

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 24, 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, March 24, 2008 at the hour of 7:32 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
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
City Attorney Roxanne Diaz (Closed Session)

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 March 24, 2008 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

On a sad note, Hidden Hills lost one of its long time residents last week, Frances Lary; in every community there is someone who has that institutional memory, and Frances may not be the very last one, but was certainly one of those; it is indeed a very sad day for the community; she lead a very interesting and extraordinary life, and was ahead of her time (he then read a short biography of Ms. Lary's life).

A big thank you to Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill for making the hors d'oeuvres, and for planning and setting up the reception this evening; he would like everyone to stay after the meeting to join the Council in honoring the outgoing and incoming Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Cohen, on behalf of the Council, wished Mayor Siegel a happy birthday, which he would be celebrating on Tuesday.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

A. Presentations to Outgoing Mayor Siegel

Council Member Freedland read a certificate addressed to Mayor Siegel from U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman, and then introduced the following dignitaries who were in attendance, each of whom presented certificates of recognition and/or offered words of congratulations and thanks for a very successful year to outgoing Mayor Siegel: Field Deputy Hilda Garcia/State Senator Sheila Kuehl's office; Field Deputy Jesse Switzer/State Assembly Member Julia Brownley's office; Community Services Representative Maria Grycan/L.A. County Fire Department.

Council Member Freedland, on behalf of the entire Council and staff, presented Mayor Siegel with a digital photo frame commemorating his past year as Mayor.

B. Remarks by Outgoing Mayor Siegel

Mayor Siegel made the following comments:

Doing this (serving on the Council and as Mayor) is usually a lot of fun; he enjoys trying to help people work their way through the government process, which can be difficult; some things work out very well, while others may not; some of the issues from his year as Mayor will continue, such as what to do about coyotes, and the Ashley development, which is complicated; he would like to thank the people in the community, most of whom are nice; we are lucky that there seems to be less contention here than in some other cities; as he has said in the past, he and the other Council Members take their jobs very seriously, but do not take themselves that seriously; he believes this is the best way to govern; he would like to thank everyone.

C. Remarks by Other Council Members

The other Council Members all commended Mayor Siegel for the outstanding job he has done this past year, thanked him for his leadership, mentoring skills, and the ability to deal with diversity, and expressed their pleasure in serving with him on the Council.

D. Selection of Mayor

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

At this time, outgoing Mayor Siegel presented the ceremonial “big gavel” to new Mayor Freedland.

E. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

Newly elected Mayor Freedland asked for nominations for the Mayor Pro Tem position. Upon MOTION of current Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and seconded by Council Member Cohen, it was resolved to nominate Council Member Weber for Mayor Pro Tem. There being no other

nominations, it was resolved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Council Member Weber, electing him to the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

F. Remarks by Incoming Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Freedland commented as follows:

There are some interesting projects to be addressed this year; the Hidden Ridge project should begin grading pretty soon; the Ashley project is ongoing; he would like to work on undergrounding some utilities; he would also like to look into installing solar panels on the roof of City Hall; there may not be a direct and quick payback, but the City Hall should serve as an example, with staff able to advise residents who may wish to do the same thing.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber stated he was very happy to be elected to the Mayor Pro Tem position, and as a fairly new Council Member, would hopefully continue his education.

PUBLIC HEARING

**Variance No. V-374
24814 Jacob Hamblin Road
Swimming Pool and Retaining Walls Within the Side Yard Setback**

At this time (7:54 p.m.), Mayor Freedland recused himself and left the Council Chambers, as he lives next door to the subject property, with Mayor Pro Tem Weber then taking the gavel.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett explained that since the posting of the public hearing notice, the applicant has requested that the item be continued to a future meeting to give him time to redesign the project. The City Manager pointed out that the Council Members do not have any plans in front of them, since the project is being redesigned, but anyone in the audience may still comment on the proposed project in general, and then on the specific plans at a later hearing if they wish.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber then opened the public hearing, at which time resident John Boulianne addressed the Council on behalf of himself and his wife Roslyn:

They live above the subject property, having moved there five years ago; they do want the neighbor to be able to build a swimming pool, but the neighbor is a contractor and has a lot of stuff in the yard, making it look quite messy (he submitted photos to the Council); they have no comments on the actual construction of the pool, but do have two concerns; they are concerned with how the construction site will look, and how long the project will take; they do not usually complain, but do feel strongly about this, and would like the Council to possibly consider an approval with some type of time limit condition.

Linda Marie Greenhut also addressed the Council:

Her house is below Jacob Hamblin on Jed Smith; since the Weiss house is directly above her, she is not immediately below this property, but is still concerned with the integrity of the hill; she is afraid the digging of the hole for the pool might impact her, as it was disclosed when she moved in that her hill was fill; she had to put in a swale to mitigate, but she still has erosion; she is also concerned with the time frame of the project, and would like it limited if possible.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Pro Tem Weber continued the public hearing to the next Council meeting. Mayor Freedland then rejoined the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - February

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan presented the following report:

During the month of February, there were 6 responses, with 5 being medical calls and 1 being a false alarm; there were no fires; the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 5 inspections, but there were 0 plans checked; in addition, there was 1 pre-plan walk through, and a fire station tour for 3 adults; there was also 1 Rescue Youth Program Activity from one of the Calabasas stations, so she is not sure if the student is from Hidden Hills or Calabasas; this is a program of the District Attorney's office for at-risk youth, generally 8th graders; they are paired with a firefighter, who serves as a mentor.

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

The following report was provided by Lt. John Benedict:

In February, there was 1 burglary from a locked vehicle in the 5100 block of Round Meadow Road; the rear passenger window was broken and a purse and wallet stolen; 1 false alarm occurred on Jed Smith; there were no arrests; in relation to traffic, there were 0 collisions and 15 citations issued, 11 of which were hazardous, 2 non-hazardous, and 2 for parking; the STTOP Deputy received no reports of traffic problems.

Mayor Freedland asked if there was footage from the gate cameras that could be checked in regards to the burglary on Round Meadow. Lt. Benedict said there was a tape that was being reviewed, and that it would hopefully provide useful information.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – March 10, 2008**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – February**
- D. Financial/Treasurer's Report – February**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel 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 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Report from the 3/18/08 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting

The City Manager reported the following:

Barbara Lipkin was appointed to the Gate Operation Committee; a new member was also appointed to the Architectural Committee, Shawn Antin; the Welcome Party budget was approved; a rule change (which was stated in the most recent Round-Up) regarding non-resident riders within the City was approved; parkway weed spraying will be occurring soon; a new cage will be built around the swimming pool equipment; the Board chose not to replace a drain pipe in the trail behind the Polidoro home.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Information Regarding Proposed Sewer Installation

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council of the following:

There is no action that needs to be taken, as this item is only for information; staff has received three requests/applications for the construction of sewers; this is an important issue in complying with environmental requirements; there is no schedule at this time for the construction of the sewers, but they should be processed in the near future, and hopefully there will be others; the three locations for the proposed sewers are 1) on private property at the end of Walker Road, 2) in Oakfield Road, and 3) in Hoback Glen Road from 5633 to 5558; sewers are owned by the City, but maintained by the County; the procedure for the installation of sewers involves 1) plans being submitted, 2) plans being reviewed and approved by the City, the County, the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, and the HHCA, 3) inspections during and after construction by the City and County, 4) submittal of a resolution to the Council to accept the improvements and any easements, and to transfer operations and maintenance to the County Sanitation District, and 5) maintenance by the County upon receipt of as-built plans.

Council Member Siegel asked if the new infrastructure would be beneficial to anyone else, with Mr. Lovett explaining that the builder does have to install Ys in the line for other residents to connect later if they wish. Mayor Freedland asked staff how many homes were still on septic tanks in the City; staff will update the existing map for Council review.

Council Member Cohen had several questions regarding the cost and why the City would be involved in the installation of the sewer line on private property. City Engineer Lovett responded as follows:

There are others on private property; when a main line is built and several homes tie in, this becomes a common system; the builder provides an easement to the City, and then the City transfers operation and maintenance to the County just like any other sewer in the Association roads; this particular private sewer will benefit two homes, with the potential for others to be added in the future; the proposed sewer on Hoback Glen also requires easements on some private property areas; the City is part of the County's Sanitation District, which means each homeowner pays into the District; there is no cost to the City.

Mayor Freedland stated that once the map of those still on septic tanks was updated, it might be beneficial to the City to encourage homeowners to tie into sewers in the future if possible.

B. Vesting Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that staff comments on the latest draft EIR were submitted to the consultant, and once the changes are made by the consultant, hopefully within two weeks, the document will again be reviewed by staff; this exchange will continue until the document is finalized and ready to be submitted to the Council.

C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report

The report was received and filed.

At this time (8:14 p.m.), Mayor Freedland called for a short recess, during which refreshments would be served at an informal reception in honor of outgoing Mayor Siegel and Mayor Pro Tem Fisher. Mayor Freedland then reconvened the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

**Potential Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c):
Number of Potential Cases: 1**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:45 p.m., at which time the City Manager announced that the Council, in closed session, would be discussing the item listed above.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 9:05 p.m., at which time City

Attorney Roxanne Diaz 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 Cohen, seconded by Council Member Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 24, 2008 at 9:06 p.m.

Steve Freedland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk.