

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, September 26, 2011

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 26, 2011 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

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

Staff:

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the September 26, 2011 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Wednesday (9/28/11).

City Hall and the Community Center will be closed on Monday, 10/10, in observance of Columbus Day.

Happy birthday to Bookkeeper Randee Weinberger (10/13) and to Building Inspector Steve O'Hara (10/15).

The Community Association/Parks & Recreation Committee Halloween party will be held on Sunday, 10/23, at the Community Center; call the HHCA for details.

On behalf of the Council, he would like to thank everyone who helped with the Fiesta this year, especially the three co-chairmen Bonnie Frank, Bret Katz, and Lisa Moriarity, and Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill; the Council will officially recognize everyone at a future meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Stuart Siegel recognized Calabasas Mayor James Bozajian, who was in the audience.

AUDIENCE

Calabasas Mayor James Bozajian addressed the Council regarding three items: 1) he thanked the Council for always asking Calabasas to participate in and attend the Fiesta, and always with a very cordial and warm invitation, 2) he invited everyone to attend the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival 10/15-16/11 at Juan Bautista de Anza Park, and 3) he presented a plaque from the City of Calabasas, honoring Hidden Hills' 50th anniversary, to Mayor Cohen.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - August

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan presented the following report:

She first thanked the Council for inviting the Fire Department to the Fiesta, which she enjoyed tremendously; during the month of August there were 13 responses, including 4 medical, 4 false alarms, and 5 snake removals; there were no fires, 2 Fire Prevention

Bureau inspections, and no plans checked; the Department finished the CERT training; out of 573 properties, 11 were originally not in compliance with brush clearing regulations; 6 of the 11 are now in compliance, 2 are working with the Fire Station to resolve their issues, and 3 have been turned over to the Brush Clearance Unit for enforcement; she'll provide those addresses to City Hall.

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

The following report was provided by the City's liaison Lt. Dave Thompson:

He enjoyed his first Fiesta, and thanked the City for inviting Sheriff's Department personnel, all of whom had a really good time; during the month of August there were no Part I crimes, dropping the crime rate down another 15%; there was one arrest in August, which was the result of an ongoing investigation by the Special Victims Unit; there were no traffic collisions, but 16 traffic citations issued, with 10 of those being hazardous, 4 non-hazardous, and 2 parking; the report originally showed 18 citations, but two of them have been removed; one was for speeding over 100 mph, and the other for speeding over 65 mph; both of these were on the freeway, but the Deputy mistakenly used Hidden Hills as the reporting district; of the 16 traffic citations, 13 were issued by the motors; no one was reported to the STTOP program in August, but the STTOP Deputy did set up the Bike Safety City at the Fiesta, and had numerous youngsters go through the safety program.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel asked Lt. Thompson to ask the Deputies to pay extra attention to underage children driving golf carts in the City, as he recently saw two children about the age of 12 driving a golf cart and pulling two other children behind on skateboards. Mayor Pro Tem Siegel reminded everyone that there was a bad golf cart accident several years ago involving underage children, and he would like to stop this before it gets out of hand.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Approval of an Ordinance Regarding the Grading of Ridgelines – First Reading

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz stated that the proposed ordinance presents the revisions, in various sections, discussed by the Council at the last meeting – clarification as to the measurement of a

ridgeline, the exemption in Section 5, and further clarification on grading with regards to the removal of vegetation.

Mayor Cohen opened the public hearing. As there were no comments, he closed the hearing. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give first reading by title only to an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS AMENDING THE STANDARDS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT ON RIDGELINES AND AMENDING THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – September 12, 2011**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – August**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – August**

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

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Report from 8/16/11 and 9/20/11 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meetings**

Community Association Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe provided the following report:

He first would like to offer congratulations on a very successful Fiesta, with everything seeming to run very smoothly; at the August 16th Board meeting, members of the new Horsemen group (now an Association Committee), chaired by Kate Perris, were appointed; a budget was approved for the group’s first event, a very successful gymkhana; they discussed DwellingLive gate operations software, which was tabled for further discussion; some of the local communities use this software, with an online demonstration available; it appears to be better than what they were considering last year;

they approved a budget for the Saddle Creek arena project, with a general contractor to oversee the project; they will take bids on individual line items, and if the general contractor is the low bidder, there will be no contractor's fee for that particular item; they approved parkway work, so were able to use DG from the arena, getting about 20% more repaired with that use (Council Member Freedland commented that the parkways look great); at the September 20th meeting, there was another presentation by DwellingLive, but during the discussion there was some confusion over the actual costs, so the matter was tabled; the Halloween party was approved for 10/23/11; the Hidden Hills Horsemen gymkhana went very well the week prior to the Fiesta; the grading contract has been approved for the Saddle Creek arena project, under the general contractor, with the grading and drainage to be done by Hutchinson Grading; thanks to the City staff for help in obtaining the necessary permits; the demo is done, some trees have been removed, and the area cleaned up, so they are moving forward this week; the assessment rate will remain at 27 cents for this upcoming year; the Association is required by the CC&Rs to use the assessment value of a home in effect as of 9/30, so if anyone is appealing the value of his/her home to the County, any modified value must be provided to the Association by that date.

The City Manager pointed out that City staff met with Association personnel and the general contractor at the Saddle Creek arena site today, and that grading would begin in the morning.

In response to Mayor Cohen, Mr. Wolfe said the ballots should be sent out in the next couple of weeks for the Association election to be held in November.

Council Member Weber congratulated the new Horsemen's group on a very successful and tasty pancake breakfast the Sunday morning of the Fiesta weekend.

B. Report from 9/20/11 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel said the main item addressed at the COG meeting was the L.A. County Flood Control District's draft ordinance, which is the next item to be discussed on this agenda, so he will provide his comments during that item.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Review of Los Angeles County Flood Control District Draft Ordinance Regarding a Parcel Related Fee to Enhance Water Quality and Reduce Pollution in Stormwater and Urban Runoff, and Consideration of Submittal of Comments

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (FCD) has developed a draft ordinance, to be placed on a future ballot, that would assess all Los Angeles County parcels to offset some of the costs relating to water quality improvement projects and programs; comments on the draft ordinance are due by 10/18; per the ordinance, the money collected would be shared with 40% going to cities, 50% to the Watershed Authority Groups (WAGs), and the rest to the County; based on an estimated \$50 per parcel, this would result in approximately \$12,000 - \$13,000 annually for Hidden Hills, but there are many responsibilities and obligations that would come with the money; there were concerns expressed at the last COG meeting, and staff has some additional concerns, including the fact that the money would have to be returned after five years if not used, which is not helpful for small cities; much of that money might have to be spent on the process and administration, leaving very little for actual projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel had several comments:

The City really has nothing to say about the ordinance being placed on the ballot, but we can comment on the ordinance itself; this will be asking people to assess themselves for something that is going to be very hard to explain; it will not improve drinking water, only stormwater runoff; it is not entirely clear how each property will be assessed, as the plan is to base the cost on the percentage of the impervious surface.

A discussion then occurred, during which the following issues were raised and points made:

If the cities are only getting 40% of the fee collected, each city will be subsidizing other area projects; the Santa Monica Bay WAG goes all the way down to the South Bay cities, which are not going to have a lot in common with our cities; only a very small portion of Hidden Hills is in the Santa Monica Bay WAG, with a majority of the city being in a different WAG; the idea to have a constant source of funding to help with water quality is certainly a good idea, but it seems very bureaucratic with lots of questions remaining; city or WAG projects over \$1 million will need to be approved by an oversight committee, and it is not at all clear what kind of appeal process exists and who will be allowed to appeal approved or denied projects; if the ballot initiative is approved, each city will have to take certain actions and form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and if that is not done, all of the money collected from that city could be entirely lost; it will be a mail in ballot, with only property owners voting (and they don't have to be registered

voters); the ordinance will pass if 50% of those property owners who return their ballots approve; is it possible to trade or sell the funds if not used by a city; will each WAG have an administrator, and if so, who will be paying for that administrator; the City should submit comments, but they should be sent to the County through the COG; the COG's Executive Director will compile all the five COG cities' comments, which would then hopefully carry more weight as opposed to coming from a single city.

As there were no further comments, staff was directed to draft a letter (that will be reviewed by Mayor Cohen and Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and then sent to the COG), expressing concerns and asking questions raised during the discussion.

B. Consideration of Cancellation of October 10, 2011 City Council Meeting

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to cancel the October 10, 2011 Council meeting, since City Hall will be closed in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - August

The report was received and filed.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:

Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a): Number of Potential Cases – 1

Paul Ottosi v. City of Hidden Hills, et. al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. LC 089678

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:17 p.m., at which time Mayor Cohen announced that in closed session the Council would be discussing the item listed above.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:26 p.m., at which time City Attorney Roxanne Diaz announced that the Council in closed session discussed the item listed above, and that no reportable action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of September 26, 2011 at 8:27 p.m.

Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk