mr. Katz be authorized to look into this matter for the City, with Mayor Landon and the other Council Members agreeing. Mr. Katz was then given permission to return to the Council in the future with ideas for what he thought might be feasible for City Hall and at what costs, keeping in mind that the Council was not interested in anything that involved adding poles, as one of the City's goals is to continue to remove as many utility poles as possible. The Council Members expressed hope that if a solution was found for City Hall, the Community Association would also engage that solution for the Community Center. Mayor Pro Tem Weber agreed to work with Mr. Katz, and would also see what information he could obtain in relation to this matter from a trade show he would be attending in the near future.

Mayor Landon and the Council thanked Mr. Katz for his interest and input, stating they would be looking forward to his upcoming report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of September 8, 2014 at the hour of 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Marv Landon

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager