

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 9, 2020

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 9, 2020 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. Mayor Bret Katz called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

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

Staff:

City Manager Kerry Kallman
City Attorney Roxanne Diaz
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Clerk Deana L. Graybill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the March 9, 2020 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements at this time.

AUDIENCE

Residents Lilian Holt, Sara Key, Kulik, Jenny Ostrow, and Ted Waldron were in attendance to voice their concerns about 5949 Spring Valley Road and the visible gas line that runs through the property. They are concerned about any kind of construction on that property. They wanted to bring it to the City Council's attention. Staff is unaware of any permits or plans related to that property, but if something comes before the Council regarding that property, staff will notify the concerned residents.

Resident and Public Safety Commissioner Camille Treacy addressed the Council about City Council goal number seven and the possibility of disbanding the Public Safety Commission. She disagrees with the disbanding and would like a City Council Member or two come to a Public Safety meeting to discuss the future of the Commission.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Katz wanted to congratulate those responsible and in charge of the Tuesday Farmers Market. His wife and daughter attended and thought it as amazing and hope it continues.

STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager Kallman reported that staff is participating in Coronavirus briefings with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention among other agencies. We are taking guidance from them and continue to relay all the information provided to us to residents.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Demand List

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the demand list on the Consent Calendar as submitted.

At this time, the City Council adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. to move up to the conference room. The City Council reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

2019-2021 GOALS SESSION

A. Consideration of Several Options in the Remodel or Rebuild of City Hall (2018 Goal)

City Manager Kallman presented the following report:

since the adoption of an earlier goal, upgrades and/or improvements to City Hall Building and Complex, the following has been completed: remodel of downstairs administrative office space; new furniture and improvements to upstairs offices, new LED lighting fixture,; several new doors including new door hardware throughout City Hall, and new window coverings; in 2018 the City Council included the City Council Chambers, upstairs conference room, and Building and Safety office; an Ad-hoc Committee consisting of Council Member Weber and Council Member McCorkindale, began the design process for the City Council Chambers remodel project; after several meetings the Committee agreed on an overall vision for the City Council Chambers redesign that included: new furniture, wall and floor surfaces; and new ceiling and lighting; discussions of expanding the overall footprint of the City Council Chambers by moving the westerly wall (Emergency Services office) out to create a downstairs conference room and closed session room have also been contemplated, along with the current upstairs conference room be converted to two or three workstations for Emergency Services, Engineering or possibly future staff expansion. On July 8, the City Council approved an agreement with the recommended StudioMA; the Ad-hoc Committee, StudioMA and staff began to refine the scope of the project and discussed aesthetic improvements. Throughout these discussions, more and more areas of need were discovered, including: a new roof and potential solar; necessary ADA improvements, landscaping improvements, exterior dry rot of City Hall building, and new exterior handrails; potential building realignment concepts were identified to include: single point of entry, instead of separate entrances for City Hall and Building and Safety, physical expansion of City Council Chambers; creation of updated outdoor seating area; estimated costs for the project is believed to be between \$900,000 and \$2,000,000; a full rebuild of the Complex is estimated at \$4,000,000; depending on City Council direction, several funding opportunities would be identified for completion of this project; the Ad-hoc Committee recommends a full rebuild.

Council Member McCorkindale added that while the drawings are aesthetically pleasing, the needs outweigh the wants.

Some Council Members are concerned that the money for a full rebuild could be used in more fiscally responsible ways for the benefits of the community. They felt it was hard to make a decision spending that amount of money without having a list of everything that needs to be repaired, brought up to codes, ADA requirements, etc. and costs.

After a lengthy discussion, staff was directed to work with StudoMA to itemize all costs related to the project, and bring back to a future meeting.

B. Review of Current City Council Goals and Consideration of Proposed 2020/21 Goals

1. Reinitiate The 2017 Goal to Improve Cell Coverage in the City By Actively Engaging Both Cell Providers And Potential Consultants to Assist The City

The Council agreed that the lack of adequate cellular coverage remains a problem within the City of Hidden Hills. The City Council believes that the Fiber to the Home project will be helpful but that cell towers at City Hall and the Hidden Hills Community Association may be needed. The City Council directed staff to seek a potential consultant that specializes in improving community cellular service as a partner with the City.

Mayor Katz read into the record the following email:

Hi Mr. Kallman:

I write this urgent email to address an issue that has come to my attention regarding the possibility of placing antennas or other such equipment on the city lot next to my property at 5596 Bonnevillle road. It is inconceivable that a place like Hidden Hills which places emphasis on natural settings, rural serenity, where there are no street lights, where driveway lights are considered light pollution, and even palm trees are not allowed, would allow such artificial structures which would diminish property values substantially. Such additions would certainly reduce property values, including the value of my home/property; I would have no choice but to seek legal recourse and remuneration.

Thank you. Leon G. Partamian, M.D.

2. Undertake a Capital Improvement Project to Beautify Both Corners at Round Meadow and Mureau Roads

The City Council agreed that a beautification project on both corners at Round Meadow and Mureau Roads should be a goal. The question of ownership of both corners was

discussed, verifying that the County owns one side and the School District owns the other, for which the City has an easement. It was determined that staff needs to get a permit from the County to get permission to landscape their property, as well as permission from the School District. Staff should also reconfirm what the Hidden Hills Community Association maintains. Staff will bring an updated report to the City Council once permissions are received from the County and School District.

3. Direct Staff to Develop for Consideration by The City Council a Communications Policy Related to City Notifications of Crime and/or Sheriff Activity

It has been suggested that staff draft a policy to be reviewed and approved by the City Council that clearly defines when notifications are sent out, the need for accuracy versus timely, who from the staff can send out messages, and by what means. After much discussion about a possible policy and what it would achieve and how would it improve communications as they are now, the Council decided such a policy was not necessary and would not make this a goal.

4. Consider Providing a Salary and Health Benefits to Members of the City Council

City Council members are by state law entitled to receive a salary of up to \$300 per-month (max of \$300 a City the size of Hidden Hills, population 1,921) and health benefits equal to that of staff. Historically, the Hidden Hills City Council has opted to not take either form of compensation. While surrounding cities do compensate their City Council members, Bradbury and Rolling Hills (who are closest to the size of Hidden Hills) do not. After some discussion it was decided to not pursue this goal.

5. Evaluate the Numerous Signs as You Enter and, in the City, and Make Formal Recommendations on Consolidation, Reduction and Improvement of Signage in the City

It has been suggested that staff review signage throughout the City and make formal recommendations on removal, consolidation, and/or improvements to these signs. The Council agreed to make this a goal and to consolidate it with the capital improvement landscape project at the corners of Round Meadow and Mureau Roads.

6. Undertake a Comprehensive Review and Make Recommendations of Potential Responses or Actions Related to Abandoned or Long Delayed Construction Projects

Occasionally construction of a residential remodel or rebuild will stop or be delayed for a myriad of reasons. Actions available to the City in these circumstances are extremely limited. As many of these abandoned projects are related to funding, cancelling of a building permit after a year may only add to the delay as the developer would be required to re-apply and pay for permits. The Council agreed that this is a goal to be researched and directed staff to bring it back to the City Council in 90 days for potential concept options. Until then, the Council would like staff to contact the owners and or contractors to continue to encourage the continuation of construction.

7. It has been suggested the City Council disband the current Public Safety Commission and create an Ad-hoc Burglary Task force made up of two Council Members

The City Council agreed that the Public Safety Commission not be immediately disbanded but instead clarify the Commission's duties and responsibilities. City Attorney Diaz pointed out that the section of the City's Municipal Code was written in 1985 and perhaps the scope of the Public Safety Commission needs to be updated, for which the Council agreed. Regarding the second part of this proposed goal, Council Member McCorkindale requested that the Ad-hoc Burglary Task force be a separate goal and not a combined goal with the possible disbanding of the Public Safety Commission. With agreement from the Council, the Mayor appointed Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and Council Member McCorkindale to the Ad-hoc Burglary Task Force.

8. Draft a Set of City Council Guidelines as it Relates to: (1) Selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; and (2) Selection of which Council Member will Officially Represent the City at Community Meetings, Community Events, or Other Official Gatherings

The City Council decided to continue, by majority, to elect one member of the City Council to serve as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem at the annual City Council Re-Organization meeting and to not have a policy/guidelines, as well as to continue the process of asking the current Mayor, followed by the Mayor Pro Tem, and then individual Council Members to represent the City at official events.

9. Create a Full-Time Administrative Analyst Position

The City Council agreed with the City Manager and that as the City continues to expand its projects, communication efforts, and workload, the creation of a full time Administrative Analyst position is needed and approved, by MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, with an estimated salary of \$75,000 per year, the total fiscal impact including benefits and taxes would be approximately \$100,000. Staff will further define the position, allocate necessary funding in the proposed FY 2020/21 City budget, and begin recruitment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 p.m.



Bret Katz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Deana L. Graybill, CMC, City Clerk