

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, September 24, 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, September 24, 2007 at the hour of 7:33 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
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the September 24, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

The City received a very nice certificate from City of Los Angeles Council Member Dennis Zine in honor of the Fiesta, which he was unable to attend.

The Fiesta is this weekend, September 30th; dinner and all other tickets must be purchased by this Wednesday (9/26), with no exceptions; call City Hall with any questions.

Happy anniversary to Council Member Freedland and his wife Susan, celebrating their 18th today.

There will be a blood drive at City Hall on Thursday, October 4th; there is a desperate shortage of certain blood types, so any donations are very helpful; call City Hall for an appointment.

The next City Council meeting on 10/8/07 will most likely be cancelled (being addressed later in the meeting) in honor of Columbus Day; if that is the decision, City Hall, the Community Center, and the Building Department will all be closed and there will be no inspections.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has reported that the 818 area code is running out of phone numbers; a public hearing will be held on 10/23/07 at 1:30 p.m. at the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in Calabasas to discuss options; one option would split the area geographically into two groups, one which keeps the 818 area code while the other gets a new code; the other option is an overlay, where the 818 code remains for existing customers, while new customers in the area get the new code.

On a future agenda, the City's existing filming ordinance (along with the fees) will be reviewed, as it is rather outdated, having been adopted in 1991.

Council Member Cohen read a recent article about the Talbert Family Foundation, founded by residents Lloyd and Julie Talbert, and their involvement in the Calabasas fun run on 11/11/07 – he wished to acknowledge their active involvement in the community and region.

AUDIENCE

Patti Samuels, a member of the Independent Citizens Measure E Oversight Committee (established to monitor the District's adherence to the provisions in the Measure) provided the Measure E (a \$98 per parcel assessment) annual report. She was pleased to inform the Council that for the third consecutive year, every dollar received through Measure E in the District's 2006-2007 fiscal year was spent in compliance with the Measure. Ms. Samuels then listed some of the achievements due to the \$2,367,260 collected through Measure E, and pointed out that the Committee supported the renewal of Measure E which will be on the November ballot.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of New Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Members

Mayor Siegel made the following comments:

In the event of a major emergency, the Sheriff and Fire Departments may not be able to respond to our 911 calls for several hours or possibly days; during that time the City will have to depend on its CERT volunteers; we live in a service world, and some of those services will be non-existent depending on the severity of an emergency; thanks to Emergency Services Director Jim Doran, and training provided by L.A. County Fire Department Community Services Representative Maria Grycan, the CERT team is ready to provide assistance; Mr. Doran for a long time has been the body and spirit of the CERT program; he himself has completed the CERT training, as have most of the Council Members; the training is valuable unto itself, as it helps to make people more self-sufficient; if there any residents interested in joining the CERT team, there is always a need for more help.

Resident Judy Deitch asked if it would be possible to provide an earthquake training class for junior high and high school youngsters. Mayor Siegel suggested she talk to Ms. Grycan about that possibility.

Mr. Doran then issued the oath of office to the following new CERT members: Judy Deitch, Teri Fisher, Janis Lake, Bob Sullivan, and Julie Sullivan (Lucia Jacobson also completed the CERT training, but was not in attendance). Ms. Grycan presented certificates to the new members, who were also thanked and presented with a CERT backpack by Mayor Siegel.

Mayor Siegel thanked Mr. Doran and Ms. Grycan for all their work in organizing and helping volunteers to become more professional and able to provide assistance during emergencies.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - August

The following report was provided by Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee:

During the month of August, there were 3 emergency medical calls, 3 service calls (1 public assist and 2 snake removals), 1 good intent/false alarm call, and 1 grass fire caused by smoking; the fire involved 1/10 acre in the 6100 block of Spring Valley Road, resulting in \$0 loss; there were 22 station inspections and 5 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections; the Department also facilitated a multi-agency workshop; of the 306 brush inspections resulting in 410s, 9 parcels were turned over to the Brush Clearance Unit for enforcement, including 4 from Hidden Hills.

B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Report - August

Lt. John Benedict presented the following report:

There was one Part I crime in August, that being a theft from an unlocked vehicle in the 5400 block of Hoback Glen; a car cover was stolen and the vehicle was egged; there was 1 false alarm, 0 collisions, 35 hazardous and 9 non-hazardous citations issued, as well as 5 parking citations; of the 49 citations issued, 24 were for signs and signals, and 2 for speeding.

C. Vehicle Code/Golf Carts/Motor Bikes/Additional Enforcement for Halloween

Mayor Siegel stated the following:

An email/fax notification was sent out discussing the recent golf cart accident; the four children involved went to the hospital, but fortunately they will all be okay; the Council, in the past, has frequently begged parents to act like parents and take control of the golf carts; there have been reports of 4th and 5th graders being picked up at Round Meadow School and allowed to drive the golf carts home, through all that school traffic; others have seen youngsters driving golf carts and towing their friends on skateboards behind the carts; yet others have complained of motorized vehicles being driven on the trails by youngsters; this accident was a wake-up call to the community; usually when the Council gets feedback on a matter, there are a lot of different views expressed; in this case, all emails received (except one that had a question) were positive (and some very strongly

positive) in support of the Council's position; tonight we need to discuss what is and is not legal, who can and cannot drive these carts and motorized vehicles, and where and when they can be driven; the Council would like input from the community.

Lt. John Benedict agreed with Mayor Siegel that this is a parental responsibility, explaining that any motorized vehicle, to be driven on the streets in the City, must be a registered street legal safe vehicle – that means it needs such things as front and rear lights/brake lights, seat belts, turn signals, registration/plates from the DMV, and be operated by a licensed driver.

Mayor Siegel wished to expand on one point:

The youngsters involved were 13 and 14 years old, out at 10:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m., going too fast downhill, put on the brakes, and probably overcorrected; the biggest concern and the reason for this accident is that children do not know how to drive and do not have the experience of safely operating a vehicle; this may be a bit cynical, but from the other side, no one wants to be the driver of a vehicle, through no fault of their own, who might hit these youngsters.

Lt. Benedict added the following comments:

In his opinion, golf carts at any speed are not inherently safe to be driven on streets; they are not equipped for roadways, and need to be modified to make them street legal, as most vendors he is aware of do not sell them that way; even if the carts are registered and street legal, drivers need to understand the safety concerns; youngsters have to learn the rules of the road and go through certain programs before they can get a license, and need to understand the consequences of their actions; even then, golf carts are still a safety hazard, and he personally would not like to see them on the road at all; children will do what they are allowed to do, so it does come down to parental guidance and supervision.

In response to numerous questions from the Council and audience members, Lt. Benedict provided the following information:

An unlicensed driver can be cited per the vehicle code and will have to go to court; the judge determines what type of penalty will be assessed for a juvenile; there are fines and different penalties, including the possibility of losing driving privileges until one reaches 18 years of age; the vehicle (golf cart, motorcycle, scooter, etc.) can be impounded and stored for 30 days, and storage fees are very expensive; an adult with an unlicensed driver can also be ticketed for allowing a minor to drive; the registered owner of the vehicle or parent will need to go to juvenile court with a juvenile and be responsible for that juvenile's actions; warnings have been issued in the past, but per Captain Martin, there

will now be a zero tolerance policy; unlicensed drivers will be ticketed and vehicles impounded; even if a driver is licensed, if the vehicle is not registered and street legal, the driver will be ticketed and the vehicle can be impounded; it is not that difficult to make a golf cart street legal; this will apply to all vehicles, whether golf carts, motorized scooters, ATVs, etc.; a juvenile was cited about 1½ months ago as an unlicensed driver, even though the golf cart was registered; he does want to stress again that it is the obligation and responsibility of parents to make sure their children do not get in these vehicles, and to make sure that if these vehicles are on the road, they are street legal and driven by a licensed driver; and again, the enforcement level is being stepped up, and there will be zero tolerance, even during Halloween.

Mayor Siegel pointed out the following:

Even though parents like to drive their children around in golf carts on Halloween night, the law has to be enforced; to be on the streets, any golf cart (or other vehicle) will have to be registered and street legal, and driven by a licensed driver; however, for the Fiesta parade, since the streets are closed and residents have always been encouraged to decorate golf carts, the carts will be allowed, even if not street legal, as long as they are being driven by a licensed driver.

The Council, staff, and audience (including newly appointed Association Board Member John McGinnis, who was introduced by Mayor Siegel) then had a short discussion regarding Halloween, during which the following points were made:

It is surprising that there have not been any accidents during past Halloweens when youngsters have been seen speeding and driving unsafely in golf carts; the zero tolerance policy may be a bit painful to those who normally use the golf carts, so residents need to be made aware that the law will be enforced; in the past, the City has hired additional Sheriff personnel to patrol during the evening; staff is working with Lt. Benedict to see if Reserve I or regular Deputies would be willing to sign up for overtime to provide additional enforcement, for which the City would be more than happy to cover the costs; Nagy, the Association's security company, will have personnel in uniform for additional assistance; if there is a problem, Nagy personnel can detain individuals until the Sheriff can be called and arrive at the scene; there are special rules for entry into the City which are enforced for Halloween (refer to the Gate Operations Manual); Public Safety Commissioners will be driving around in their own vehicles with their lights flashing to monitor the scene; they will each have City radios, as will the Sheriff and Nagy personnel, for communication purposes.

The Council authorized staff to send to each individual residence (via first class mail) a copy of the letter regarding golf carts that was previously sent via email/fax notification (and that will

also appear in the October newsletter), with the addition of information regarding golf cart usage on Halloween.

PUBLIC HEARING

Variance No. V-372 25081 Lewis and Clark Road New Single Family Residence

Council Members Cohen, Freedland, and Weber all reported visiting the site of the variance, with Mayor Siegel and Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stating they had not visited the site recently, but were familiar with the property.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that the applicant had inadvertently failed to include one property owner on the 500' notification address list. Since that one owner did not receive the public hearing notice, Mr. Lovett suggested the Mayor open the public hearing for anyone who wished to speak at this time, but then continue the hearing to the next meeting to allow proper notification of everyone.

Mayor Siegel opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the audience, and all of the Council Members stated they would hold their questions and/or comments until the next meeting. Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to continue the public hearing to the October 22, 2007 City Council meeting, before which all property owners within the required 500' radius would be sent the public hearing notice as required by law.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – September 10, 2007**
- B. Demand List**

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

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Report from 9/18/07 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The City Manager provided the following report:

Council Member Freedland attended the Board meeting and reported on the golf cart accident and the stepped up enforcement; Board Member Pamela Boothe reminded everyone to lock vehicles, as there have been some recent thefts; these should all be reported to the Sheriff no matter how small the loss; the budget was approved for the Halloween party to be held on 10/28; the assessment rate was lowered from 33 cents to 32 cents; the Long Valley overhead gate sign is almost completed, so the City will begin the process of installing the emergency antenna on the sign; the Association will be installing a new 5' wrought iron fence across the upper City Hall parking lot, and around the back of City Hall; the fence will include a pedestrian gate near the gate house; residents were reminded to first call 911 for any emergencies, rather than the 24-hour roving patrol and gate guards, who are not policemen.

- B. Report from 9/18/07 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments (LVMCOG) Meeting**

Mayor Siegel provided the following information:

Three matters were discussed relating to the 101 freeway; an emergency corridor traffic management plan is being prepared; it would show routes to be used for traffic diversion in case of a major incident closing the 101 freeway; additional signs are being looked at for use on the 101 and/or canyon roads such as Kanan and Las Virgenes to redirect traffic when there are road closures or delays; for quite some time, the 101 freeway has been studied to see if additional lanes could be added or more occupancy obtained via restriping; the restriping could occur, but there is no money for additional lanes; Tuesday morning, the COG will be holding an emergency exercise, with the focus on

communication; each city will open its emergency operations center (EOC); an area-wide trail map is also in the works, which will show all the trails in the region; he is the COG liaison for this project, for which the first draft of the map has been completed.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett stated that the screen draft EIR is still being worked on; the most recent staff comments were given to the consultant, whom he will be meeting with Tuesday morning in hopes of resolving outstanding issues. Mayor Siegel pointed out that once the draft EIR is completed, it will be circulated for public comments.

B. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - August

The report was received and filed.

C. Consideration of Cancellation of October 8, 2007 City Council Meeting

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to cancel the City Council meeting scheduled for October 8, 2007 in honor of Columbus Day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of September 24, 2007 at 8:28 p.m.

Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk