

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 12, 2007

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, March 12, 2007 at the hour of 7:32 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking his daughter, Dana Cohen, 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
Deputy City Clerk Deana L. Graybill

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 March 12, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

He thanked everyone who voted in the City's election this past Tuesday, and also the following poll workers: Eleanor DeCarteret, Andrea Josephson, Nancy Phillips, and Jane Trotman; these four, along with Debbie Seror, counted the ballots, and did an excellent job, as did Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill throughout the entire election period; there was a 23% voter turnout.

He invited everyone in attendance to join the Council after the meeting for an informal reception and refreshments, with another large thank you to Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill, who planned the reception and made most of the refreshments herself.

He wished Bookkeeper Randee Weinberger a speedy recovery from her recent back surgery.

The CERT emergency training classes have started; they are being held here at City Hall on Wednesday evenings; if anyone is interested in attending any of the classes, call City Hall for more information.

There are three seats on the Public Safety Commission up for reappointment for two year terms beginning May 1st; the Council will also appoint one person to fill the remaining one year of Commissioner Larry Weber's seat, as he was just elected to the City Council; applications are due to the City Manager by Monday, 3/19.

The annual Spring Food Drive, to benefit the West Valley Food Pantry, will be held from Saturday, 3/17, through Saturday, 3/24.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

CERTIFICATION OF 3/6/07 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS – PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 796 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS RECITING

THE FACT OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON MARCH 6, 2007, DECLARING THE RESULT AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS PROVIDED BY LAW. The Certificate of Canvass showed the following results, for three seats for the City Council: Larry Weber – 191; Stuart Siegel – 187; Monty E. Fisher – 152; Kimila W. Ulrich – 129; Todd Bernstein – 106.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECT – JUDGE MICHELLE ROSENBLATT

- A. **Monty E. Fisher (Incumbent)**
- B. **Stuart E. Siegel (Incumbent)**
- C. **Larry G. Weber**

Judge Michelle Rosenblatt congratulated the newly elected Council Members, quoted from Harold S. Kushner’s book entitled “Living a Life that Matters”, and then stated the following:

Each of the elected Council Members should be commended for the way they give back to the community; a City could not run without people like them; serving on the City Council is one of the most consuming and important forms of commitment that a resident can be involved in; each of them should be thanked for their dedication.

Judge Rosenblatt provided background information on each of the newly elected Council Members, administered the Oath of Office to each of them individually, and then presented each with a Certificate of Election.

D. Remarks by City Council Members Elect

Council Member Fisher thanked everyone who voted for him in this close election, as it was much appreciated. He added that it was an honor and privilege to serve on the City Council, especially with his colleagues, who do an outstanding job.

Council Member Siegel thanked all those who supported and voted for him, and especially those who sent very nice emails and notes. He stated that he very much appreciated the support, and appreciated the honor to serve on the Council.

Council Member Weber thanked all those who voted in the election, and those who supported him and encouraged him to run for the Council, especially Dr. Brian Herdeg, whom he considers a mentor. He also wished to thank his wife and children, who are very supportive of him, knowing that serving on the Council may take a lot more of his time.

REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

A. Presentations to Outgoing Mayor Cohen

City Manager Cherie Paglia introduced the following dignitaries who were in attendance, each of whom presented certificates of recognition and/or offered words of congratulations and thanks to outgoing Mayor Cohen for a successful year: Field Deputy Hilda Garcia/State Senator Sheila Kuehl's office; District Director Louise Rishoff/State Assembly Member Julia Brownley's office; Captain Tom Martin/L.A. County Sheriff's Department – Lost Hills Station; Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee/L.A. County Fire Department; Community Services Representative Maria Grycan/L.A. County Fire Department; Board Member Cindy Iser/Las Virgenes Unified School District; Board Member Dave Moorman/Las Virgenes Unified School District; Board Treasurer Charlie Caspary/Las Virgenes Municipal Water District; Board President Steve Straub/Hidden Hills Community Association; Board Treasurer and City Liaison Ron Wolfe/Hidden Hills Community Association; Field Deputy Cynthia Scott/Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher read a letter from Congressman Henry Waxman addressed to Mayor Cohen, expressing gratitude for his commitment and dedication to public service, and then presented to Mayor Cohen, on behalf of the entire Council, a gavel plaque commemorating his past year as Mayor.

B. Remarks by Outgoing Mayor Cohen

Mayor Cohen stated the following:

He would like to express gratitude to the residents who gave him the opportunity and honor of serving this past year, and to his fellow colleagues, including former Council Member Ron Berg, for their dedication, guidance, and cooperation; thank you to the staff here at City Hall, the attorneys, and City Treasurer Eddie Bauch for a year of dedication and accomplishments; thank you to the Sheriff and Fire Departments, who work very well with the City; thanks to the Community Association, with whom the City shares a very good relationship; and last but not least, he would like to thank his wife Joanne, daughter Dana, son Brian, and other family and friends for their support and, when needed, patience; the City itself is in good financial condition; it has been a good year with no natural or unnatural disasters, not due to his accomplishments, but just a fortunate occurrence; this past Fiesta, chaired by Lisa Moriarity with the help of other volunteers, was probably one of the best ever, and he hopes it will be even better this year, again with Lisa's help; there have been some important accomplishments, some of which people may not recognize; all old and damaged traffic signs throughout the City have been replaced, and new ones installed where needed; the Council is studying the feasibility of undergrounding utilities, and the feasibility of improving cell phone coverage throughout the community, which might hopefully include making this a wireless City; these two projects are in the very preliminary stages at this time; the Council is looking at a landscaping/beautification project for the Round Meadow/Mureau corner, which will hopefully be completed in the next several months; thanks to the dedication of individual Council Members, the City has a very good relationship with other governmental agencies, including the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the four other cities in this region; it is very important to discuss items of mutual interest and concern; it has been a very quiet but productive year, and he would wish the same for the next Mayor; he again would like to thank everyone for giving him this opportunity.

C. Remarks by Other Council Members

Council Member Freedland – Yes, it has been a good year; some very important projects have been started this year, not the least of which has been the work that he and Mayor Cohen have been doing with the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD); the City will have an opportunity coming up shortly to support the LVUSD's technology project, which hopefully will be looked at and studied very carefully; this opportunity and possible support would be in conjunction with the three other cities in the District, which has not been done before; the undergrounding project is in its infancy, and he looks forward to working on this project during the next Mayor's term; the undergrounding, along with the landscape project, will add a lot to the community; Mayor Cohen did a good job, especially since it was his first time as Mayor; it has been a pleasure serving with him and the other Council Members.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher – For him, this is a very safe and comfortable City, because of the people who live here, the City Council, the staff, the Association, and everyone who cares about the City; everyone is lucky to be here; he would like to thank his wife Teri, who supports him even when she thinks he is wrong; he feels very lucky to work with this Council, which includes some of the very brightest people; the Council Members do not always agree, but that is okay; the community is blessed to have these Council Members and this staff; it is America at its best; he has enjoyed being the Mayor Pro Tem, and responding to and working with Mayor Cohen when called upon; thanks to the other Council Members for electing him to the Mayor Pro Tem position, and to the residents who voted him into office.

Council Member Siegel – Having spoken earlier, he had nothing further to add at this time.

Council Member Weber – He wished to thank Mayor Cohen and the other Council Members for their dedication, and is looking forward to working with each of them.

D. Selection of Mayor

Mayor Cohen asked for nominations for the Mayor position. Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel and seconded by Council Member Freedland, it was resolved to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Fisher for Mayor. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stated the following:

It is an honor and privilege to serve as Mayor, which he has done several times in the past; however, due to time constraints, he would like to respectfully decline the Mayor position, but would like to be considered again for the Mayor Pro Tem position; he feels that Council Member Siegel has been representing the City very well outside of the community, and believes it would be appropriate for him to serve as the Mayor at this time.

Based on Mayor Pro Tem Fisher's comments, Mayor Siegel withdrew his MOTION. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and seconded by Council Member Freedland, it was resolved to nominate Council Member Siegel for Mayor. There being no other nominations, it was resolved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Council Member Siegel, electing him to the position of Mayor. Mayor Siegel thanked the other Council Members, and then was presented with the ceremonial gavel by outgoing Mayor Cohen.

E. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Siegel asked for nominations for the Mayor Pro Tem position. Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland and seconded by Council Member Cohen, it was resolved to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Fisher to again serve as the Mayor Pro Tem. There being no other nominations, it was resolved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, reelecting him to the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

F. Remarks by Incoming Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Siegel commented as follows:

He wished to thank Council Member Cohen, who as the Mayor spent a large amount of time on a large number of different projects; the beautification project at the corner of Round Meadow and Mureau Roads should begin shortly, due to the hard work of Council Member Cohen and Council Member Freedland; he would like to thank his wife Peggi and daughter Jenna; as he has always told Mayor Pro Tem Fisher when they do not agree on something, civility is better, but sometimes disagreement is good; if there are too many 5-0 votes, maybe someone is not doing their homework; the spirit of debate is good, and should never be personal.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher wished to once again thank outgoing Mayor Cohen and the rest of the Council Members.

The City Manager, on behalf of the staff, thanked former Mayor Cohen, who was always available to staff, and spent a great deal of time studying projects and other matters in great detail and reviewing and discussing those matters with staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – February 26, 2007**
- B. Demand List**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (with Council Member

Weber abstaining on just this item as he was not a Council Member at the time) and B of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. 2007 Fiesta

Discussion and Choice of Theme – After a short discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve “Mariachi Madness”, as suggested by Mayor Siegel’s wife Peggi Siegel, as the theme for the 2007 Fiesta.

Consideration of Approval of Proposal from In ‘N’ Out Burger – Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the In ‘N’ Out Burger Mobile Unit Agreement to provide two trucks for two hours each for this year’s Fiesta, providing approximately 600 burger meals at an approximate cost of \$3,732, with a \$1000 deposit to be paid by March 16, 2007.

Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Helm & Sons Amusements – This item will be discussed at the next Council meeting on March 26th.

B. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that the Notice of Preparation for the Draft Environmental Impact Report was sent to all responsible agencies on March 2, 2007. These agencies now have thirty days to respond.

C. Consideration of Revisions to Proposed Landscape Plans for Round Meadow/Mureau Corner and Expenditure for Design of Final Revised Plans

City Engineer Dirk Lovett presented the following staff report:

At the 2/12/07 meeting, the general feeling of the Council Members was that the final plans for this project were too costly; as directed, staff met with Council Members Cohen and Freedland to review the plans in an effort to lower the costs without reducing the quality; following are some of the proposals to reduce the costs that came from that meeting; staff discovered that the Millers (on the corner of Round Meadow/Jed Smith) had a gazebo that was in pretty good shape that they were going to demolish; when asked, the Millers agreed to give the gazebo to the City; a contractor was hired by the City to move the gazebo, all in one piece, to its present location at the back corner of the Round Meadow School parking lot, where it sits awaiting the Council's decision on its use; if a pre-fab gazebo was purchased, it would have needed designed footings; with the acquired gazebo, the standard footing design for patio covers can be used; if the timing works out, there are some contractors within the City who would be willing to take some or all of the soil from the project site; there were stairs proposed leading up to a small area with a single bench; that set of stairs and the flagstone can be removed; the number of boulders proposed for the site can be reduced to about one-third, while the shrubs can be reduced by one-half (more can be added in the future if so desired); brush or broom finished concrete can be used in place of stamped concrete; the water pressure was checked, and since it is high enough, the pump can be eliminated from the plans; it was suggested that a drinking fountain be added, so he has provided several options ranging from a concrete aggregate fountain (approximately \$4000), to stainless steel (approximately \$2000), to a very cheap pipe and spigot attached to the gazebo; staff would recommend the concrete aggregate, which would be more sturdy; staff will continue to look for other cost savings; for example, if the City could obtain wood chips or boulders from other sources, that would result in further cost reductions; the original engineer's estimate was \$193,000; the above mentioned changes could reduce the costs to approximately \$121,000, plus an additional \$2000 for the landscape architect to redesign the plans to incorporate the proposed changes, resulting in a reduction of approximately \$70,000; staff is also planning on using (subject to MTA approval) approximately \$18,800 in TDA bicycle/pedestrian funds, which would result in the City spending approximately \$104,000 from general funds for the project; staff would recommend that the plans be redesigned, and that the ad hoc committee be authorized to approve the final plans, which can then be put out for bid; once bids are obtained, those bids would come before the Council for consideration.

Council Member Freedland commented as follows:

He thought staff did a good job in reducing the costs, that would come from the general funds, to almost half; it was very good timing for the gazebo, and he would definitely like to see it incorporated into the design of the project; he suggested that staff check with the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) to see if the free composting they give away could be used; hopefully the water fountain cost would be less than the estimate, but he would like to see a concrete aggregate fountain used for maintenance purposes.

City Engineer Lovett stated that the compost from the LVMWD was very fine and did not have any wood chips in it, but some of the fine compost could probably be used.

Council Member Cohen thought this was now probably a workable design, and that the Council should proceed with the project, continuing to see if there might be other ways to reduce the costs.

Council Member Weber had several questions on the trees that were to be removed. Mr. Lovett explained that three pine trees (the 2nd, 4th, and 5th trees from the left when looking from the road) would be removed, along with the bottle brush. Two pine trees and the pepper tree along the fence line would remain.

As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to: authorize the expenditure of not-to-exceed \$2000 for the landscape architect to revise the plans, specs, and estimate for the Round Meadow/Mureau corner project to reflect the changes proposed by the ad hoc committee/staff; authorize the ad hoc committee to approve the final design; and direct staff to solicit bids on the final approved design.

D. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - February

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 12, 2007 at 8:36 p.m.

Mayor Stuart E. Siegel

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk