

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, July 13, 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, July 13, 2015 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Larry Weber called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

Mayor Larry G. Weber
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Marv Landon
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff:

City Treasurer Michael Blazenski
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

Absent:

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Cohen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the July 13, 2015 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Weber made the following announcements:

Happy Birthday to City Clerk Deana Graybill on 7/19.

He and his wife had the pleasure of attending a reception in Anaheim over the weekend for the Dali Lama.

Council Member Siegel wanted to remind everyone of the Thursday night BBQs at the Community Center, with good food and good entertainment for the younger kids.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING

**Minor Accommodation
25005 Lewis and Clark Road
Addition to an Existing Nonconforming Residence**

Mayor Weber, Council Member Freedland, and Council Member Landon all reported visiting the site, while Council Member Siegel did not.

The following staff report was presented by City Engineer Dirk Lovett:

the two story single family residence is an existing nonconforming building that encroaches into the front yard setback; the applicant is requesting a minor accommodation to construct an addition in the rear outside of the setback, but also to renovate the existing structure within the front yard setback; notices were sent to surrounding property owners and posted as required; no written comments were received

to date; however, there are some residents in the audience who have expressed a desire to speak on the subject; the one acre lot has a small building pad with a steep up-slope in the rear; other homes in the area have similar setbacks and encroachments; the existing building is 4874 square feet with a front yard setback of 28'6" (the normal front yard setback is 50'); the applicant wants to alter the front of the existing home in the front yard setback and construct second story additions outside of the setback, bringing the total square footage of the residence to 5518 square feet; the alterations to the existing building will not enlarge or extend the building further into the setback; per the Municipal Code, if an applicant is remodeling or renovating more than 50% of an existing nonconforming building, the applicant has to either remove the building from the setback, or request a variance or minor accommodation; the minor accommodation being requested requires that the Council make one finding for approval - that the minor accommodation will not have a material adverse impact on the public welfare or adjacent property; staff feels the finding can be made, as none of the proposed improvements would encroach any further into the required setbacks, the proposed improvements within the setbacks will not be out of conformance with other homes on Lewis & Clark Road, and other existing houses on Lewis & Clark Road are as close or closer to the road easement than this proposed house; staff would therefore recommend approval of the minor accommodation and adoption of the proposed resolution.

At this time, Mayor Weber opened the public hearing. In response to questions from Council Member Freedland and Council Member Siegel, Rob Rothman (who said his wife owns the property) and the designer/builder stated the following:

the only work being done on the part of the building that encroaches into the setback is to change the facade and the windows; the rock is being removed and a new roof installed; the footprint will remain the same, and nothing is being added in the setback; the windows will be changed but will remain exactly the same size; it will be reroofed, but the existing roof line remains the same; there is no structural modification at the outside envelope of the house that is within the front yard setback; they have received Association approval.

Resident and neighbor Brian Milman then addressed the Council, raising the issue of a fence that Mr. Rothman was planning to install near Mr. Milman's property. Mr. Milman, resident and neighbor Helene Schacter, and Mr. Rothman then all took part in a fairly lengthy discussion with the Council Members. The Council Members made it very clear that they were addressing a minor accommodation that had nothing to do with the fence; in fact, the Council Members were not saying the fence might not be an issue, but the fence is not something the City has any

jurisdiction over or issues permits for, and if this was something the neighbors wanted to pursue, it would seem they had several options - sit down and work it out together, talk to the Association (which may or may not have jurisdiction over this particular fence), or seek civil remedies.

Mayor Weber closed the public hearing. Council Member Freedland felt that since there was no further encroachment into the setback than what was already existing, the finding could be made and the minor accommodation should be granted. Council Members Landon and Siegel agreed. As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to make the required finding, approve the minor accommodation, and adopt by title only Resolution No. 885 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS SITTING AS THE PLANNING AGENCY APPROVING A REQUEST FOR A MINOR ACCOMMODATION TO ALTER AN EXISTING NONCONFORMING RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 25005 LEWIS & CLARK ROAD.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes - June 22, 2015
- B. Demand List

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Landon 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 6/23/15 Hidden Hills Community Association Board Meeting

Community Association Board Member and City liaison Bret Katz informed the Council of the following:

there is a lot of slurry seal work being done on the streets right now, with a schedule being sent out to everyone; they are also working on parkway renovations, to improve the overall look and feel and to correct problem areas; trail repairs are being completed off of Jed Smith; they are looking into replacing all the lights in the office with LED lights, hoping to save some money; the carpeting was also recently replaced in the Community Center; the new flooring looks very good and should last a long time; a variance at 5808 Hilltop was approved; he hopes everyone is attending the Thursday night BBQs.

Council Member Freedland observed someone spray painting the utility locations on the pavement one day, to just have the markings destroyed when the asphalt was scraped off the next day, followed by the original person having to return and spray the utility locations again. City Engineer Dirk Lovett thought there might be some conflict between the slurry seal work and the work on the parkways. Council Member Freedland suggested there should be better communication and coordination. Mr. Katz said he would look into the matter. Council Member Siegel commented on how great the new flooring looked at the Community Center, with Mayor Weber complimenting the slurry work that was done on his street this morning.

B. Consideration of Approval of a Proposal to Provide Investment Advisory Services to the City

City Treasurer Mike Blazenski stated the following:

the City received two proposals and had a presentation by each of the two firms at the last Council meeting; the Council could choose to go either way - with a firm that would act as a manager, which would require a contract specifying the services, or with a broker/dealer that would not require a contract; he listed some of the pros and cons of each in his memo; he would suggest that with either selection, the Council not allow repurchase agreements, which were an issue when Orange County had major financial problems; after the initial decision and investments are made, there will not be that much ongoing activity; both firms are very reputable.

Council Member Landon felt that even though both firms would do a good job, he liked the idea of Wells Fargo, who manages millions of dollars for others, taking on the fiduciary responsibility of investing so the staff, who is not specifically trained in that regard, would not have to spend the time involved and be responsible for all the investment decisions. City Treasurer Blazenski

pointed out that Higgins, even though the original proposal was to provide broker/dealer services, did say they would be able to manage the City's investments under contract, if that is what the City wanted, at a rate of .0025%.

Council Member Freedland said he struggled with the decision, as there would be a management fee with Wells Fargo, even though both firms would be buying similar products for the City; however, in the end he thought it might be better to go with the larger firm with more capital, and would prefer Wells Fargo, who also had a much better presentation to the Council.

Council Member Siegel agreed that there would not be much difference in what each firm would purchase for the City and what the bottom line would be with the amount the City has to invest, as the investments have to be very conservative per the City's investment policy, and that he would be more comfortable with Wells Fargo as the larger firm.

Mayor Weber stated that even though both firms would be very similar, he felt Higgins would provide a much more personal, hands-on approach, as opposed to Wells Fargo that would treat the City exactly the same as everyone else; and as far as the fiduciary responsibility, that's why the City has a City Treasurer. Council Member Siegel pointed out that Wells Fargo is local and promised to come out to the City quarterly to provide an in-person report. He stated that perhaps Higgins would be willing to do the same, but they are a small shop in San Diego, and that each Council Member just had to go with whom they felt more comfortable, since there is really not much difference.

As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland and seconded by Council Member Landon, it was resolved on a 3-1 roll call vote, with Mayor Weber voting against, to accept the proposal from Wells Fargo and direct staff to return as soon as possible with a draft contract for Wells Fargo to provide investment services to the City, making it clear

that Wells Fargo is to attend Council meetings quarterly to present reports in addition to the monthly written reports.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Acceptance of Proposal for Micro-Surfacing Project at All Three City Entrances

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

staff obtained bids to resurface and restripe the City's streets outside of all three gates and the City Hall parking lot; we will use micro-surface, which is very similar to slurry seal and applied the same way; however, it cures chemically rather than through evaporation, so the streets and the gates (each of which will have to be closed for a time) will be opened much quicker; the micro-surface is very durable and will last a lot longer; there is some awkward timing involved, as the work cannot be done at City Hall during normal business hours, at the school on a school day, or in front of Boething Treeland except for after 2:00 p.m. on a Tuesday or Wednesday; with this schedule, the project will most likely be done over the Christmas break, or possibly during spring break; the contractor will hold his rates until those times; the low bid of \$121,904 was provided by American Asphalt South, Inc., a company that has done very acceptable work for the City in the past; staff would also ask for approval of a 10% contingency for any unforeseen situations so work would not need to be stopped for additional Council approval; no general fund money will be used for the project, as restricted Prop C and Flexible LACMTA funds (some of which are expiring and need to be used) will cover the entire cost.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from American Asphalt South, Inc. to micro-surface and restripe the City Hall parking lot and portions of Spring Valley Road, Long Valley Road, and Round Meadow Road, outside of all three gates, at a cost of \$121,904, with a 10% contingency, bringing the total possible cost to \$131,094.

B. Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Designating Officials Authorized to File for Certain Federal or State Financial Assistance Pertaining to State Disasters

The City Manager presented the following staff report:

in case of a disaster, the City can apply to FEMA and the state for reimbursement of certain expenses incurred during the disaster; this is not a requirement, as a resolution can be approved by the Council for a specific disaster when it occurs; but having the resolution on file means there is one less thing the City has to worry about at the time of a disaster; the City adopted the same resolution in 2012, which has been kept on file by the state for three years; that resolution is expiring, thus the request for the new resolution; the resolution designates by title the City Manager, the Emergency Services Coordinator, the City Engineer, and the City Clerk as authorized agents to file an application to obtain certain federal and/or state financial assistance; all other cities in Area B designate staff, not Council Members or Public Safety Commissioners, as they all have other responsibilities during and after a disaster.

Council Member Freedland pointed out that reimbursement for any expenses is not done immediately during the disaster, as there would not be an accounting of the expenses until later, and it makes sense that at least one of the four positions being designated would be available and would be aware of and familiar with the paperwork to be completed. Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 886 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING THOSE OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO FILE APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO OBTAIN CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

C. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Party Faces to Provide Face Painting During the Fiesta Evening Activities

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from Party Faces to provide face painting at this year's Fiesta from 4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Spring Valley arena at a cost of \$750.

**D. Consideration of Issuance of Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
September 1st - September 30th, 2015**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to issue a proclamation, as read by Mayor Weber, proclaiming September 1st - September 30th, 2015 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

E. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - June

The report was received and filed.

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 13, 2015 at 8:23 p.m.



Larry G. Weber, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager