

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, November 27, 2006

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 27, 2006 at the hour of 7:40 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking Council Member Steve Freedland to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council: Mayor Jim Cohen
Mayor Pro Tem Monty E. Fisher
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff: City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

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 November 27, 2006 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

The Community Association/Parks & Recreation sponsored Winter Social will be held on this Sunday, 12/3, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; call the Community Center for more information.

The nomination/filing period for the City's general municipal election to be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8th; if you are interested in running for one of the three seats up for election, call City Hall to arrange to pick up papers or for additional information.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PRESENTATION

By Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) Board Members Regarding Possible City Support for Community Wide Technology

Mayor Cohen was honored to introduce LVUSD Board President Cindy Iser and Board Vice President Terilyn Finders, who were in attendance to discuss the need for the expansion of technology and funding. Ms. Finders addressed the Council as follows:

She is not here to make a formal presentation, but to brief the Council on recent meetings that have taken place between the District and the four cities it serves – Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village; she wished to thank the Council for participating in these cooperative meetings (Mayor Cohen and Council Member Freedland have been involved) to talk about shared interests; one blessing of this District is getting to work with many wonderful people committed to public education and keeping the schools strong; the complication, however, is serving more than one city with multiple people, Councils, and interests; all of this began about one year ago when the Mayors of all four cities met (Ron Berg was the Mayor at that time) and selected one subject, that being technology, on which to focus; before that, all four cities individually were partnering with the District, but they were not able to pool the monies for District wide benefit and optimal efficiency; the District was successful in passing Measure G for \$128 million; they will be investing \$3+ million annually for twenty years into the schools for hardware and equipment to bring the schools up to twenty-first century learning centers; at this early stage, with the existing budget, the District would like to

partner with the four cities for the manpower to make the technology work; she did not come with a request, but to thank the City for participating in the meetings; they do have a targeted dollar amount for the technology; hopefully financial support will come, but even if it does not, it is wonderful that everyone is talking together about shared interests; in the upcoming January meeting, those in attendance will discuss the process, protocol, and how to advance themes for the agenda, which could include environmental issues, such as water quality, or traffic, or anything to strengthen the schools and communities; the District is very fortunate since this is an affluent area with children who come to school well fed and ready to learn; but in the world of education, these children are not “needy” by definition, making the District of 12,000 not eligible for very much, if any, federal funding; they are working to stay competitive with neighboring Districts regarding salaries, as they want to hire and retain the best teachers; that means in the past, when they have faced budget cuts, they have made people a priority over machines, resulting in the District being behind in technology; Measure G money is designated for technology and facility needs, but there is no budget for staff development and infrastructure, which brings us back to the discussion of partnering with the cities; they have structured a three-year program at a cost of approximately \$50 per student per city, but this is just a beginning point for the discussions; not as any leverage, but for factual reference, the City of Beverly Hills and the City of Palo Alto both give their respective Districts \$6 million annually, while the City of Santa Monica gives its District \$5 million; it is different and a little more difficult with multiple cities, as the cities have in the past wanted to keep the funding they have provided in their own communities; they are hoping to continue these discussions regarding any issues of importance to Hidden Hills and the other communities, and to hopefully pool any funding for the benefit of the entire District.

Ms. Finders gave several examples of how technology could help the District, after which Council Member Freedland commented as follows:

Because we do live in an affluent community, the District does not get funding that other Districts do; this is a possible shift in thinking – how can we help support the District for what they do not get from the State; there is probably money for lower performing students, but this District’s students are high performing; the District does not have a large population of minority students; therefore the District is looking to the cities as a new approach for raising money so the District can compete with others that have additional resources not available here; there are questions to be answered – is it important and a value to our residents to have a first rate District, and does a first rate District help property values even if the owners do not have students in the District; he thinks the answer is yes; the \$55 per student for technology is just a preliminary number, which is not a lot of money for Hidden Hills at under \$18,000 annually; he thinks that is a

great value; some of the possible technology uses are very exciting proposals to which our children should be exposed.

At Council Member Freedland's request, Ms. Finders told of her own daughter going off to college and being very upset the first day, as she felt she did not have the technology background that other students seemed to have, and that she was starting out already behind, even though the District is very solid and provides an excellent education.

Mayor Cohen added his thoughts:

Ms. Iser and Ms. Finders were invited to provide information to the Council and the rest of the community; in the two previous meetings that he and Council Member Freedland attended, it has been acknowledged that the District is behind in technology; he believes the consensus of those at the meetings is that technology is the most important issue facing the District and the issue that should be addressed at this time; however, there are concerns regarding the source of funding – should it be public or private or from the corporate world; another question involves continuity, and how this program would continue in later years; will there be additional requests for funding; will the District be asking to extend Measure E, an existing parcel tax that will soon expire; when the District needs money, it should not be continually coming to the cities; budgets need to be set to provide the continuity if this proposal goes forward now.

The following comments were made by Council Member Siegel:

Years ago, when he first got on the Council, the Council made a decision not to tax the people in our community; the other cities can select from their pool of money and decide where that money gets allocated; this City's budget is approximately \$1 million, which is pretty closely balanced; these programs have a tendency to continue on and on; philosophically, he will have to get beyond that hurdle; on another note, he has three children that went through this school District, which is highly respected; his children received a stellar education, and have never been disadvantaged when compared to others; in fact, it has been the other way around – they have had an advantage over other students; to say that this District is falling behind is a bad signal that would encourage parents to place their children in private schools.

Ms. Finders responded as follows:

Her daughter was highly prepared in other critical areas, but there is no question that the technology is not available in our schools to the extent it is in other schools throughout the state and nation; some of what is learned depends on the level of the teacher's

technology skills; she has been on the Board for seven years during which the budget has been cut six years; when you face budget cuts, you make decisions about hardware vs. human beings; the technology has been cut rather than teachers, which is why you do see excellent education; the schools are distinguished and blue ribbon; the District is very high achieving; she is not sending a message that the schools are falling apart, but is sending a message that the Board works to protect excellent teachers; she would like to explore alternative education options; the English, math, art, and music programs are all exemplary; she could hide from the reality that the District is behind in technology, but that would be failed leadership and would not result in change.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stated that when he came to the Council, as Council Member Siegel has said, the Council wanted to eliminate as many taxes as possible, and he agrees with that. He has no children in the District, but suggested that if a proposal is made to the Council, the Council Members will discuss it and do what they can if possible.

Ms. Finders made these final comments:

The District is dealing with four cities which sometimes do not agree on where money should be spent to make a difference; the question is how the District and the four cities can work together to benefit our schools; the schools are not failing our children; this is about whether or not the Council Members choose to take part in this vision, and if so, to what extent; the single most important part of a child's education is the teacher; the District has strived to protect those teachers, which is why the District finds itself in this position; this District is not eligible for much of the funding that other Districts receive; this technology proposal is just the centerpiece that has been put on the table at this time; she hopes the five party discussions can continue, and that the Council Members will listen to their constituents to bring forward issues of interest that can be explored.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - October

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan provided the following report:

During October there were a total of thirteen responses including: four rescue/EMS, one fire (dumpster on Long Valley – no damages), three false alarm/good intent, two snake removals, one public assist, one water problem (fixed before the Department arrived), and one flooding problem (no details); all brush inspections have been completed; properties in Hidden Hills are 100% in compliance.

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

The following report was provided by Lt. John Benedict:

There were two thefts in the month of October; one occurred in the 24000 block of Long Valley, with a cell phone being taken from an unlocked vehicle; the second involved money taken from a purse by the victim's son in the 5800 block of Hilltop; there was one traffic collision on Spring Valley at Eldorado Meadow; a vehicle in the #1 lane going 10 mph made an unsafe lane change and collided with another vehicle resulting in no injuries; thirty hazardous citations were issued, mostly for running stop signs; there were four non-hazardous citations, one parking citation, and four false alarms.

C. Consideration of Approval of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Service Agreement for the Success Through Awareness and Resistance (STAR) Program for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Deputy Robert Amstutz provided the following information:

Deputy Michael Shapiro is the new STAR Deputy; this program started in 1985 as the SANE program, which has since been changed to STAR; it is taught to the 4th and 5th graders at Round Meadow; the Deputy visits each class approximately eight times per year, with each visit being about 45 minutes long; the curriculum is called "Too Good for Drugs", which is supplied by the Mendez Foundation and can be reviewed online; the curriculum evolves around decision making, life skills, goal setting, and drug education; the Deputy also likes to spend time with the youngsters on campus outside of the classroom (recess, lunch) to help create and build positive relationships and friendships with the students; STAR also continues at A.E. Wright or Alice C. Stelle Middle Schools in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and then at Calabasas High School in the 9th grade; so for five or six years, the messages from the STAR Deputy and parents, if they are doing their job, continue to be reinforced.

Council Member Siegel pointed out that he supported the program, but would still like to know if there was any way to measure the success of the program. Deputy Amstutz replied as follows:

They do not have formal numbers or statistics to show that the program works; he would suggest talking to parents of children who have gone through the program; personally, he feels if parents are doing their job, the STAR deputy is reinforcing that; some students, because of what is happening at home, may not be helped; but some students are on the fence, and he feels those are the true target audience; the DARE program is just one semester, with perhaps one refresher course along the way; the STAR program continues for five or six years, and that continuity makes a huge difference.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Service Agreement for fiscal year 2006-2007 between the L.A. 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 seven 4th and 5th grade classes for ten months at Round Meadow School at a cost of \$10,062.67.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – November 13, 2006**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – October**
- D. Financial/Treasurer's Report – October**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher 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 COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Report from 11/21/06 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

City Manager Cherie Paglia provided the following report:

The Association selected new officers: President Steve Straub, Vice-President Michael Silberman, Secretary Jill Rosenberg, and Treasurer Ron Wolfe; Mr. Wolfe will also serve as the Association's liaison to the City, so will be attending many of the Council meetings in the future; the Association obtained a permit to construct the new archway sign at the Long Valley gate; assessments are due by December 10th or will be considered late; a budget was approved for the winter social.

- B. Report from 11/21/06 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting/Subregional Briefing**

Council Member Siegel presented the following report from the Subregional Briefing:

All the five cities were represented, along with SCAG, Caltrans, the LVUSD, the LVMWD, the Sheriff and Fire Departments, State Parks, and the California Highway Patrol; the Caltrans District 7 Director presented some very interesting information regarding some of the new bond measures that were passed in the recent election; there will be opportunities to use money in areas that will affect us, mainly the northbound 405 freeway through the Valley, and possibly some widening via restriping of the 101 freeway in this area; the new State Assemblymember elect for this area, Julia Brownley, was introduced and addressed the group.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, who also attended the meeting, commented that the voters were very good to government agencies in this last election, and these agencies are planning on ways to improve transportation mainly, but also looking at other projects.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that staff has been in communication with the EIR consultant retained by the City, and that a kick-off meeting has been scheduled in approximately two weeks with the staff, developer, and consultant.

B. Consideration of Approval of Malibu Creek Watershed Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan Cooperative Financial Agreement – Caltrans Agreement No. 07-4750

Council Member Siegel pointed out that by participating in this preliminary step, as discussed during the earlier study session, the City would not be closing off other possible options for addressing water quality issues in the Malibu Creek Watershed. Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Malibu Creek Watershed Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan Cooperative Financial Agreement, with the City's cost to be \$1359.

C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - October

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 Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of November 27, 2006 at 8:32 p.m.

Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk