

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 28, 2005

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 28, 2005 at the hour of 7:37 p.m. Mayor Steve Freedland called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

Mayor Steve Freedland
Mayor Pro Tem Ronald S. Berg
Council Member Jim Cohen
Council Member Monty Fisher
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff:

City Attorney Larry Wiener
City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Berg, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the March 28, 2005 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

OATH OF OFFICE TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECT

A. Administration of Oath of Office by Judge John Doyle and Presentation of Certificates of Election

Mayor Freedland introduced resident Judge John Doyle, who was present to administer the oath of office to Council Member Cohen and himself. Mayor Pro Tem Berg reminded everyone that the City's March 8, 2005 General Municipal Election was canceled, due to the fact that the two incumbents were the only residents to file papers for the two open City Council seats. He added that even with the cancellation of the actual election, the Council Members are considered elected and need to take the oath of office to begin their new four year terms.

Judge Doyle then individually administered the oath of office to newly reelected Council Members Jim Cohen and Steve Freedland., who were each presented a Certificate of Election by Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill.

Council Member Fisher expressed his and the Council's appreciation to Judge Doyle, thanking him for taking the time, as he has done in the past, to attend the meetings and administer the oath, which is very much appreciated.

B. Remarks from City Council Members Elect

Mayor Freedland stated he would hold his comments until the reorganization.

Council Member Cohen introduced his wife Joanne and daughter Dana, and then announced that he was looking forward to serving the community for another four years. He added that he

wished to represent everyone, and as such, invited anyone to contact him directly with any questions, concerns, or ideas they might have.

REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

A. Presentations to Outgoing Mayor Freedland

Mayor Pro Tem Berg began by reading a letter from Congressman Henry Waxman addressed to both Mayor Freedland and Council Member Cohen relating to their reelection, and congratulating Mayor Freedland for his successful year as Mayor. Mayor Pro Tem Berg also read a certificate from State Senator Sheila Kuehl, and then introduced the dignitaries in attendance, who addressed and made presentations to Mayor Freedland as follows:

Louise Rishoff, representing State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley – She is very happy to be here as the District Director to present Mayor Freedland with a certificate from Assemblywoman Pavley, who sends her regrets for being unable to attend; she and Assemblywoman Pavley have both served as mayors, and know that the job takes a great deal of work and communication with the City Manager, City Attorney, and other City staff members; she offered her congratulations for a wonderful year of leadership; she is aware that Mayor Freedland was very instrumental in the launching of the City's new website, which is very impressive and user friendly, and has put forth efforts to slow traffic within the City (a problem that seems to affect all cities).

Ben Saltsman, representing L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky – He is very honored to be here on behalf of Supervisor Yaroslavsky and the County; he read a hand made certificate which was then presented to Mayor Freedland, and expressed appreciation for the Mayor's service to his community.

Captain Tom Martin of the Lost Hills Sheriff's Station (accompanied by Operations Lt. Linda Becker) – He apologized for not having a certificate, which the Sheriff's Department only gives out when someone is leaving the Council, and thankfully, that is not the case here; he congratulated Mayor Freedland on doing such a great job throughout the year, especially for his efforts in trying to positively impact crime and traffic; he thanked Mayor Freedland, and the rest of the City Council for their ongoing support of the Sheriff's Department; he wished Mayor Freedland well as he again assumed the roll of Council Member.

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan representing the L.A. County Fire Department – She pointed out that the Fire Department, as with the Sheriff's

Department, only issues certificates when someone is leaving the Council, and she was glad that was not the case at this time; it has been her pleasure to serve as the Fire Department's Representative for the last two years, and she is looking forward to continuing in this roll with the Council; she congratulated Mayor Freedland for his successful term this past year and his reelection.

Charley Caspary, Board President of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District – He congratulated Mayor Freedland for his year of service as the Mayor, and pointed out that he is also a very good neighbor; he presented a plaque on behalf of the Water District.

Todd Bernstein, Hidden Hills Community Association Board President – On behalf of the Board of Directors he presented Mayor Freedland with a certificate, along with a very handsome poster; he welcomed Mayor Freedland back as a Council Member, stating he has enjoyed working with him in his capacity as the Mayor this past year.

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Berg – On behalf of the Council, Mayor Pro Tem Berg presented Mayor Freedland with a gavel plaque, recognizing his past year as the Mayor, and thanked him for a job well done.

B. Remarks by Outgoing Mayor Freedland

Mayor Freedland stated the following:

It has been an absolute pleasure serving as the Mayor; he has great respect for each of the Council Members; everyone has different strengths, but all work together; all of the Council Members share a common love for this community, appreciate the lifestyle we have, and recognize how special this place is; there have been disagreements on occasion, but that is healthy; disagreements are never taken personally, and he believes they allow the Council to affect change and explore different points of view; he is honored to be able to serve another four years with each of the other Council Members; it has been a busy year; the City's new website (www.hiddenhillscity.org) was launched with the help of resident Mark Deitch, the City's new Internet Services Director; thanks to the Community Association, the first phase of landscaping has been completed at the Round Meadow wall, which looks beautiful; the City was able to reciprocate and lend its engineering expertise to help with the completion of the Round Meadow gatehouse remodel; he wished to thank Board President Todd Bernstein for his friendship and cooperation; working cooperatively and together, the City and Association have accomplished much more than either could have accomplished separately; the City was able to install a traffic calming device, which hopefully has helped to slow traffic; he would like to thank the Public Safety Commissioners – Jim Doran, Gabe Nussbaum,

Larry Weber, and Anne Falotico – for helping with this project and others; the City rewrote its commercial restricted (CR) zone ordinance which provides incentives to promote the open feel of the community while still allowing sensible and sensitive development; he initiated a student recognition program which allows the City to honor the academic excellence of Hidden Hills children; this is his personal favorite, and he hopes it will be continued; two grants were awarded, one to A.E. Wright Middle School for the Heart Lab, and another to Calabasas High School to help with library improvements; the Council worked on its tree ordinance, which still needs some fine tuning, but a minor tree permit was established to allow for sensible land use while still preserving historic trees; he thanked Council Member Siegel for his efforts in upgrading the City Hall computers; a budget was passed with a projected surplus at the end of the fiscal year; this is a major accomplishment in light of the State's budget problems which have caused many cities to use their reserves to meet their obligations; in regard to this, he would like to thank resident Eddie Bauch, who has volunteered as the City Treasurer for approximately twelve years.

The upcoming year should also be busy as the Council addresses numerous items; the draft EIR for the Lasher project is being prepared; hopefully with the help of the Association, phase two of the Round Meadow wall landscaping can be completed to beautify the corner of Round Meadow and Mureau as soon as the new water meter is installed (it has been ordered); the Long Valley gatehouse is scheduled for remodeling by the Association; there is the possibility of a commercial development right outside the Long Valley gate; he would also like the Council to address with the Association the installation of a gate at the north end of Long Valley Road to deter entrance into the community from Ahmanson Ranch.

He would like to thank numerous people who make Hidden Hills a great place to live; he asked Captain Martin to extend his personal thanks to everyone at the Lost Hills Station, as Captain Martin and all the Sheriff personnel are just the best, always being very responsive, professional, and attentive to this City; he thanked Community Services Representative Maria Grycan and asked her to thank Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee and the entire Fire Department, all of whom allow the residents of this City to sleep at night; he also wished to thank the best City staff; City Manager Cherie Paglia has been a much appreciated advisor and sounding board, whom the City is lucky to have; Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill wears many hats as an organizer, researcher, archivist, and chef; he thanked her for coordinating the Fiesta every year, and her sense of humor; Bookkeeper Randee Weinberger prepares spread sheets, assists with the budget, and the financial operations of the City; even though he gives City Engineer Dirk Lovett a hard time, that is not to be taken personally, as he does a good job; the City receives excellent legal counsel from City Attorney Larry Wiener and Assistant City Attorney Roxanne Diaz; the

City has a good Building Department run by Building Official Greg Robinson and Building Inspector Steve O'Hara.

Last but not least, Mayor Freedland wished to thank his wife Susan, daughter Kelsey, and son Kurtis for their patience and support; he knows it is not easy when phone calls interrupt dinner or he gets home late; they all realize that community service sometimes inconveniences one's personal life.

C. Remarks by Other Council Members

Council Member Siegel – Mayor Freedland has done a terrific job, especially for his first time as Mayor; a lot has to do with preparation, being smart, and being interested; there is a certain Hidden Hills spirit about things – we all take our jobs seriously, but we do not assume that by sitting here we have become more important; one can see an obvious difference when attending Council meetings in other cities, where it is sometimes amazing to see what happens to people when they get on this side of the microphone; that does not happen to this Council, as we just try to do the people's business; he thanked Mayor Freedland for a job well done.

Council Member Fisher – Mayor Freedland has done a great job of keeping everything together, and bringing matters to the Council to get something done; it is a privilege for him to be on the Council and to work with each of the other Council Members; we are all from different backgrounds and have diverse ideas; but he really likes the fact that the Council Members can disagree and have arguments, but walk out of the meeting and still remain friends; he has seen politicians that can destroy the good that is done; that does not happen with this Council; Mayor Freedland has done a good job, and the City is fortunate to have people like him.

Council Member Cohen – There is not much more that can be said, but he would like to thank Mayor Freedland for a good year of leadership; the cooperation between the City and Community Association, both of whom are responsible for the community, is due in part to both Board President Todd Bernstein and his humor, and Mayor Freedland making it happen; there have been times in the past when there was not much communication between the two, but it seems to work now; he again thanked Mayor Freedland.

Mayor Pro Tem Berg – He was thinking earlier this evening what had been accomplished this past year, and had actually forgotten how much was done because everything went so smoothly; Mayor Freedland led with ease, and was very well prepared; it was very enjoyable to discuss issues with Mayor Freedland; even though it seemed fluid, having sat in the Mayor's chair, he knows how much time it does take; he would like to thank Mayor Freedland's family for accepting that fact; on behalf of the Council and staff, he would like to thank Mayor Freedland for a job well done during an important year.

City Manager Paglia – On behalf of the staff, she wished to thank Mayor Freedland for a very good year in which a great deal was accomplished; it took a lot of hard work, but with good results; the staff is very appreciative of the time that Mayor Freedland spent over the past year working with them, and also of his understanding of the efforts and time put forth by all the staff members.

D. Selection of Mayor

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel and seconded by Council Member Cohen, it was resolved to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Berg for Mayor. There being no other nominations, it was resolved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Mayor Pro Tem Berg, electing him to the position of Mayor. Outgoing Mayor Freedland then presented the ceremonial “big gavel” to new Mayor Berg.

E. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

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

F. Remarks by Incoming Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Berg commented as follows:

As mentioned earlier, everything this past year went very smoothly and it is amazing how much was accomplished with Council Member Freedland as the Mayor; there are a number of matters coming up this next year, including the Lasher development and working with the Community Association on the remodel of the Long Valley gate; he would like to see more residents attend the Council meetings and participate; even though it is the five Council Members who sit in front of the camera every second and fourth Mondays of the month, it is really the City staff that run the City and interact with the residents on a daily basis; the City is fortunate to have one of the best staffs (whom he named individually), including very good legal counsel; he invited residents to come to City Hall to meet the staff if they have not already done so, and also encouraged them to contact individual Council Members, whom all welcome phone calls at home; he looks forward to a hopefully unremarkable year where everything continues to go smoothly and

continuing a good working relationship with the Association Board of Directors and its President Todd Bernstein; he thanked his wife Barb and daughter Macy for helping him through this past year, which included his illness, the building of their new home, and serving on the Council as the Mayor Pro Tem; he looks forward to working with each of the Council Members, all of whom are gentlemen and harbor no hard feelings after any disagreements; if the only thing the Council Members ever disagree on is what's in the best interest of this community and its residents, that cannot be a bad thing; he thanked the Sheriff and Fire Departments, whom he is looking forward to working with, for making this community a better and safer place; he congratulated Council Member Cohen on his election as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen stated the following:

He appreciates being placed in the position of the Mayor Pro Tem and is looking forward to serving the community; he enjoys the camaraderie and the courtesy shown by the Council Members to each other; it will be a pleasure working with each of the Council Members and with Mayor Berg; hopefully, as Mayor Berg stated earlier, it will be an unremarkable year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Berg made the following announcements:

He invited everyone in attendance and anyone at home who might want to come down to join the Council Members after the meeting for a reception thanking outgoing Mayor Freedland and honoring both Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and Council Member Freedland on their reelection to the Council, each for another four year term; all of the refreshments were made by Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill.

He reminded everyone to turn all their clocks ahead one hour next Saturday evening (4/2) for daylight saving time.

He congratulated Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill on her fifteenth anniversary with the City (4/10).

He offered get well wishes to Council Member Siegel's wife Peggi, and extended happy birthday wishes to Council Member Siegel.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PRESENTATION – NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)/TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs)

The following information was provided by Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Board President:

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is proposing new regulations to limit the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous that goes into Malibu Creek, which is impaired by algae growth throughout the watershed in the summer months; the water from the sewage treatment facility operated by the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) is discharged well down the canyon, past Piru Road; the water that cannot be used during the five months of winter goes into the creek; for the seven summer months, the water is not discharged into the creek, as it is all beneficially used for irrigation; proposed regulations will reduce the standard for allowable nitrogen to 1/10 of that allowed in drinking water; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends a water discharge nitrogen standard of eight parts per million; the RWQCB is looking at studies that are inconclusive, with even the authors of the studies saying the science is inconclusive; yet the RWQCB staff is recommending a standard eight times that of what the EPA recommends; this will have serious impacts cost wise on every person within the LVMWD, as well as the School District and businesses; the LVMWD is just asking for regulations based on good science; the LVMWD is very proud of its efforts in protecting the health of Malibu Creek, and has received numerous awards for its facilities; the LVMWD has invested \$50 million to recycle sewage sludge, so it does not have to be hauled somewhere else in the County or State; this plant produces compost that is available to residents at no cost; the RWQCB will be adopting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and in fact has already adopted a TMDL for bacteria; he is aware that only a portion of Hidden Hills drains to Malibu Creek in terms of storm water runoff; the City will be affected not only in that regard, but also because the sewage from every residence in the City is pumped to the treatment facility in the Malibu Creek watershed; at a worst case scenario, each connected sewer customer could end up paying \$12,000 to help meet the regulations; the LVMWD is asking for the City's help in encouraging the RWQCB to hold hearings on the TMDLs in this area, rather than in distant locations, so residents may attend and comment; the RWQCB is a State agency that has local boards in various watersheds; the LVMWD is not opposed to spending money to improve the health of the watershed, as the District has a responsibility in that water is imported into the watershed and there are problems related to growth; however, the District wants to see results for the money being spent, which is just good government; they want to see effective regulations based on good science, but that is not what is happening.

Mayor Berg asked Mr. Caspary to keep the City informed on this issue, and to let the Council Members and staff know specifically what can be done to help and to work with the Water District.

In response to Council Member Fisher, Mr. Caspary stated the following:

The \$12,000 per connected household is a capital cost to add facilities to provide additional treatment for the water; the LVMWD believes there may be other options to help clean up the algae problem, at a lesser cost, if the RWQCB will listen; the District is trying to obtain the last required permit for a constructed wetlands in the creek bed that will treat street runoff; it will not treat the water from the District, but is meant to clean up waste from City streets that runs into the storm drains; they have been trying to obtain that last permit, which is before the California Coastal Commission, for four years; they expect it will be granted some day, but they are hoping for sooner rather than later so they do not lose available grant funds; he will let the Council and residents know what they can do to help and when.

Council Member Siegel added his comments:

Mr. Caspary is a resident of Hidden Hills (actually a neighbor) and a volunteer; he has written a very good article that appeared in the Ventura County Star that should be reproduced in the City's newsletter to inform the public of this issue; the Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments (COG) has also been addressing the watershed issues, with Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office involved through attendance at the COG by Susan Nissman; this is a huge problem, especially since it appears it is based on junk science; it is further complicated because it is very difficult to determine who is complying and whose water is going where.

Mr. Caspary made the following closing statements:

It is easy to point the finger at the Water District, as they are first in line and are a point source; however, the TMDLs will also affect non-storm related flow; if someone is over-irrigating, the fertilizer is washed into the gutter and into the creek; these regulations are going to substantially impact every city in the watershed over and above the effects on the Water District itself; everyone needs to make themselves heard and to push for regulations that are based on good science; he would like to thank the Council for allowing him the time to discuss this matter, and will certainly keep in touch regarding what the Council and residents can do to help.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - February

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan apologized for Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee's absence, as he had to travel out of town this evening for training purposes, and then presented the following report:

During the month of February there were no fires, 7 emergency medical calls, 2 false alarm/good intent calls, and 1 water problem, which was probably related to flooding; there was also one outside investigation, for which she was not able to determine what occurred; in most cases, this type of call is related to the smell of smoke, but there was no problem detected; there were 95 hydrant inspections, 4 fire prevention bureau inspections, and 2 plan checks.

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

The following report was presented by Captain Tom Martin:

He offered his congratulations to the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; he enjoys attending reorganization meetings where he can hear the oath of office being administered, as that oath shows how important the Council positions are to the community; February was an average month, with one Part I crime during which a nail gun was stolen from an outshed at a construction site; they have a lead on a suspect, and the detectives are following up on that lead; there were also two false alarms during the month, but no traffic collisions; the Department received several complaints regarding illegal overnight parking; in response, thirty parking citations were issued to hopefully correct that problem.

C. Consideration of Extension of City of Hidden Hills Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

State law requires that speed surveys be conducted on any streets where radar or other electronic devices are used to enforce speeding violations; the last survey was conducted on radar enforced City streets on 4/13/98; at that time, the law required surveys every five years; the law then changed, allowing studies to be used for seven years without additional action by the City, and up to ten years if certified by a registered engineer as still applicable; in February, 2003, the Council extended the existing survey for two years, meaning it would expire this year unless further extended; Traffic Engineer John

Whitman reevaluated the 1998 traffic survey and current traffic conditions; he determined there were no significant changes in the actual roadways or traffic conditions that would require a new survey; both the City Engineering Department and Sheriff's Department concurred with that finding; the recommendation would therefore be to extend the present survey until April 13, 2008, when the survey will need to be redone.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to accept the Engineering and Traffic Survey for Speed Limits dated March, 1998 as current and extend it to April 13, 2008, at which time it will need to be redone.

D. Emergency Antenna at/near Round Meadow Gatehouse - Update

A short discussion occurred among the Council Members, staff, and Association Board President Todd Bernstein, with the following issues being raised and points made:

It is believed there is plastic conduit from the gatehouse, under the street, over to the area in front of the new catch basin; it may be buried several feet down, and has not been found or marked to date; if that conduit is found, the installation of the antenna can still not occur until the additional conduit is provided, an ICBO approved flagpole base design or engineered base design is provided to the City and the necessary permits obtained, and the flagpole purchased; a deadline should be established for the completion of everything; should that deadline be a week, several weeks, or by the end of the month; since Kim Gagnier is out of town, and she is very passionate about the antenna not being placed on the gatehouse, that should not be an option until she is given some time after she returns to complete the necessary work required for the installation; Ms. Gagnier did obtain approvals from the Equestrian Services Committee, the Gate Committee, the Architectural Committee, and the Board, which also approved an expenditure of \$1000; she also obtained a letter from Nida stating that the flagpole in the trail would be a better location for the antenna than the gatehouse; cosmetically, the gatehouse will look better without the antenna.

Mr. Bernstein stated that if the conduit does not exist under the street, the antenna should then be placed on the gatehouse. He would suggest, as did Council Member Freedland, that a reasonable time line be established to find the conduit and complete all other preparations necessary for the antenna installation, and if that time line is not met, that the antenna be placed on the gatehouse

temporarily until everything is satisfactorily completed. Mr. Bernstein asked the City Manager to contact the Association Manager and give his direction to locate any existing conduit.

Mayor Berg and the Council agreed that the item would be placed on the April 11th City Council agenda, at which time the Council will review what progress has been made, and discuss the possibility of placing the antenna on the gatehouse if the other location is not ready.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – March 14, 2005**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – February**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (with Council Member Fisher 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 3/15/05 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting**

Council Member Siegel reported the following:

The Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments (COG) normally works together as a group addressing many important issues; sometimes, however, the five cities are not in agreement on an issue; there is one item in particular that may position Hidden Hills against some or all of the other cities in the future; the MTA updates its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every three years, and lists different projects for future development in relation to traffic congestion and hazardous conditions dealing with on and off ramps, arterial connectors, etc.; the current LRTP for this subregion lists eight projects, including the connection of Calabasas Road and Agoura Road between Valley Circle/Mulholland Drive and Las Virgenes Road; presently, Calabasas Road does not connect to Las Virgenes Road, leaving Mureau Road as the only means of travel in this area if the freeway is closed for any reason; the cities of Calabasas and Agoura Hills definitely do not want a connection between the two roads, as they are concerned it

would create additional traffic congestion in their cities; however, not having the connection presents a significant safety issue; the COG chose to leave that particular item on the LRTP, but to list it last and state that the cities did not unanimously agree with the proposed project; Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office is aware of the concerns on both sides; right now, this is just in the study stage, but it could cause some friction among the cities in the future.

B. Report from 3/15/05 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting

Association Board President Todd Bernstein informed the Council of the following:

Things are going well at the Association; they are moving forward with the Long Valley gate remodel; they are close to completing a rework of the by-laws that will affect several sections; hopefully the changes will be presented to the community very soon for discussion at the April Board meeting; they want to complete the revisions before the next election, as some of those revisions have to do with qualifications for Board Members; the Saddlecreek arena project is proceeding nicely.

In response to Mayor Berg, Mr. Bernstein stated that the round pen had been installed at the Spring Valley arena.

Council Member Fisher pointed out that due to the rains, there was a great deal of debris that needed to be cleaned up, and he wondered how the rains had affected the trails throughout the City. Mr. Bernstein said there were some problems on Kit Carson, but with all things considered, the trails held up pretty good. He did suggest that the City might want to put something in an upcoming newsletter asking residents to clean out swales and drainage channels on their properties.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Lasher Development - Update

Per City Engineer Dirk Lovett, there was nothing new to report at this time.

B. Long Valley Gate Area - Update

The following report was presented by Council Member Freedland:

A meeting was recently held at City Hall; Ron Heston, Kim Gagnier, and Pamela Boothe represented the Association, while he, Council Member Siegel, City Manager Cherie Paglia, and City Engineer Dirk Lovett attended on behalf of the City; the City had provided a completed survey to the Association several weeks before which had all the property lines and easements plotted; the end result of the meeting was that Mr. Heston was going to suggest to the Board of Directors that they hold a public hearing, after noticing those in the area of the Long Valley gate, to obtain feedback on the possibility of moving the gatehouse forward (toward the freeway) about 30'; this would reduce the stacking distance at the gatehouse, perhaps causing additional back-up onto the onramp, but would create room for a turnaround behind the gatehouse.

Board President Todd Bernstein informed the Council that this suggestion had not been brought to the Board's attention yet.

Council Member Siegel added his comments:

There has been discussion about creating a turnaround behind the gatehouse, which could create the need for additional property from private owners; he pushed very hard for this survey to help determine what exists in the area, and the survey does show an easement to the Association of a half-circle area on the west side of the road that could be used, if desired, for a turnaround; he suggested Mr. Bernstein and the Board take a good look at this area on the survey, along with the area leading onto the freeway, as it looks like there might be room there to widen the road if the area needs to be reconfigured.

C. Consideration of Mileage Reimbursement Rate Increase

Deputy City Clerk Deana Graybill presented the following staff report:

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has established a mileage reimbursement rate to compensate employees for the use of their vehicles; on 3/12/01, the City Council adopted the IRS rate of 34.5 (rounded to 35) cents, which has not been increased since then; the new IRS rate for 2005 is 40.5 cents per mile; staff would recommend that the Council at this time increase the rate to 41 cents per mile.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to increase the mileage reimbursement rate for City employees from the current 35 cents per mile to 41 cents per mile.

D. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - February

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 28, 2005 at 8:57 p.m. All those in attendance then joined the Council and staff for refreshments in honor of the reelection of incumbents Steve Freedland and Jim Cohen, and to thank outgoing Mayor Steve Freedland for his year of leadership.

Ronald S. Berg, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk