

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, January 28, 2008

***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 28, 2008 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
Staff:	City Engineer Dirk Lovett
Absent:	City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

**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 January 28, 2008 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

The Association's Valentine Musicales tickets went on sale this morning at the Community Center; anyone wanting tickets should get them early, as the shows often sell out quite quickly.

He would encourage everyone to vote on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, for the presidential primary (both polls are here at City Hall).

## **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Reports – November and December**

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan provided the following report:

During the month of November, there were 2 EMS calls, 1 false alarm, and 10 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections; brush clearance inspections have been completed; she is not sure of the status of the 3 outstanding (property owners working with station); of the 9 parcels turned over to the Brush Clearance Unit for enforcement, 4 of those are in Hidden Hills; during December, there were 3 EMS calls, 3 false alarms, 1 public assist, and 1 hazardous condition with no fire (overheated motor); there were 35 station inspections, and 1 pre-plan walk through, all of which were probably in Calabasas; in Hidden Hills there were 5 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections and 0 plans checked.

### **B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reports – November and December**

The following report for November was presented by Lt. John Benedict:

5 Part I crimes occurred during the month, including 2 burglaries from locked vehicles; 1 was in the 6000 block of John Muir – the passenger side window was smashed and items stolen; the other was in the 24300 block of Bridle Trail, with nothing being taken after the window was smashed; 2 thefts from unlocked vehicles occurred, both in the 25200 block of Eldorado Meadow; a stolen vehicle was recovered in this area after having been stolen from the 5800 block of Annie Oakley; there was 1 DUI arrest, a result of a hit and run collision with property damage (to the gate arm) at the Spring Valley gate; during November, 31 citations were issued, 20 of them for hazardous violations, 5 for non-

hazardous, 5 for parking, and the DUI; 3 drivers were reported to STTOP; 1 Hidden Hills resident ran the Fiesta barricades, while another resident did not obey the traffic rules at Round Meadow School; 1 contractor passed a stopped school bus when the lights were flashing; there were also 3 false alarms during the month.

Mayor Siegel asked if the correct suspects had been captured in connection with the rash of recent burglaries and thefts, which he knows also went beyond Hidden Hills. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher also wondered how these suspects entered the City, and asked if the Sheriff's Department could share as much information with us as possible. Lt. Benedict responded as follows:

Two suspects were recently arrested with the help of the Ventura County Sheriff; this is an ongoing investigation, but it looks like they are connected to all four of the burglaries that did occur on one day in January in Hidden Hills; several pieces of stolen items from the suspects' residence have been returned to residents; both suspects were parolees, recently released, and three strikers, who have a tendency to not give up much information; it may never be determined how they entered, or much more about what happened, but the investigation will continue and any information that can be shared with the City will be provided.

Lt. Benedict then provided the December report:

There was only 1 Part I crime during the month, that being a garage burglary in the 23900 block of Long Valley; this was a vacant residence, with an unknown person forcing open the rear door of the garage to take children's electric cars, golf clubs, and snow skis; there were no collisions, but again 1 DUI arrest; a total of 26 citations were issued, 17 of which were hazardous, 0 non-hazardous, 8 parking, and the 1 DUI; two drivers were reported to the STTOP Deputy by Hidden Hills residents; one involved a cement truck that was being driven dangerously, and the other was a contractor speeding; there were also 6 false alarms during the month.

**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 2007-2008**

Deputy Mike Shapiro from the STAR program provided the following information:

He teaches the STAR program at Round Meadow School to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders; he will be there the next two Mondays, usually from 8:30 a.m. – noon; he would welcome the Council or anyone else for a visit; he is often asked if this program works; there are no hard facts or statistics, but often when he sees children away from the classroom, they

run up to talk to him and tell him about the things they have told their parents from the class; he does believe it works.

Deputy Shapiro then read a letter that was written by one of his students regarding tobacco and why smoking is so bad for everyone. Mayor Siegel thought the program was more geared to drugs, as opposed to tobacco. Deputy Shapiro responded as follows:

The program is based on the three gateway drugs – tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana; they are called gateway drugs, as they are what the youngsters start with that often lead to more dangerous drugs; the program begins talking about goals, goal setting, and how to deal with peer pressure; then they talk about the three gateway drugs.

Mayor Siegel pointed out that the City's budget includes a \$10,700 amount for this program. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Freedland 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 seven classes of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Round Meadow School for the 2007/208 school year, at a cost of \$10,632.33.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Consideration of an Extension to the Filing of Final Map Number 54063, EGC Luxury Homes**

Mayor Siegel opened the public hearing and asked if there were any comments. There were not, at which time he explained that staff has suggested the public hearing being continued, as all of those within 500' of the project had not been officially notified of the hearing. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to continue the public hearing to the February 11, 2008 Council meeting.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – January 14, 2008**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – December**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – December**

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 Council Member Cohen abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting), B, C, and D of the consent calendar as submitted.

**MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. Report from 1/15/08 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments (LVMCOG) Meeting**

Mayor Siegel informed the Council of the following:

He believes the COG has proven to be a good organization, and has given all of the cities a louder voice with other government agencies; due to the COG’s involvement, a meeting was recently scheduled, with all parties involved, to discuss differences of opinion on brush clearance; this does not affect Hidden Hills directly, but it does affect residents in the other cities; the Coastal Commission has a very different view of what should occur than the L.A. County Fire Department; residents in some areas are cited by the Fire Department and told to clear their brush, for protection during fires; at the same time, the Coastal Commission threatens to fine those same residents if they clear their brush; it is an impossible situation for them; he does not know the results of the meeting yet, but will provide additional information when it is available.

- B. Report from 1/15/08 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting/Adjourned Annual Meeting**

Community Association Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe reported the following:

Since part of the meeting was the annual meeting, the results of the election were announced; there were three open seats, with three people up for election for those seats; two were incumbents – that being himself and Steve Bond; the third person elected was Mitch Jacobs, to fill Jill Rosenberg’s seat as she was termed out; Jill was thanked and recognized for her many years of service; there was no Gate Committee report, so he is

hopeful that Ms. Wasserman will come to the next meeting to discuss the Round Meadow School traffic; as Mayor Siegel said, the Valentine Musicale is February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>; an expenditure was approved for new pool furniture; Michael Silberman will continue as the Board President; all the other officers remain the same.

### **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

#### **A. Consideration of Approval of Community Assistance Grant to Round Meadow Elementary School for Landscape Improvements**

Resident and Round Meadow PFA President Mathy Wasserman addressed the Council:

She did attend the last Gate Committee meeting; the Committee members had issues regarding how, by whom, and under what authority the Round Meadow School traffic pattern was established; in spite of that, even with the rain and without a strong Sheriff presence, the new pattern is still working very well; different District representatives have been out to see how well the pattern works; it may also serve as a model for other schools.

Now that the one side of the street and the Round Meadow/Mureau corner look so nice, and since the red curbs have been newly painted by the City, the school side of the street looks pretty bad; the area between the curb and the sidewalk has nothing growing there – it is just dirt with no irrigation for any future planting; she obtained bids, the lowest of which is \$13,000, for the installation of 2500 square feet of synthetic grass; she thought there might be a ten year guarantee on the grass; it was much more expensive for stamped concrete in those areas; she is asking for a community grant to cover this cost.

Mayor Siegel suggested that before any decision is made, staff determine who owns that area, as he is aware that Calabasas is starting to work on the bikeway on Mureau, which is actually in the County. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher asked for a diagram showing the exact location of where Ms. Wasserman was suggesting the synthetic grass be placed. Council Member Freedland said their might be easements, but that should be determined now, as the City cannot do something on property it does not own, and might even need a release from the District to proceed. Council Member Weber wondered if hardscape would be better, and if it was really that much more expensive.

As there seemed to be some confusion regarding the location being discussed, Ms. Wasserman explained that it was not down at the corner or out along Mureau Road – she was talking about the small (approximately 36” wide) area between the sidewalk and the curb that runs all along the school side of the street (from near the crosswalk out past the bus drop-off area, and not quite out to Mureau).

At the direction of the Council, this item will be addressed again at the next meeting after more information can be obtained and a diagram of the area prepared.

**B. Vesting Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council there was nothing new to report since the last meeting – the consultant is still working on the responses to the comments received on the DEIR.

**C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - December**

The report was received and filed.

**D. Consideration of Approval of an Ordinance Regarding Charter Cable State Franchise Agreement – Second Reading**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give second reading to and adopt by title only Ordinance No. 323 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS REGARDING STATE-FRANCHISED VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDERS AND AMENDING ARTICLE B OF CHAPTER 6 OF TITLE 2 OF THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

**E. Consideration of Approval of Notice of Completion for the Painting of the City Hall Building**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to accept the City Hall painting project as complete, to file and record a Notice of Completion, and to authorize the release of the final 10% retention upon satisfactory clearance of the thirty-five day lien period.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of January 28, 2008 at 8:18 p.m.

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Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk