

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, July 22, 2019

***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, July 22, 2019 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. Mayor Larry G. Weber called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council:

Mayor Larry G. Weber  
Mayor Pro Tem Bret Katz  
Council Member Steve Freedland  
Council Member Laura McCorkindale  
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff:

City Manager Kerry Kallman  
City Attorney Roxanne Diaz  
City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
City Clerk Deana L. Graybill  
Emergency Services Coordinator Mike Woodard

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Katz, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the July 22, 2019 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Happy Belated Anniversary to Mayor Pro Tem Bret and his wife Danielle yesterday (7/21); Happy Birthday to City Attorney Roxanne Diaz on July 30 and Peaches the office dog on August 1.

Every Saturday in August at 7:30 p.m., the HH Parks and Recreation Committee is hosting Saturday movie nights at the Community Center. Thursday Family BBQ's: 7/25 is "Garden Party"; 8/1 is "Retro Arcade Party"; and 8/8 is "An Evening in Spain". Call the HHCA for tickets 818.227.6657.

Senior Summer Mixer on 8/18 at 3 p.m. at the Community Center. Call the HHCA to RSVP.

The summer camp at the community center has been extended through August 20, 2019. Please call the HHCA for more details 818-227-6657.

### **AUDIENCE**

Resident Karleen Basch, who resides on Wingfield Road, shared her concerns about the Round Meadow Elementary School traffic and the construction vehicles that enter and exit the gate during school arrival and dismissal times. The Council explained that they are very aware of the constant issues at the school and every year they meet with the School District, staff and the Sheriff to assess the situation and make positive changes if they can. This year, there is a project that has been approved between the City and the School District to change the traffic flow and utilize the school fields to alleviate the traffic issue. City Engineer Lovett, along with staff, LVUSD personnel and the sheriff will meet prior to school starting to institute the traffic flow improvements.

### **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Siegel wanted to congratulate the Hidden Hills Community Association on their very successful Thursday Night Family Barbecues.

Mayor Weber expressed his concern to staff about the weeds growing up through the astroturf on the parkway on Round Meadow Road on the school side. City Engineer Lovett has already spoken to the School maintenance who have addressed that issue.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

There were no comments at this time.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Demand List**
- B. Disbursement List – June**
- C. Financial/Treasurer's Report – June**
- D. Investment Report – June**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Katz and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A, B, C, and D of the consent calendar as submitted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Update and Discussion on City Council Goals**

City Manager Kallman presented the following report:

Annually the City Council hosts a City Council Goals setting session. Adopted goals are added to the staff workplan. In addition, staff provides updates on goal progress 3-4 times per year. Prior to or during a goal update discussion, City Council Members are encouraged to suggest any new goals for consideration. As no other goals have been added to the staff workplan, an update on existing goals is below:

- 1) 2017 Goal – Enhance the City's efforts to obtain grants either by City staff and/or with the assistance of state and federal lobbyists.**

Staff met with the Housing Rehabilitation (using CBDG) specialist on various concepts for a program in Hidden Hills, including assisting residents with necessary upgrades like

HVAC, safety rails, etc. This item will be addressed by the City Council at an upcoming City Council meeting.

- 2) **2018 Goal - Undertake a comprehensive review of the City's Municipal Code in an effort to update, strengthen, and/or clarify the City's authority on certain issues and compliance with state law.**

City Attorney Diaz is reviewing potential changes to the Municipal Code regarding Emergency Operations.

- 3) **2018 Goal - Continue the internal and external upgrade of City Hall. Areas of focus may include City Council Chambers, upstairs conference room, and Building and Safety. External upgrades to consider include new roof and solar project.**

On July 8, City Council approved an agreement with StudioMA for design of City Council Chambers remodel.

- 4) **2018 Goal - Explore ways to coordinate issuance of final building permit with Association to ensure compliance of all architectural standards.**

Staff continues to explore better ways to communicate with HHCA on building process. In addition, staff met with representatives from Oracle regarding a streamlined cloud-based software service "Community Development" that may provide an enhanced process for both the City and HHCA. Staff is awaiting a follow-up proposal.

- 5) **2018 Goal – Update of the V-Calm Traffic Devices.**

V-calm sign was moved from Round Meadow to El Dorado. Sign display was left off to record data for 30 days. Sign display was recently turned on to record new data to analyze changes in speed. Staff has a proposal that includes the addition of two new V-calm signs (bringing the total to 4) with permanent power and connectivity of data to City Hall. Proposal and analysis of Eldorado speed to be discussed with City Council in August/September.

- 6) **2019 Goal - Consider the establishment of a non-profit City/Community foundation.**

City Manager Kallman stated that City Attorney Diaz has provided answers to his questions and they will be reviewed soon, so there is no update as of this meeting.

**7) 2019 Goal – Consider Online Streaming of City Council Meetings**

Staff is reviewing proposals from three streaming/agenda services. Recommendation to be reviewed by City Council in August.

**8) 2019 - Consider the re-establishment of the City's mature growth tree ordinance potentially for all trees and/or Oak Trees.**

Per City Council direction, staff is awaiting new tree rules from Hidden Hills Community Association. Once rules are adopted, staff will review and provide update to City Council.

HHCA Board Director David ZeBrack was in attendance and added that the HHCA has approved language to for the Oak Tree requirements and will publish it in the Round Up for review and comment by the residents, and then it will go back to the Board for final approval.

**9) 2019 - Evaluate City Hall's current alarm system and consider various upgrades to City Hall security. (Upgrade to 2018 Established Goal)**

Staff has arranged for several "security walkthroughs" of the City Hall building and used the findings to develop new security enhancements including new alarm system, cameras, and alerts. Staff is evaluating these concepts and will bring a proposal to the City Council in August/September.

Council Member Freedland requested an update on the public records requests sent to the City of Los Angeles, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), and Caltrans regarding Boething Treeland.

City Clerk Graybill replied that the City has received the requested information from the City of Los Angeles, MRCA is compiling documents and the City should have those by 7/31, and Caltrans has finished compiling documents and the City Attorney's office will send a copy service to the Caltrans office to retrieve such documents.

**B. Update and Discussion on City Council Goals on Emergency Preparedness and Supplemental Firefighting Options**

Emergency Services Coordinator Woodard presented the following report:

the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has grown from five people to thirty people; 18 to 20 members are usually in attendance at the monthly CERT meetings; the CERT team has had numerous advanced training classes during our monthly meetings, including communications and radio operation, a specialist taught different search techniques, a CPR/AED class, and an animal evacuation class put on by the ESC; CERT members have toured the supply shed and discussed the deployment of supplies in case of an emergency; additional safety equipment has been ordered; Blackboard Connect is up and running and updated, along with creation of a list just for CERT members to be notified during an emergency; he thanked Mayor Weber for the addition of smoke cameras that can detect smoke up to 10 miles away in any direction and send notification to whoever is designated; multiple options for alternative firefighting in the City, specifically for red flag days, which averages 7.5 red flags days per year; when a red flag day occur, the Fire Department automatically strengthens resources in our area, along with a twice daily conference call occurs between fire officials, Sheriff's Department, City Managers, and other responders, if Hidden Hills is immediately affected; it has been suggested that during red flag days, high wind events or other potential high fire risk days, the City provide some form of alternative firefighting in case County fire officials are over whelmed or unavailable (in the case of the Woolsey Fire) or as a potential first on scene for small breakout; three options for consideration by the City Council are on-call private firefighting, contracting with Los Angeles County Fire fighting for additional staffing and vehicles and acquisition of a type 6 firefighting vehicle and staffing from retired firefighters and/or trained CERT volunteers; staff requested two proposals from 2 private wildfire services companies; the second option researched was contracting with the LA County Fire Department and to hire active LA County firefighters' staff would need to request the resources at least a few days in advance so the request could be processed and Los Angeles County would not commit to providing a vehicle during red flag days; the third option is to develop an internal firefighting infrastructure for the City of Hidden Hills, which would include purchasing a Type 6 fire truck and staffing it with active, private, retired fire fighters, or trained CERT members; a fully equipped used fire truck would cost between \$40,000 - \$60,000 depending on water capacity, size of pumps, and the addition of foam; another product called a brush truck skid can be mounted in the back of any full-size truck; they carry approximately 200 gallons of water and cost between \$8,000 and \$11,000, would require the purchase of a truck, and it is believed that retired firefighters could be retained at \$50 per hour; approximate cost of this option without vehicle cost is \$5,600; Los Angeles County Fire officials, along with a Hidden Hills resident who is a LA City Firefighter, have committed to supporting the City's purchase of a vehicle and agreed to test the equipment regularly along with provide training.

After extensive discussions regarding all options, including the possibility of a major earthquake, the City Council directed staff to research Type 6 patrol vehicles that can be custom outfitted for numerous types of disasters.

City Engineer Lovett presented the following report regarding Building Code Enhancements:

current procedures and possible enhancements to the City's Building Code as it relates to fire safety, including gas lit pilasters, high fire hazard areas, brush clearance, hazardous trees, draft pool hydrants has been researched by staff: gas lit pilasters – The Fire Department did not have any history of these being a problem and they are legal and have built in safeguards, however, the Fire Department did recommend that they be enclosed, and secured from any type of falling hazard, or being hit by vehicles; High Fire Hazard Areas – The State of California OES prepares maps identifying fire hazard zones, including the westerly and southerly portions of Hidden Hills adjacent to Mountain View Estates, Mureau Estates, and Craftsman Corner are in the very high fire hazard area; all new homes and large additions in the very high fire hazard area are reviewed by the Fire Department and require special treatment including, but not limited to: venting, non-combustible material, eaves and projections, decks, tempered glass, and fuel modification, with the exception of the fuel modification requirements, the City of Hidden Hills has also adopted these standards; Brush Clearance – The Fire Department has published brush clearing standards which include distances that highly flammable vegetation should be located from structures (minimum distance of 100', or 200' if in very high fire hazard areas), how on-site clearing and trimming is to be done, and a list high risk plants; staff is working with surrounding perimeter property owners to clear vegetation to 200' of the Hidden Hills border; estimates for brush clearing of open space both by field crews and by goats are being obtained; Hazardous plants and trees – The Fire Department does not specifically prohibit any trees but they may recommend against or restrict high risk plants such as Acacia, Cypress, Eucalyptus, Juniper, Pine, and Pampas Grass; Draft Hydrants - The Fire Department is not aware of any jurisdictions requiring draft pool hydrants.

After discussion, the City Council directed staff to: (1) obtain approvals and costs of extending the brush clearance zone around the North and West City perimeter to 200 feet; (2) include information on trees most susceptible to fire in upcoming newsletters; and (3) draft a proposed ordinance requiring draft hydrants on new or refurbished pools throughout the City.

**C. Discussion on Fiber to the Home Project**

City Manager Kallman presented the following report:

in 2017, the City Council adopted a goal to *Consider the development of a broadband enhancement program or strategy within the City*; an Ad-hoc Committee of Mayor Weber and Mayor Pro Tem Katz was formed; staff and the Committee have met multiple times over the past two years; staff had initially contacted representatives from American Dark Fiber to inquire about the possibility and likelihood of creating a fiber network in Hidden Hills, and the City also has received interest from Inyo Networks, which was initiated by Council Member McCorkindale prior to her being elected and they subsequently surveyed the City multiple times and began working on a proposal; staff has met with Inyo two times and at this point the City has two distinct proposals for the development of a Fiber to the Home project; the Hidden Hills Community Association have attended a few meetings regarding to the fiber project and HHCA representatives have indicated that there may be interest from HHCA to participate in the project; due to the complexity of the project and the amount of time it has taken to date, it has been suggested that the City consider hiring an outside consultant to work alongside the Ad-hoc Committee and staff to evaluate the current proposals, seek alternative proposals, and provide technical guidance to the City Council in an effort to make an informed decision; the Ad-hoc Committee discussed this concept and is recommending further exploration of contracting with a consultant on this project

The City Council reached a consensus and agrees with the Ad-hoc Committee that staff obtain a proposal for consultant services.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:**

- A. Anticipated Litigation – Initiation of Litigation  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)4): Number of Potential Cases: 1**
- B. Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

**Property:** APN 2049-018-057 and APN 2049-018-058  
**City Negotiator:** Kerry Kallman, City Manager  
**Negotiating Party:** Arnold H. Meyerstein, Trustee of the Meyerstein Family Trust  
**Under Negotiation:** Price and Terms of Payment

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 9:24 p.m. to address the items listed above.

The City Council returned from closed session and the City Attorney announced that in closed session the Council discussed the item listed above, and that no reportable action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

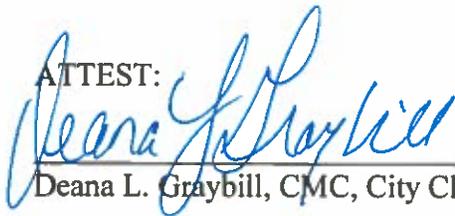
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



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Larry G. Weber, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Deana L. Graybill, CMC, City Clerk