

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, November 8, 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, November 8, 2010 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem 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 Pro Tem Jim Cohen
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Larry Goldberg
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff:

City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

Absent:

Mayor Larry G. Weber

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

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 November 8, 2010 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen made the following announcements:

City Hall, the Building and Safety Department, and the Community Center will all be closed and there will be no inspections on Thursday, November 11th, in honor of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.

Happy Birthday to our videographer and Council Member Freedland's daughter Kelsey (11/12/10).

The filing period for the City's general municipal election, to be held on March 8, 2011, opens Monday, 11/15/10, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 12/10/10; if you are interested in running for the City Council, call Deana to make an appointment to pick up papers; call City Hall if you have any questions.

Happy Birthday to Council Member Goldberg's daughter Jessica (11/24/10).

Hanukkah begins at sundown on Wednesday, 12/1.

Happy Birthday to Council Member Freedland on Saturday, 12/11.

Happy Anniversary to Council Member Siegel and his wife Peggi on Sunday, 12/12.

Council Member Siegel had two additional announcements:

Happy Birthday to Mayor Pro Tem Cohen on Thursday, 11/11.

The five COG cities (Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, and Westlake Village) are sponsoring a free walk-up flu shot clinic from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 20th; the clinic will be held at the Calvary Community Church at 5495 Via Rocas in Westlake Village.

AUDIENCE

Bridle Trail resident Britt Aaronson addressed the Council, reading a letter to address some rumors and discussions that were going around the community regarding Ashley Construction, Inc. (ACI) and its actions and proposed development near the end of Bridle Trail Road. She asked the Council to 1) not approve any new plans until the tabled ACI application was formally withdrawn or denied, and public hearings were held, and 2) prevent ACI from using deceptive practices to further delay or distract from the application process. A copy of the letter that she read was submitted to the City Manager and will be placed in the City files.

Resident Bret Katz told the Council about a recent fire near his business that burned out all the phone lines, disrupting service for close to two days. This experience pointed out to him the importance of undergrounding utilities, and he expressed his appreciation for the undergrounding project that the City was conducting at this time, adding that he hoped the Council would continue with future undergrounding projects.

PRESENTATIONS

A. By Southern California Gas Company Regarding High Pressure Pipelines

Public Affairs Manager Andy Carrasco handed out brochures and addressed the Council on pipeline system safety, with some of the main points as follows:

The map provided in the Council packets shows three large transmission lines, one that runs parallel to the 101 freeway to the south, and two distribution lines adjacent to Hidden Hills, #404/406; off of these larger lines there are (not shown on the map) customer service lines; anyone that has gas service has a pipeline connecting to the house; they have existed for 140 years and have been relatively safe, but have been briefing cities and organizations since September, after the tragic San Bruno event, on the history of pipelines, where they exist, proactive measures taken to maintain the system, etc.; safety is their number one priority; they have 5.8 million meters serving about 20.5 million consumers in over 500 communities from Visalia in the north to the San Diego County line (about 20,000 square miles of diverse terrain covering half the state), at which point their sister company San Diego Gas and Electric services San Diego and south; the Gas Company meets or exceeds the state and federal pipeline safety regulations of three government entities, the California Public Utilities Commission, the

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB); they have 4000 miles of transmission lines, 48,000 miles of distribution lines, and 49,000 miles of service lines throughout the system, meaning they operate and maintain approximately 101,000 miles of pipelines in the service area; there are three different sizes of pipelines: 1) the large transmission pipelines with a diameter of 20"-36" and 200-400 pounds per square inch (psi), 2) distribution main lines from 2"- 20" in diameter with 40-200 psi, and 3) service lines (going directly into your house and meter) having a diameter of ½"- 2" and ¼ - 20 psi; in July they were doing work just north of here on lines #404/406, as they had been previously tested and showed potential anomalies; they dug and exposed the pipes, finding them to be sound and in good condition, after which they were wrapped up and covered; they use the following six pipeline safety practices: 1) monitor pressure and flow, 2) conduct leakage surveys at least annually, 3) patrol transmission pipelines by foot, vehicle, and sometimes helicopter, 4) inspect lines for corrosion (mainly from soil contacting the pipes), 5) cathodically protect transmission lines, and 6) corrosion monitoring probes inside the lines; the lines are monitored 24/7; there is a control center in Los Angeles that can look at the entire system and can tell if there is a differential in pressure at any point; they have both automatic and manual valves that can close sections for maintenance or in case of emergency; they also have more invasive methods for checking called their Pipeline Integrity Program; in 2002 the Feds passed a pipeline safety act mandating that all large companies having natural gas, oil, or chemicals monitor their pipelines internally in high population density areas, meaning they have to look inside the pipelines to see what is going on; they had to retrofit some pipelines inside with what is called a smart pig, which is a large piece of computer equipment with GPS and a magnetic field to record any anomalies in the pipes; this monitoring has to be repeated every seven years; they are about to finish the first cycle, and have started the second cycle in some areas; they do respond to incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week; their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is in Los Angeles, with a backup in Chatsworth; natural gas has no smell, which is why the rotten egg smell is added; the biggest culprit for pipeline issues is third parties – 2000 digs a year hit pipelines; it is very important before doing any digging to call the Underground Service Alert (USA) at 811, not just for natural gas, but also to have all utilities marked; the entire pipeline mapping system is on the socalgas.com website, so anyone can look there to see where pipelines are located; if anyone suspects a gas leak, that person should immediately call 800/427-2200.

Council Member Freedland had several questions, which Mr. Carrasco answered as follows:

The depth of the lines varies depending on the terrain and size of pipe; service lines to the home are 12" – 2' deep, the distribution lines are 2' - 3', and the larger transmission lines 2' – 4'; they are not allowed to trench with other utilities, so either trench alone or have at least a 2' buffer; he does not know how old the #404/406 lines are, but age does not dictate the integrity of a pipe; the integrity depends on the whole history, operating

conditions, maintenance, pressure, volume, whether or not it is a primary or secondary line, etc.; when some of the pipes are changed out, they try to go to yellow PVC, which doesn't corrode like metal; this is not done for the transmission lines, as PVC is not made large enough.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen asked if the lines serving Hidden Hills were recently inspected. Mr. Carrasco stated that the transmission lines were inspected in July, when there was a question regarding the lines, but the dirt was dug up and no anomalies or issues were found. City Engineer Dirk Lovett pointed out that the #404/406 lines were only about 20' north of City Hall.

B. 2010 Fiesta

Recognition of Fiesta Co-Chairmen Bonnie Frank and Bret Katz – Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, on behalf of the Council, thanked both Ms. Frank and Mr. Katz for doing such a terrific job resulting in a great event. He then presented an engraved crystal vase to Ms. Frank, and a City plaque to Mr. Katz, stating that the Council would love to see both of them co-chairing again next year.

Final Report – Council Member Siegel pointed out that the Fiesta expenses were slightly under the budgeted amount, with the income being a little more than what was expected. The report was received and filed.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – September 13, 2010**
- B. City Council Minutes – October 25, 2010**
- C. Demand List**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Goldberg and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (with Council Member Siegel abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting), B (with Council Member Goldberg abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting), and C of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. City of Calabasas Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Malamut Vintage Automotive Dealership (24439 Calabasas Road)

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

A Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, along with an Initial Study, for a proposed vintage automotive dealership has been forwarded to agencies, including Hidden Hills, to solicit comments by 11/19/10; the proposed project (across the freeway on Calabasas Road approximately ¼ mile east of Mureau Road) consists of a two-story 21,303 square foot building with two levels of subterranean parking and two levels of showrooms; the Calabasas staff concluded that there would be no significant effects on the environment; of interest to Hidden Hills is mainly the traffic, which was not studied at the intersection of Round Meadow and Mureau Roads, where school traffic impacts our City; the dealership would not be open in the mornings during the peak school drop-off times; the afternoon peak hour for the dealership is from 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m., with an estimated 26 trips coming and going, which does not coincide with the peak school pick-up time from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; staff feels the impact on the Round Meadow School traffic would be minimal, and would therefore recommend receiving the report, unless the Council would like to comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen pointed out that the hours of operation for the project would be from 9:00 a.m., after school begins, until 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Freedland made the following comments:

The traffic impacts appear to be negligible; however, the utility lines in this area are unsightly, and the construction for this project would provide an opportunity to underground them; he would like to see an informal comment (by telephone or letter) made to Calabasas, suggesting that the utilities be undergrounded.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen stated the following:

He looked at this plan earlier with Mr. Lovett, and noticed that 60 parking spots were required, but he could not see the 90 spots that the plan claimed; then it was discovered that there would be the two levels of subterranean parking, which should take care of the parking; however, he would like to assure that there is no parking on the north side of the road (freeway side) in front of the facility, as that would narrow the roadway and create unsafe conditions; to his knowledge, there is no parking allowed there now, but he would like to make sure that it is not permitted in the future.

Council Member Siegel thought some Measure R funds had been set aside to widen Calabasas Road down to Parkway Calabasas.

The City Manager suggested and the Council agreed that a very informal letter be sent to the City of Calabasas commenting on the two issues raised by Council Member Freedland and Mayor Pro Tem Cohen (the undergrounding of utilities and the continued prohibition of parking on the north side of the street).

B. Possible Cancellation of November 22, 2010 City Council Meeting

As there was no objection, the November 22, 2010 Council meeting, which falls at the beginning of Thanksgiving week, will be cancelled.

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

City Engineer Dirk Lovett stated that there was really nothing new to report at this time; there has been no construction since last week, but the utilities still plan on finishing up the project by the end of January.

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: 5208 Saddle Creek Road
APN 2049-16-900, APN 2049-16-901
City Negotiators: City Attorney, City Manager
Negotiating Party: Hidden Hills Community Association
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen announced that there was no need for a closed session this evening.

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 November 8, 2010 at 8:16 p.m.

Jim Cohen, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk