

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, August 27, 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, August 27, 2007 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Stuart Siegel called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

Mayor Stuart E. Siegel
Mayor Pro Tem Monty E. Fisher
Council Member Jim Cohen
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Larry G. Weber (8:32 p.m.)

Staff:

City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Assistant City Attorney Peter Pierce

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the August 27, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

The Public Safety Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening (8/28) has been cancelled.

Congratulations to Bookkeeper Randee Weinberger who will be celebrating her 17th anniversary with the City on Friday, 8/31.

City Hall, the Building Department, and the Community Center will all be closed and there will be no inspections on Monday, 9/3, in honor of Labor Day.

Fiesta dinner tickets will be on sale at City Hall beginning Monday, 9/10; adult tickets sell for \$22; each child ticket is \$15.

Fiesta information booklets are being mailed this week.

The City recently received an award (a plaque) from the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (CJPIA) for risk management; to determine recipients, the CJPIA uses a combination of payroll and population to analyze claims activity.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Consideration of Issuance of Proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month for September 2007

Mayor Siegel introduced Steven Firestein, Chairman of the American Cancer Fund for Children, Inc., who stated the following:

September is the typical period of recognition for children going through this illness, as well as their families and caregivers; he lives in the area and operates the Kids Cancer Connection Family House, which is currently undergoing major renovations; upon completion, the Family House will host ten individuals from outside the County or the State (typically two or three families) who come into the Los Angeles area with children to receive treatment; he has been associated with the American Cancer Fund for Children, Inc. and Kids Cancer Connection for thirteen years; he himself had a benign tumor and

had surgery and his head shaved, so he knows how scary this can be for children; he is very humbled and grateful for the Council's recognition of Cancer Awareness Month, and would like to thank each of the Council Members.

On behalf of the Council, Mayor Siegel presented Mr. Firestein with a proclamation declaring September, 2007 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

B. City Certificates/2007 Academic Achievement Recipients

Mayor Siegel explained that there were additional Hidden Hills students who were not recognized at the award presentation meeting in June, and the Council would like to honor those students at this time. He then presented City certificates to the following:

from A.E. Wright Middle School	-	Christopher Dunn
from Chaminade High School	-	Jessica Berns Julian Rubel
From Chaminade Middle School	-	Paul Charles Deardorff Frank John Gullihur

The following students were unable to attend the meeting, but will receive certificates in the mail: Nick Purcell/Chaminade High School; Morgan Nicole Howell and Frederick Robert Ulrich III, both from Chaminade Middle School; and Sam Purcell/Thatcher School.

C. 2007 Fiesta

Co-Chairman Lisa Moriarity explained three separate proposals for this year's Fiesta and asked the Council to consider approval of each.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from A Rental Connection in the amount of \$10,903.18, with a \$2,500 deposit to be paid at this time, for the rentals of tables/chairs, electricity/lights, and other miscellaneous equipment for the Fiesta.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the proposal from Katy's Cool Company to provide ice cream treats for the Fiesta, with the City to receive from Katy's 20% of the gross profits from all sales made during both the morning and evening activities.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from Sports N' More in the amount of \$409 to provide sports and game activities and lifeguards for the Fiesta.

Ms. Moriarity and the City Manager informed the Council that the rides and games were guaranteed for the date of the Fiesta, but staff was still working on the final wording of a contract.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - July

The following report was provided by Community Services Representative Maria Grycan:

During July there were 13 responses, including 4 emergency medical, 4 snake removals, 1 hazardous condition (downed power line on Round Meadow), 3 false alarm/good intent calls, and 1 small (one acre) brush fire on Mureau Road that resulted in no damage; there were 12 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections, and no plans checked; as of July 31st, 2073 of 2187 total properties (Hidden Hills and Calabasas combined) have been inspected; 410s (infractions for not being in compliance) were written for 306 of those properties; of those 306 properties, 216 have been brought into compliance, 79 are still working with the Fire Department, and 11 have been turned over to the Brush Clearance Unit for enforcement; 4 of those 11 are in Hidden Hills.

The City Manager pointed out that the fire on Mureau Road was not within Hidden Hills, but was actually in the unincorporated area of L.A. County, and that it had been spotted by the Sheriff's helicopter on routine patrol, emphasizing the importance of having the helicopter assigned to this area.

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

Lt. John Benedict presented the following report:

During the month of July there were two residential burglaries in the City; one occurred in the 6000 block of John Muir, with a laptop being taken after entry through an unlocked guest room window; musical equipment was taken from an unlocked guest house in the 24700 block of Robert Guy; there was one false alarm in the 25000 block of Jim Bridger; there were no collisions, but 74 citations were issued, with 43 being hazardous and 7 non-hazardous; 24 parking citations were also issued.

Mayor Siegel wished to remind the residents of the following:

There is a Sheriff's Teen Traffic Offender Program (STTOP); if anyone sees young people operating a vehicle improperly, the license number should be reported to City Hall and a form is sent to the STTOP Deputy; this Deputy follows up on all these reports and contacts the parents; secondly, it may be fun, but it is extremely dangerous for youngsters to be riding small motorcycles, motorbikes, and quads on the roadways and trails; this month's report refers to young kids whose parents have now been contacted twice, and if these kids are caught doing this, they will be ticketed; youngsters need to be kept off of any of these motorized vehicles and golf carts, as they are not experienced drivers, are not steady, and do not pay attention; if underage youngsters are ticketed, they may have a problem getting their licenses in the future.

Lt. Benedict added that vehicles being driven by unlicensed drivers may be impounded.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher pointed out that a vehicle is parked in the City owned Round Meadow School parking lot with a "for sale" sign on it, which is not legal. Council Member Freedland added that the vehicle has been there for at least 72 hours, and that there is no parking allowed in the lot from 3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m. as posted. Lt. Benedict will investigate.

C. Consideration of Approval of Shared Expenditure for Surveillance Van Equipment for Lost Hills Sheriff Station

The following information was provided by Lt. John Benedict:

A surveillance vehicle is a vital tool in law enforcement that most other agencies have; the Lost Hills Station does not have one and would very much appreciate the City's help in equipping such a vehicle; it is very important for crime suppression such as vandalism

and more sophisticated organized crime, although in Hidden Hills it would probably be more important for burglary suppression.

Mayor Siegel explained that this equipment could be paid for with COPS funds, which the City receives from the State for front line law enforcement (not salaries), rather than the City's general funds. The City Manager reported that all four of the other area cities had approved this joint expenditure. Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to authorize the expenditure of \$6,999.70 from the City's available COPS funds for the joint purchase of equipment for a Sheriff's surveillance vehicle, with the same amount to be paid by each of the other four area cities (Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, and Westlake).

D. Round Meadow School Traffic Flow Pattern Modifications

Public Safety Commission Chairmen Jim Doran presented the following information:

The proposed suggestions are the results of many meetings and discussions; staff is asking the Council to designate the center aisle (aisle 2) for teacher parking only, with some additional teacher parking to remain in aisle 4; Sheriff Traffic Sgt. Phil Brooks is in agreement with this proposal, which would eliminate any need for parents to enter aisle 2, thus hopefully encouraging compliance with the previously adopted prohibition against right turns into aisle 2 between 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.; staff is also proposing the relocation of four special permit parking spaces – two from the right side of aisle 2 to the left side of aisle 2, the office manager from aisle 2 to the last spot when exiting aisle 3, and the principal from aisle 2 to the inside of the drop off island; the new Round Meadow principal has agreed with these changes; this year the District chose to move the kindergarten arrival time from 8:05 a.m. to 7:55 a.m., and to eliminate the bus from Mt. View; both of these changes will most likely add an additional 60-80 cars arriving at the school during the same time period; staff would suggest that the Council authorize the expenditure of approximately \$1800 for a kindergarten before-school aide on a one year trial basis; this aide would monitor the kindergarten children from approximately 7:15 a.m. or 7:30 a.m. until at least 7:45 a.m., which would allow parents to leave their kindergarten children at the school earlier than they normally would; the City is already paying for one before-school aide for the older children that are dropped at the playground before school starts; the hope is to use someone who is already a District employee, who could just be given additional hours to take care of the kindergarten children in the morning.

The Council gave its approval for staff to relocate the teacher parking and special permit parking as described above.

Resident and PFA President Mathy Wasserman confirmed that the aide who now assists the kindergarten children during the lunch hour has expressed an interest in also serving as the before-school aide for them, which should encourage attendance. A discussion then occurred regarding kindergarten children and the use of a before-school aide, during which the following questions were raised and points made:

The aide might have to be assigned for one full hour, rather than one-half hour; the flexibility of use during this hour will be investigated; could this person be hired on a month-to-month basis, or would there need to be a commitment for one year, or at least until the winter break; there has to be some type of commitment beyond a month or two, and time to make the program work; how effective would this aide be, and how would information regarding the existence of the aide be disseminated; information could be provided in the school newsletter and on flyers for the kindergarten children; since it would most likely be the same aide that works with the kindergarten children during lunch and in their classrooms, this might make more parents and children comfortable coming early in the morning and spending time with the same aide; incentives (tickets, prizes, etc.) could be used to encourage the kindergarten parents and children to make use of the program; it could be evaluated monthly, even with a longer commitment, to see how many students are using the program; if by winter break not that many children are involved, the aide may be able to assist in the drop-off area; if it is of no benefit, it could be discontinued for the next school year; how many children would constitute a successful program; since there are 90 kindergarten children, if even 12 were coming early, that would help ease the congestion; there has been an attempt to have the kindergarten start time moved back to 8:05 a.m., but this will most likely not happen at this time, as all the information has already been distributed regarding times, etc.; Superintendent Dr. Donald Zimring and Round Meadow Principal Dr. Keith Tomes were told that in the future, before any changes are made, the City needs to be involved in those decisions since the City owns the parking lot; the District owns all of the parking lots at the other schools, so this is a unique situation, and they thought they were doing something to help; however, it added more congestion; the school does require parents to walk kindergarten children to and from the school, which is certainly understandable, but it does add to the congestion when all those parents have to park instead of moving through the drop-off area.

At the end of the discussion, since Ms. Wasserman needed a commitment for the District to move forward with the hiring of a before-school aide, the general consensus was to give that approval, but to have Ms. Wasserman return to the Council for formal approval once the exact cost for the before-school aide is known, along with the hours she would be working, and what flexibility she would have during those hours. The kindergarten before-school aide program would then be continually monitored to determine its effectiveness and whether or not the program would be continued after the winter break or for the next year.

Chairman Doran and Ms. Wasserman then asked the Council to approve funding for parking attendants to park vehicles on the grassy playground area just for the first day of school to help create a safer traffic situation. Ms. Wasserman received a proposal for three attendants for three hours at a cost of \$400. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve a Community Assistance Grant to the Round Meadow PFA in the amount of \$400 to cover the cost of parking attendants for the first day of school.

At this time, Mayor Siegel wished to make an additional announcement:

Some time ago, the Council approved a Community Assistance Grant in the amount of \$500 to the Hidden Hills Boy Scout Troop/Kurtis Freedland for his Eagle Scout project; with the assistance of the Conservancy and about 16 people, all of the sign posts and directional arrows on the former Ahmanson property were replaced and repaired; there had always been a problem with people on Ahmanson not being able to find their way.

Council Member Freedland added that the Conservancy is now waiting for some grant funding which will be used for the "You are here" and directional exit signs.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Approval of 2007 Congestion Management Program (CMP) Self-Certification Resolution and Adoption of Local Development Report

Mayor Siegel opened the public hearing. As there were no comments, he closed the hearing.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 804 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS FINDING THE CITY TO BE IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CMP) AND ADOPTING THE CMP LOCAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65089.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – July 23, 2007**
- B. City Council Minutes – August 13, 2007**
- C. Demand List**
- D. Disbursement Lists – June and July**
- E. Financial/Treasurer’s Reports – June and July**

Mayor Siegel wished to point out the following:

The June financial statement pretty much reflects the final report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year; the City has approximately \$600,000 more now than at the beginning of the year, which is about \$550,000 under the projected expenses; as the Council earlier directed staff, this money should now be placed as seed money in a new capital improvement fund; it has been a very successful year, with expenses less than expected and revenue more than expected.

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 (with Mayor Siegel abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting), B, C, D, and E of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Report from 8/21/07 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The following report was presented by HHCA Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe:

Kitty’s annual back-to-school party will be hosted this year by resident Ellie Sambol; some residents asked for an expansion of the pool hours to allow them to start earlier in

the morning; after hearing from some of the neighbors that they would be adversely affected by a change to 6:00 a.m. or even 6:30 a.m., the Board chose to leave the existing hours and make no change; the upcoming Board election is uncontested; due to recent changes in State law, it is very expensive to run a full election; there is an allowance for changing the by-laws so an election does not need to be held if it is uncontested; the annual meeting has been moved to November to allow time to make that change in the by-laws; a variance was granted conditionally on the approval of an easement.

B. Coyote Trapping Update

Mayor Siegel reported the following:

The Council authorized a coyote trapping program which began on 5/22/07 and was to end on 6/8/07, but officially ended on 6/15/07; after that date, the City received about 10-12 calls of aggressive behavior; if the coyotes are just being seen, or are eating fruit, that is not considered aggressive; if they will not back down when confronted or are attacking pets, this is certainly aggressive behavior; due to these aggressive calls, the Council directed the trappers to return; during the retrapping period, which began on 7/11/07, one adult female was caught, after which all of the calls stopped; the trappers have said that coyotes travel throughout the community, so the same coyote may be causing problems in different locations; since 7/27/07, when the retrapping ended, the City received only one call, and that was just a sighting; so for the time being, no trapping is occurring, but residents as always are encouraged to continue to report aggressive behavior.

C. Health Update

Mayor Siegel read several paragraphs from an 8/8/07 Las Virgenes Unified School District memo from Superintendent Dr. Donald Zimring regarding the possible recent contact by some of the District's students with bats, one of which tested positive for rabies. He added that as this happened some time ago, and no further information has been shared, the problem has most likely been addressed, but if anyone has questions, they should call the District.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Approval of 11/18/07 Hidden Hills Triathlon and Purchase of Special Event Insurance Coverage

Mayor Siegel stated the following:

This has been a very popular event and well received in the community; for a very small amount of money (\$213.36), the City can provide insurance coverage through the CJPIA; he believes this would be a very good use of City funds.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to sponsor for the residents the 3rd Annual Hidden Hills Triathlon and to direct staff to complete and submit the necessary paperwork to insure the event at a cost of \$213.36, subject to approval by the Hidden Hills Community Association for use of the roads and swimming pool on 11/18/07.

Resident Jacqueline Stanford then provided details of the triathlon and the following potluck brunch. She also asked if it would be possible for the Sheriff to direct traffic during the triathlon at the corners of Round Meadow/Long Valley and Round Meadow/Spring Valley. Mayor Siegel asked staff to talk with the Sheriff, although it is not always possible for Sheriff personnel to dedicate a particular time in the City as they must be available to respond to any calls.

B. Consideration of Award of Construction Contract for the Round Meadow/Mureau Road Landscape Project

The following staff report was provided by City Engineer Dirk Lovett:

Two bids were received for this project; the low bid of \$134,418 by FS Construction was about 9% over the engineer's estimate (the other bid was approximately 35% over); staff checked references and the work experience of FS Construction, and they come highly recommended and appear to be qualified to do the work; the work can begin in about one month, and should then take two months to complete; \$113,608 will come from the City's general fund, with almost \$24,000 from TDA Pedestrian/Bicycle funds; as with all contracts, staff is requesting approval of a 10% contingency to cover any small changes without having to return to the Council.

In response to Mayor Siegel and Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, Mr. Lovett stated that the project does include a drinking fountain and should be done well before the rainy season. Council Member Freedland asked about the placement of the gazebo. Mr. Lovett confirmed that the installation of the gazebo was not a part of this contract, and with an estimate from a general contractor (the

same one who moved the gazebo from a private Hidden Hills property to its current location) for \$3000, the contingency should hopefully cover that amount. Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved: to award the Round Meadow/Mureau Road Landscape Project to FS Construction in the amount of \$134,418.00; to authorize staff a contingency equal to 10% for unforeseen costs and expenditures (\$13,741.80); and to authorize staff to negotiate an agreement with FS Construction for a 90-day maintenance period.

C. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that staff was expecting the next draft of the screen draft EIR in the next two days, at which time it will be reviewed; if all revisions have been made, it will be prepared for circulation, and if not, it will be sent back for additional corrections.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Existing Litigation:

Government Code Section 54956.9(a)

The City Council finds, based on advice from legal counsel, that discussion in open session will prejudice the position of the local agency in the litigation.

Name of Case:

1. People of the State of California; City of Hidden Hills v. Charles Burtzloff; Jennifer Burtzloff, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. LC 075623

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:31 p.m., at which time the Mayor announced that the Council, in closed session, would be discussing the item listed above.

At this time, City Attorney Roxanne Diaz joined the meeting via telephone.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 9:00 p.m., at which time the City Manager 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 Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of August 27, 2007 at 9:01 p.m.

Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk