

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, January 11, 2010

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, January 11, 2010 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Steve Freedland called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:	Mayor Steve Freedland Mayor Pro Tem Larry Weber Council Member Stuart E. Siegel
Staff:	City Attorney Roxanne Diaz City Engineer Dirk Lovett City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	Council Member Jim Cohen

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

Before the meeting proceeded, Mayor Freedland stated the following:

For those who may not have heard yet, Council Member Monty Fisher passed away on December 24th after battling lung cancer; Monty gave thirty years of his life to serve the Hidden Hills community, including time spent on the Gates Committee, the Roads Committee, and the Community Association Board of Directors, serving as its President; he was elected to three terms on the City Council, serving as the Mayor three times; to Monty's wife Teri and his family, he would like to offer the Council's and staff's deepest condolences on this tragic loss; Monty will be missed; he would also like to extend his personal thanks to City Attorney Roxanne Diaz, Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill, and Bookkeeper Randee Weinberger who helped facilitate the reception held at City Hall after the services for Council Member Fisher.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the January 11, 2010 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Freedland made the following announcements:

He would like to wish everyone a very happy new year.

Sunday, January 17th, is the last day for Christmas tree recycling; there are bins at the Community Center and in the upper City Hall parking lot.

City Hall, the Community Center, and Building & Safety will all be closed and there will be no inspections on Monday, January 18th, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber wished his daughter Aubrey a Happy Birthday, as she turned 19 this past Sunday. He also then commented that there have recently been a number of non-licensed motorized vehicles on the trails and roads, driven by underaged youngsters, which is illegal and a safety issue for both the drivers and horse riders.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Consideration of Approval of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Service Agreement for the Success Through Awareness and Resistance (STAR) Program for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

The City Manager provided the following staff report:

Funding for the STAR program was already approved with the adoption of the 2009-2010 City budget, but the contract is never received from the Sheriff's Department until later in the year; the amount is actually less than what was budgeted for; there will be six classes provided at Round Meadow School for grade levels 4 and 5, at a total cost of \$8914.49.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Service Agreement between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the City of Hidden Hills for services to be provided by the Sheriff's Department's Success Through Awareness & Resistance (STAR) Unit to six classes of 4th and 5th graders at Round Meadow School for the 2009-2010 school year, at a cost of \$8914.49.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – December 14, 2009**
- B. City Council Minutes – December 28, 2009**
- C. Demand List**
- D. Disbursement List – November**
- E. Financial/Treasurer's Report – November**

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

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. Report from 12/15/09 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting

Board President and City liaison Ron Wolfe presented the following report:

He would like to offer condolences to Teri Fisher on the loss of her husband, Monty Fisher, who will be missed by all; the Valentine Musicale will be presented on February 5th and 6th, with tickets going on sale January 22nd; tickets do sell out, so he would encourage everyone to get theirs early; since the Saddlecreek project was voted down by the community, the Board is inviting residents to come in and provide any thoughts and ideas regarding what should now be done with the property; two variances were approved.

B. Discussion of Filling a Vacancy on the City Council

Discussion and action on the various options presented to the City Council for filling the City Council vacancy due to the passing of Council Member Fisher

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz informed the Council of the following:

The office held by former Council Member Fisher has been deemed vacant as a matter of law due to his death; within thirty days from that vacancy (on or before January 23, 2010, which is a Saturday), the Council must either appoint a new Council Member or call a special election; if an appointment is made, there is no criteria as to how that appointment is made – it is just a matter of discussion; if a special election is called, it must be held on an established election date at least 114 days later; that date would be June 8, 2010; the seat would remain vacant until the results of that special election were certified; any person either appointed or elected at a special election would serve to the end of Council Member Fisher's current term, which would be March of 2011.

Mayor Freedland pointed out the following:

The Council's next regularly scheduled meeting is January 25, 2010, which would be too late to either appoint or call a special election, so something needs to be done before then; obviously, tonight's meeting will have to be adjourned to another date and time before January 23, 2010; in his personal opinion, a special election, that would cost approximately \$12,000 - \$15,000, would not be a wise use of City funds, especially since the person elected would only serve about eight months before the next regular election; he would like to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Weber and Council Member Siegel as an ad hoc committee to find a suitable person that the committee could recommend for appointment; the ad hoc committee could actually come back at the designated adjourned

meeting and recommend one person, recommend multiple people, or recommend no one; the Council Members in attendance at the adjourned meeting could then discuss the recommendation of the ad hoc committee and either come to an agreement on an appointment, or if there is no agreement, call a special election.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber and Council Member Siegel agreed to serve as the ad hoc committee. A discussion then occurred regarding everyone's schedule to determine a date and time to which tonight's meeting could be adjourned. As Mayor Pro Tem Weber would be unavailable at the beginning, and Council Member Siegel unavailable at the end, of the week of January 17th through January 23rd, and Council Member Cohen would be out of town all that week, the Council Members unanimously agreed to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15th.

In response to Council Member Siegel, the City Attorney explained that since there are only four current Council Members, three of which will be at the adjourned meeting, three Council Members would establish a quorum, and two of those Council Members would constitute a majority for appointment.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Adoption of Water Conservation in Landscaping Act – Second Reading

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give second reading to and adopt by title only Ordinance No. 329 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS REGARDING WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING AND AMENDING THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

B. Round Meadow/Long Valley Road Utility Undergrounding Project - Update

The following update was provided by City Engineer Dirk Lovett:

He has scheduled a preconstruction meeting for this Thursday for all the involved utilities, contractor, Community Association, and affected residents; they will be working on a schedule and plan details; one of the homeowners was unable to find some necessary title information, so the City is in the process of obtaining that information which is needed by Southern California Edison to prepare easements needed for the project; the Association has already provided information regarding required easements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn, at 7:46 p.m., the regular meeting of January 11, 2010 to Friday, January 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Steve Freedland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk