

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, June 25, 2007

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, June 25, 2007 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Stuart Siegel called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

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

Staff:

City Engineer Dirk Lovett
Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the June 25, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

Even though A.E. Wright Principal Steve Rosentsweig was unable to attend tonight's meeting, on behalf of the Council he would like to acknowledge that Principal Rosentsweig was recently announced as the winner of the Association of California Administrators Regional Principal's Award for 2006-2007.

He extended a Happy Birthday to both Mayor Pro Tem Fisher (6/26) and Council Member Weber (7/5).

City Hall, the Community Center, and the Building and Safety Department will all be closed on Wednesday, July 4th; he wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Coyote Trapping Program - Update

Mayor Siegel provided the following information and update:

For those that are not aware, the City has had a coyote trapping program since March of 2002; the program involves the City asking residents in the community who have problems with coyotes to call City Hall; the City records and keeps track of all of these calls and events, both in frequency and geographic location; as the severity of the reported events increase, the City hires professional trappers to come in and remove the aggressive coyotes; the coyote traps are placed only on private property, not in public areas, for safety purposes; during the current program, five coyotes have been trapped; there is a six-month guarantee for any additional reported aggressive behavior; one of the problems is that we live next to the Ahmanson Ranch (Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve); there are a large number of coyotes there, and they move into Hidden Hills for food and water; one of their favorite foods is fruit, and if residents do not pick up fruit that falls to the ground, the coyotes are very smart and will find that fruit; residents cannot leave fruit on the ground and then complain when the coyotes come into the yard to eat it; that is what coyotes do; the same applies to chickens; if you have chickens, coyotes will keep coming back and onto your property; if you see coyotes and you make noise and clap your hands loudly, they should run away; if they growl and do not back off, that is aggressive behavior, and that is what should be reported; he cannot

stress enough that this is not an eradication program; it is a question of management, and we all need to manage the fact that we live next to thousands of acres of open range; dog and other pet food should not be left outside; fruit should not be left on the ground; if you have chickens in your yard, the coyotes will keep coming, no matter how many coyotes are caught; do not leave small pets, and of course small children, unsupervised in the yard; that is just common sense, and stressed by the trappers; no one in the City has been bitten by a coyote; dog bites are actually a more serious problem than coyote bites, but the perception is that the coyote is more dangerous; please continue to call City Hall (not the Community Association) to report problems; due to another recent dog attack, the trappers may reactivate the traps; however, if any residents are concerned and feel that the City is not meeting their needs, they may at any time individually hire a trapper to place traps on their private property.

B. City Plaques/Hidden Hills Youth Recognition Program Recipients

Mayor Siegel announced that the Council would now very happily present plaques and certificates to Hidden Hills youngsters for academic and other achievements, stating the following:

Daniel and Lauren Deitch – Daniel and Lauren did a remarkable program with their Temple by creating a book as Daniel’s Bar Mitzvah project, with the help of their parents; the book was to honor their Grandmother, who recently passed away, and their Grandfather, both of whom survived the Holocaust; an introductory passage of the book states how Daniel and Lauren did not realize what the Holocaust meant or know much about their Grandmother’s life; they had many of their questions answered and as the Grandchildren of the Holocaust and the last generation to have known their Grandparents, they “created this book to keep their stories and memory alive”; the book is at the Berlin Museum and a number of other Holocaust remembrance sites.

Jaclyn Gersh – Jaclyn, among other things, has kept a 4.0 grade point average at Calabasas High School, is an accomplished oil painter, and is an athlete, having played in many soccer leagues and won many awards; he has also had the privilege of working with Jaclyn and her

sister serving as counselors at Camp Harmony in Malibu; each young adult counselor has three homeless children whom they live and work with for a week; this is not just a fun camp, but involves a great deal of hard work; this is a great experience, and Jaclyn has shown a lot of commitment.

Katie Loggia – Katie is an honor student at Chaminade High School, an active member of National Charity League, on Chaminade's equestrian team, incoming President of Future Business Leaders of America, a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, and a Junior Counselor this summer for Jameson Ranch Camp; besides all of this, he was very struck by Katie's Holiday Drive for Operation Gratitude; Katie put this program together by herself, placing barrels at each of the gates and collecting items for troops in the Middle East; this was a wonderful project.

Each of the above very worthy youngsters received a Hidden Hills City plaque from Mayor Siegel.

C. City Certificates/2007 Academic Achievement Recipients

Mayor Siegel introduced Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) Board Member Dave Moorman and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Donald Zimring who were in attendance to congratulate all the students receiving awards. Mayor Siegel then presented City certificates to the following students:

From A.E. Wright Middle School:

Briana Langer
Kelsey Freedland
Emily Loggia
Richard Wallen
Samuel Wallen
Sydney Wolfe

From Round Meadow Elementary School: Ashley Ben-Porat
Peter Brancato
Jacqueline Godin
Maxwell Goldwasser
Samuel Goldwasser
Isabela Minogue
Jake Klein

From Sierra Canyon School: Jake Levin
Kristin Levin
Tyler Patterson

From Viewpoint School: Bryce Beisswanger
Jason Jaffe
Wyatt Lake

At the end of the presentations, Board Member Moorman addressed the Council:

He is very proud of the Las Virgenes schools, the teachers, and mostly of all the students; these students receiving awards, as well as all the other students, have done a great job; this is all about cities and communities coming together to support education; he wished to thank the City of Hidden Hills, the Mayor, and all of the Council Members for their continued support of education and the District.

Mayor Siegel thanked Board Member Moorman and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Zimring for their attendance, as these students work very hard, and it is nice to see those in charge take the time to show their support and to personally congratulate the students.

At this time, Mayor Siegel called for a short recess to allow everyone time to congratulate the students, and to enjoy some refreshments. Mayor Siegel then reconvened the meeting, announcing that item 6D would be addressed a little later as item 7D.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Reports – April and May

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan provided the following report:

During the month of April, there were a total of 11 responses; 4 were medical, 2 were false alarm/good intent, and 5 were snake removals; there were 40 hydrant inspections and 1 plan check; the CERT training was also completed; in May, there were no fires, but 17 total responses; of these, 4 were medical, 3 were false alarm/good intent, 9 were snake removals, and 1 was a public service call, for which she has no details; there were 3 Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections, and 658 brush inspections; she also provided triage training for approximately 15 LVUSD Health Clerks.

Mayor Siegel asked if there was any progress being made regarding the different clearance requirements between the L.A. County Fire Department and the Coastal Commission. Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee informed the Council that they were still trying to schedule a meeting.

B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reports – April and May

The following report was provided by Lieutenant John Benedict:

There were no Part I crimes in April, but 35 traffic citations, with 28 of those being hazardous and 7 non-hazardous; there were no parking citations or collisions; in May, there were two Part I crimes; one was a vehicle burglary in the 25000 block of Eldorado Meadow; there were no signs of forced entry, however, taken were a laptop, software, a cell phone, and sunglasses; the other was a theft of a check from a residence in the 5300 block of Lasher; a petty theft report was taken; in relation to traffic, there were 64 citations, 58 of which were hazardous and 3 non-hazardous; 3 parking citations were issued, but there were no collisions.

Mayor Siegel stated that the City was again having some difficulty with youngsters riding motorbikes/scooters on trails, and he wondered what could be done to stop the problem before they caused injury to someone, with special concern for those on horseback. Lt. Benedict suggested that any information be provided to him, and he would then have the STTOP Deputy speak to the parents of the youngsters.

C. Round Meadow School Traffic Flow Pattern Modifications

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

The drop-off and pick-up situation has been an ongoing problem at the school; the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) commissioned a study by Kimley-Horn; the study suggested modifications to the small drop-off/pick-up zone (zone) including education of parents, elimination of some parking spots, widening of the zone to three lanes (outer lanes for pick-up and drop-off and the middle lane for through traffic), and utilization of crossing guards to keep vehicles moving and help youngsters in and out of vehicles; staff was asked to review the study, and met on site to view the traffic with Public Safety Commission Chairmen Jim Doran, Sheriff Traffic Sergeant Phil Brooks, and Motor Deputy Tom McGee; there was unanimous agreement that the study recommendations were not workable solutions; the group did come up with some other possible ideas to help mitigate the congestion; the main idea was to reverse the flow of traffic in the center aisle, requiring all traffic to enter the parking lot in aisle 1, hopefully creating a more fluid path; the parking spaces in that center aisle could be reserved for teachers, who get their earlier, thus directing more parents to stay in the flow pattern and drop off their children in the zone rather than in the parking lot; reversing the center aisle traffic would also prevent Hidden Hills residents from turning left at that location, which may cause more congestion on Round Meadow; currently there are less than ten vehicles from the City turning into that middle aisle, which overall would be considered a small impact on residents; however, two parking spots would also be lost; the Council could also consider not allowing Hidden Hills residents to turn into either aisle of the parking lot, forcing them to park inside the gate; this could eliminate some vehicles and possibly some of the conflict with pedestrians; the center aisle could also be chained after the teachers have parked there, preventing other vehicles from entering that aisle and dropping children off there; staff's recommendation is to reject the recommendations of the study, consider reversing the direction of the center lane, and discuss, if desired, the other options.

Sergeant Phil Brooks then addressed the Council:

At every school, it is the behavior of the drivers that is the problem, and there is no perfect solution for the congestion; the more convenient you make it for the drivers, the later they will come; if you are there twenty minutes before or ten minutes after, there is no traffic; everyone comes in the last five minutes to drop the children off, or they come very early to pick the children up; you cannot solve the problem without changing driver behavior; the suggestion is to modify the lot to make it more difficult for drivers to cheat; instead of staying in the traffic flow pattern, drivers use aisle 2 as the cheater's row, dropping youngsters in the middle of the lot, which is very dangerous; reversing the direction of that aisle and letting the teachers park there should help the situation, although using the chain would be somewhat labor intensive.

Mayor Siegel expressed some concerns and had some questions:

He was not sure what problem we were trying to solve; some people are dropping off children in other locations besides aisle 2; if aisle 2 is reversed, and people can only enter aisle 1, that could cause more of a back-up down Round Meadow towards Mureau; no matter what is done or has been done over the years, he agreed that it is people's behavior that creates the problems, and he does not think most will change their behavior; and if they do not change, this could create an even bigger problem.

Sergeant Brooks replied as follows:

Reversing aisle 2 will help eliminate the conflict of the crosswalk with vehicles turning both left and right into that aisle; there would be no reason for drivers to go up aisle 2 unless they were teachers, eliminating one dangerous area of drop-offs; if the chain was used, the conflict in that aisle between vehicles and pedestrians would be eliminated; aisle 1 may end up with more cars and a longer line out onto Round Meadow, but if you make it inconvenient for parents to come during the last five minutes, it may force them to come earlier; using people to help unload and load students in the zone would also help the situation.

Council Member Cohen was not sure this was a significant problem if only ten residents per day were affected, and also thought that many drivers would not change their behavior, and might even end up dropping kids in the middle of Round Meadow if it backed up too far and they were running late. Sergeant Brooks explained that the ten Hidden Hills residents turning into aisle 2 should not be confused with all of the people dropping children in numerous locations throughout the parking lot. He added that Hidden Hills residents should not even want to drive out the gate and get caught in the congestion, since it is safer inside the City, and reversing aisle 2 could force them to stay inside the gate.

Council Member Freedland stated the following:

One of the problems with the Hidden Hills parents is that they try to park as close to the gate as possible, and sometimes when they get up that far, there is no place to park, so they either end up going outside the gate, dropping the children in the middle of the road inside the gate (illegal), or u-turning inside the gate (illegal); he does like the idea of having teachers park in aisle 2, so there would not be as many cars pulling in and backing out; he felt it was compelling to hear the Sheriff's Department say this proposal would make the situation safer for children; if the new proposal would be adopted, there would

have to be an educational flyer for all parents and their children, and it would have to be made clear to Hidden Hills residents that they had to drop their children off inside the gate.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher wondered how many busses used the bus drop-off area (closer to Round Meadow Road), and if it would be possible to have parents use that area also. Council Member Weber thought there was always concern about eliminating any parking spaces, and also wondered if the Public Safety Commission had reviewed this matter. Mr. Lovett stated that the Public Safety Commission Chairman Jim Doran had reviewed everything, but he did not believe it had gone before the Public Safety Commission as a whole yet.

Mayor Siegel suggested the following:

Since there is some time, he felt the matter should be referred to the Public Safety Commission; if the Commissioners feel there is a compelling reason and it would be safer for the children to make some of these proposed changes, the Council should then hold a public hearing to which all of the Round Meadow parents who live in Hidden Hills could be invited to provide input; since they will be affected, they should have a say in the decision, especially since we seem to change the pattern every few years.

The Council Members agreed, with Council Member Weber pointing out that the Council should not wait too long to make a decision on this matter, since time will be needed to restripe areas of the parking lot if the new proposal is accepted.

D. Discussion Regarding Time of Use Meters (TOU) and Solar Energy

Mayor Siegel, who is familiar with time of use (TOU) meters for commercial buildings, asked the City's Southern California Edison (SCE) representative, Region Manager Rudy Gonzales, to provide information on domestic TOU meters. Mayor Siegel will then be presenting this information to the Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments (COG) in August, and would like to see it disseminated to the City's residents. Mayor Siegel introduced Mr. Gonzales, who had several comments and then introduced Dustin Kempf, a Manager in the Customer Service Business Unit to make the presentation on the TOU meters.

Mr. Kempf provided information and answered questions from the Council Members, during which time some of the following points were made:

There are six different geographic regions, with Hidden Hills being in region 17; in this region, the summer baseline allocation is 15.4 kWh per day, while the winter baseline allocation is 11.7 kWh per day; over a 30-day billing period, this averages 462 kWh for the summer baseline, and 351 kWh for the winter baseline; usage over this amount places residents in additional tiers with increasing costs in each of those five tiers; depending on geographic and weather conditions, the baseline can be different for the different regions; for example, Palm Springs has a higher baseline (they use more air conditioning) and Malibu, being near the coast where it is cooler, has a lower baseline; it would be very difficult for a City to get its baseline changed, as you have to go through strenuous regulatory proceedings of the PUC; tiers 1 and 2 are frozen by legislation at 12 cents and 14 cents respectively, so when rates need to be raised due to energy crises, higher gas prices, etc., tiers 3, 4, and 5 (currently at 22 cents, 26 cents, and 29 cents respectively per kWh) are increased; depending on the amount of energy used and the times used, domestic TOU meters may save money for certain residents; TOU meter rates are higher (30 cents) during the summer season (1st Sunday in June through the 1st Sunday in October) and on-peak (10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. weekdays); the rates are much lower during the winter months (18 cents) and off-peak (16 cents); there are two different TOU meter programs, with 90% being in the TOU-D2; anyone opting into a TOU meter program can leave that program after one month; however, whatever program is entered into at that time has to be continued for twelve months; customers most likely to benefit from the TOU rate would be those who 1) live in a cooler climate, 2) use less energy during on-peak hours, 3) use less energy during the summer season, and 4) use greater than 500 kWh/month; the average breakpoint in region 17 is 1100 kWh, but this will vary with each customer; a customer using 60% of their total electricity in the summer, and 40% in the summer on-peak (considered an extreme customer) would have a breakpoint closer to 1400 kWh, but could still probably save money; customers can fill out questionnaires, which have rate change requests attached; there is no charge to change to the TOU meter, but it might take one to two months; the current meters do not allow SCE to go back and analyze twelve months of usage to determine if the TOU meter would be beneficial; if any residents still have the pilot meters from a test done several years ago, those meters may be able to provide helpful information; if they have the time, residents can themselves take meter readings at different times of the day to see how many kWh are being used at different times; if a customer switches to a TOU meter, it is very important to monitor bills to make sure there is a benefit; in the next several years, SCE hopes to replace every domestic meter with a Smart Connect which can be remotely controlled, talk to thermostats, etc.; there are other rebate and discount programs available through SCE to help manage energy costs, which can be found on the SCE.com website; in regards to solar energy, there is a Net Energy Metering (NEM) program

designed to benefit SCE customers who generate their own electricity; net metering allows a customer to get benefits from generating energy in excess of their consumption by subtracting excess generation from delivered generation; excess kWh credits are calculated and applied as a dollar credit against the overall bill (the customer does not get money back if more energy is generated than consumed); customers can receive California Solar Initiative (CSI) incentives, designed to help offset the cost of installing solar power.

Mayor Siegel thanked Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Kempf for the information, which will be shared with the City's residents to give them an opportunity to investigate the possible use of TOU meters.

PUBLIC HEARING (Continued from 6/11/07)

Consideration of Approval of City Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and Related Resolution

As there were no questions or comments, Mayor Siegel closed the public hearing that had been continued from the 6/11/07 Council meeting. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the 2007-2008 budget showing revenues at \$1,576,800 and expenditures at \$1,396,950, resulting in \$179,850 excess revenues over expenditures, and to adopt by title only Resolution No. 802 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS TRANSFERRING FUNDS UNAPPROPRIATED AS OF JUNE 30, 2007 TO THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE ACCOUNT, AFFIRMING INVESTMENT POLICY, APPROVING THE CITY'S BUDGET AND ESTABLISHING THE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2007.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – June 11, 2007**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – May**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – May**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A, B, C, and D of the consent calendar as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of Approval of Proposed Ordinance Regarding Drainage Structures in Setbacks – Second Reading

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give second reading to and adopt by title only Ordinance No. 321 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS AMENDING THE CITY’S REGULATIONS REGARDING MINOR STRUCTURES IN THE SIDE AND REAR YARD SETBACK AND AMENDING SECTION 5-2C-4 OF THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Report from 6/19/07 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Community Association Board Member Ron Wolfe provided the following report:

There are two openings on the Gates Committee; anyone interested should call the Association office; interviews will be conducted; a nominating committee has been established for the Board’s annual election usually held in October or November; the committee consists of Jill Rosenberg, Michael Silberman, Ellie Sambol, Steve Freedland, and Claudette Rice; call any of those on the nominating committee or the Association office if interested in being considered to serve on the Board of Directors.

B. Report from 6/19/07 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting

Mayor Siegel provided the Council with the following information:

The COG should have the draft regional trails map sometime in July; the COG is beginning the process (which will take many years) of looking at the Calabasas Landfill and how it might be used once it is full and no longer used as a landfill; the COG would still like to see the placement of some type of signage along Las Virgenes and Kanan Roads to warn anyone traveling along those canyon roads to Malibu when there are traffic problems on PCH that they might wish to avoid; some of the COG member cities are beginning to look into solar energy.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Letter of Support for Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Federal Funding for Water Management Projects in the Malibu Creek Watershed

Mayor Siegel stated that the Water District was asking for a letter to be sent to Congressman Henry Waxman urging him to support the District's request for funding to advance water management system upgrades for the protection of the Malibu Creek Watershed and Santa Monica Bay. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the Mayor to submit such a letter, as proposed and drafted, to Congressman Waxman.

B. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett reported that the consultant, after meeting last week with staff, is in the process of making revisions to the draft EIR, which should then be returned to the City for further review in the next few weeks.

C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - May

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of June 25, 2007 at 9:22 p.m.

Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk