

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, February 23, 2015

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 23, 2015 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 Attorney Roxanne Diaz
City Treasurer Michael Blazenski
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
Environmental Consultant Joe Bellomo
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 February 23, 2015 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Landon made the following announcements:

Congratulations to the Community Association for a wonderful and successful Valentine Musicale this past weekend; he heard a lot of good comments about the show.

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, 3/8; don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour; this is also a good time to check batteries in smoke detectors.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - January

The following report was provided by Community Services Representative Maria Grycan:

during the month of January there were 11 responses, with 7 of those being medical and 4 being good intent; there were 6 station inspections, and 4 plans checked.

In response to Council Member Cohen, Ms. Grycan explained that a "good intent" call is actually a false alarm, but those calling it in meant well and thought there was a real problem, as opposed to someone making a malicious call.

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

Lieutenant Dave Thompson presented the following report:

in January there was one Part I crime from a home undergoing major construction, with numerous workers in and out of the residence; there were two arrests in the City (neither were Hidden Hills residents), one for public intoxication and one for an outstanding warrant for public intoxication; two traffic collisions occurred, one injury and one with property damage only; 43 traffic citations were issued, with 26 of those being hazardous, 12 non-hazardous, and 5 for parking; most of the citations were for stop sign violations.

In response to Mayor Landon, Lt. Thompson explained that technically the house (where the theft occurred) was locked, as there was no sign of forced entry, but there were many people coming and going during construction.

Council Member Freedland pointed out that he sees many parents, who are in the line waiting to pick up their children at Round Meadow School, on their cell phones. He asked that this be pointed out to the Motors so they could issue tickets for this very dangerous activity that should not be occurring, especially around an elementary school when there is so much traffic and so many children in the area. Lt. Thompson will notify the Motors and any other Deputies to make a special effort in looking for this violation.

In response to Council Member Cohen, Lt. Thompson explained that if someone walking appears to be intoxicated and they are alone and unable to help themselves, with no one else to help them, they can be arrested, even at times if that person is causing a problem in his/her own yard.

The City Manager informed the Council that Lt. Thompson would be out of service for awhile, as he would be having knee surgery this coming Friday. He assured the Council that someone would fill in for him until he was able to return.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes - January 26, 2015**
- B. City Council Minutes - February 9, 2015**
- C. Demand List**
- D. Disbursement List - January**
- E. Financial/Treasurer's Report - January**

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 (with Mayor Pro Tem

Weber abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting), B, C, D, and E of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. Update, Discussion, and Direction to Staff Regarding the Condition of the Property Located at 5546 Jed Smith Road

At this time, Council Member Freedland recused himself, as his property is within 500' of the subject property.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett reported that the demolition of the house on this property is almost complete, and per the owners, they are ready to begin grading next week when that demolition is done.

In response to a question regarding waste from the property, Mr. Lovett explained that the property owners pay a deposit based on their estimate of waste to be recycled; they must then provide a report proving that they recycled 50% of the waste, or they forfeit the deposit. The City Manager added that there are certain haulers who have signed agreements with the City to provide C&D waste hauling, and those haulers sort the waste (all thrown together in their bins) at their sites to see what can be recycled.

Council Member Freedland rejoined the meeting at this time.

B. Report from 2/17/15 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting

Board Member and City liaison Bret Katz presented the following report and answered several questions from the Council Members:

as a quorum was achieved, the four nominated directors were automatically elected, those being incumbent Board Members Rick Morris and Gina Richards and newly elected

Board Members Mitch Jacobs and Alex Werner; David Brien and Kim Long, who were termed out, were presented with outgoing gifts and thanked for their service; since then Gina Richards has resigned, so the Board is looking for a replacement for her; the Board is hiring a company to replace landscaping at the Community Center, where they will be removing the trellis, adding drought tolerant plants, and giving the area a new open look; the Board approved the next phase of parkway reconstruction for Lewis & Clark, Dixon Trail, and parts of Jed Smith; a proposal from Kopp Contracting was approved to work on old Eldorado Meadow Road where there is a drainage and erosion problem; the Board is looking into installing a new gas generator for the Burbank gate, which would be placed on the parkway near the bulletin board sign; the budget was approved for the St. Patrick's Day gymkhana.

Council Member Freedland wondered why some of the recent Board meeting minutes and minutes from other Association committees were not available. Mr. Katz and the City Manager will look into the matter.

C. Report from 2/17/15 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting

Per Council Member Siegel, the Draft Regional Bike Master Plan has been completed and will be reviewed by the Working Group on 2/17/15, by the TAC on 3/4/15, and by the COG Governing Board on 3/17/15. This is a regional plan that will allow COG cities, if they so choose, to apply for different funding that might be available for bicycle related services.

D. Report from the 2/11/15 Las Virgenes Unified School District Superintendent's Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting

The following report was provided by Council Member Freedland, who is now the City's representative on the SAB:

one of the two major issues addressed was Measure G, which was a \$94 per parcel tax approved by the voters to improve the District's general fund after state cuts to schools; members of the SAB are looking into strategies, if feasible, to again ask voters to tax themselves; a consultant has been hired to explore the possibilities; the other major issue discussed was vaccinations; it was pointed out that there is one school in the District that has 42% unvaccinated students, which seems very unusual for wealthy, educated parents; the District brought in a doctor to speak on this subject, which turned into a rather contentious meeting; some states have mandatory vaccination programs, or allow the

schools to decide; California allows a personal belief exemption, which in reality can be used by any parent as a reason to not vaccinate his/her child; the state is looking into legislation that would allow parents not to vaccinate their children, but then could prevent the children from entering public schools; this is a very hot topic, and they are trying to find a way to educate parents without alienating them.

Council Member Siegel pointed out that some of the more affluent and educated areas, like West Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area, actually have a higher rate of unvaccinated children than lesser affluent communities like those in the San Fernando Valley.

E. Discussion Regarding City's Reserve Funds and Investment Policy

After attending the recent Calabasas State of the City address where he heard some good ideas, Mayor Landon stated that he would like the City to consider two items: adding emergency vendor booths at the Fiesta (which will be addressed at a future Council meeting) and hiring someone to provide investment advisory services to the City (Calabasas was able to double their interest income this past year). He added that the City has approximately \$7 million in LAIF (\$5.2 million unobligated), but the City's investment policy would allow that money to be placed in other specified investment media.

The City Council, City Treasurer, City Attorney and staff then engaged in a discussion, during which some of the following points were made:

there are certain state requirements for investing (there is a 118 page book available from the state); three principals that should be considered are safety, liquidity, and return; investments should be laddered; some brokers cannot work for cities; the City would have to amend its current investment policy, which is quite restrictive; it would have to be made clear to anyone with whom the City might contract for advisory services that the investment policy would have to be strictly adhered to; once the investment policy is updated or amended, the City could then issue an RFP to obtain competitive proposals, as there could be big differences on imposed charges; other cities could be contacted for names of possible financial advisors; the City Attorney's office represents about thirty cities, so can also help compile a list of potential bidders.

After the discussion, the City Attorney was directed to draft an updated investment policy for the Council to review and address at the next Council meeting. The City Attorney will also provide a sample RFP that can be reviewed at the same time, and then publicized and sent out by staff to potential bidders once the updated investment policy is approved.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Approval of Third Amendment to the Malibu Creek Bacteria TMDL Coordinated Monitoring Plan Implementation Agreement

Environmental Consultant Joe Bellomo provided the following report:

in 2013, the City elected to develop an Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP) and the associated Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Plan (CIMP); the CIMP is the all-encompassing monitoring plan that is intended to supersede the various existing monitoring programs, such as the Bacteria TMDL Compliance Monitoring Program (CMP), which is the subject of this item before you this evening; the CIMP was developed and a draft was submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board of Los Angeles on June 26, 2014; staff anticipated the Regional Board's approval of the CIMP by January 2015 and monitoring under the new program by March 2015; to date, the Regional Board has not issued an approval of the CIMP nor has it issued comments on the draft submitted; as a result, the City and its CMP partners must now extend the termination date of the CMP MOU to continue bacteria compliance monitoring until such time as the CIMP is approved and the program is up and running; should the Council accept the third amendment to the CMP MOU, bacteria monitoring will be extended for two additional years with an annual cost to the City in the amount of \$395.88, for which the City has already budgeted.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Third Amendment to the Malibu Creek Bacteria TMDL Coordinated Monitoring Plan (CMP) Implementation Agreement, at an estimated cost to the City of \$395.88 per year.

B. January 5, 2015 Calabasas Library Commission Meeting - Report

Resident Britt Aaronson, who represents the City on the Calabasas Library Commission, presented the following report:

the five voting member Commission meets four times per year; per an agreement between the two cities, she serves on the Commission as a non-voting member, but can participate in all discussions and have access to all information; as of 1/5/15, Hidden Hills has paid to the City of Calabasas \$246,000 of the estimated annual \$258,000 expected, which is to be used for an e-book platform, with half of the funding directed to the needs of Calabasas and half to the needs of the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD); the library staff has been implementing this platform for months, in conjunction with the LVUSD, and will also be implementing a movie platform; the services are being used by the residents of Hidden Hills, but we should continue to encourage residents who do not have a library card to get one and take advantage of this great resource; she believes what Hidden Hills has done as a City in working with Calabasas and the LVUSD is to be commended, as it is helping to provide wonderful library services for our residents, increasing technology, and helping students; by streamlining and putting into place more efficient budget practices, the library budget ended the 2013-2014 fiscal year with a positive balance of \$61,464.02, bringing the fund balance to a negative \$5,260.02, which had been projected as a \$60,000 negative.

Council Member Freedland pointed out that the money Hidden Hills is giving to Calabasas is from County property taxes earmarked for library services, not from the City's general fund. The City Attorney added that the Hidden Hills funding is not meant to subsidize library services but to supplement those services.

In response to Council Member Siegel, Ms. Aaronson said you can check out e-books (depending on how many are already checked out and how many are still available - just like with actual books on a shelf), as well as reference books, magazines, and newspapers. She added that one can find directions on how to use the system on the website, although it could be a little more user friendly.

Council Member Cohen was concerned that the LVUSD was not using its portion of the funding, which Ms. Aaronson assured him was not the case - there is a process involved and they look at demand to determine what books and services are needed for the students. Council Member Freedland pointed out that library cards were distributed to students in their classes, and the LVUSD does have a liaison to work with the Calabasas library personnel.

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz said she recently talked with Margaret Todd from the County Library system, who said she had heard about the e-platform and was very pleased with the program and the use of the City of Hidden Hills' funds. Mayor Landon also reported that the Mayor of Calabasas, at the State of the City address, commended and thanked Hidden Hills for its role in working with Calabasas both in connection with the library and also with the proposed annexation of Craftsman's Corner.

Council Member Freedland thought it might be worth opening a discussion with the City of Calabasas and possibly renegotiating the existing five year agreement to make the Hidden Hills representative a voting Commissioner. Everyone thought that was a good idea. Ms. Aaronson and the City Manager will raise that issue with the Calabasas city staff.

C. September 1, 2013 - December 31, 2014 Annual Calabasas Library Services Report

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of February 23, 2015 at the hour of 8:35 p.m.


Marv Landon, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager