

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 27, 2006

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 27, 2006 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Ronald Berg called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen's daughter Dana Cohen to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

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

Staff:

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

After introducing the staff, Mayor Berg commented upon the fact that Deputy City Clerk Graybill will have been with the City sixteen years in April, while City Manager Paglia will celebrate her twentieth year with the City in November.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the March 27, 2006 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Berg made the following announcements:

He invited everyone to stay after the meeting to join the Council for desserts and coffee.

He thanked Deputy City Clerk Graybill for making the arrangements for the reorganization and reception this evening, and thanked Council Member Freedland's daughter Kelsey Freedland for making brownies for the reception.

He wished Captain Tom Martin a Happy Birthday (today) and also extended birthday wishes to Council Member Siegel, who celebrated his birthday this past Saturday.

He reminded everyone to turn their clocks ahead one hour Sunday morning for the beginning of daylight saving time.

He informed everyone that the Method Fest Film Festival held in Calabasas will begin Friday (3/31) and run through Friday, 4/7; the City does have a schedule available at City Hall if anyone is interested; call the Calabasas City Hall for further information.

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen wished Mayor Berg a happy birthday, which he will celebrate on April 1st.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

REORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

A. Presentations to Outgoing Mayor Berg

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen began by reading a certificate from State Senator Sheila Kuehl and a letter from U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman, neither of whom could be in attendance this

evening, 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 Berg: Field Deputy Mark Nagales/State Assembly Member Fran Pavley's office; Field Deputy Cynthia Scott/Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office; Captain Tom Martin/L.A. County Sheriff's Department – Lost Hills Station; Assistant Fire Chief Reggie Lee/L.A. County Fire Department; Board President Charlie Caspary/Las Virgenes Municipal Water District; and Eitan Gonen/EGC. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, on behalf of the Council, staff, and residents, presented Mayor Berg with an engraved clock commemorating his past year as Mayor.

B. Remarks by Outgoing Mayor Berg

Mayor Berg made the following comments:

People often ask if this is a lot of work; it is not, but it is time consuming; the Council faced some difficult issues this year, such as the Lasher project, which will benefit the community; the City has eliminated its tree ordinance (except for within the CR zone), which should make it less confusing for residents; there have been some discussions regarding development outside the Long Valley gate; for the most part, Council meetings have been short, but a lot has been accomplished; there are other issues that will be facing the Council this next year, including the Ashley project; it is always a pleasure to represent the City, as it is a well-known and respected community; the residents are remarkable; this is his third year as Mayor, and he looks forward to hopefully serving in this capacity again in the future; he would like to thank his wife Barb and daughter Macy, who have been very supportive and patient; he would like to thank the Community Association Board and staff, who have worked well with the City under former President Todd Bernstein's direction, and now under new President Mitch Jacobs; he would hope that the cooperation continues, as the relationship is a benefit to the community; he cannot thank enough the other four Council Members, all of whom are truly great gentlemen and good friends, and represent this community very well; they have all been very supportive and helpful; most importantly he would like to thank each of the City staff members and Charles Abbott employees, who take care of the City on a daily basis; they all represent the City well and are enjoyable to work with; he wished to especially thank the City Manager who is always available, provides history, and is completely dedicated to this City; not many residents attend the Council meetings, and he would like to think that means the Council is doing a good job; but he would like to encourage residents to get involved, as this is a real democracy in which the Council Members

always want to hear all sides and from anyone interested; it has been a pleasure for him to serve as the Mayor, and he looks forward to continuing to represent the City as a Council Member.

C. Remarks by Other Council Members

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen – On behalf of everyone, he would like to express gratitude to Mayor Berg, who is very fond of boating; and metaphorically speaking, he has been the Captain of this City and the City Council, navigating us through what could have been some rough waters; the Lasher EIR took a little longer than expected, but was fairly smooth and successful due to Mayor Berg’s leadership, the efforts of the Council, staff and City Attorney, and the patience of the developer; no one will forget the fires, and the excellent response to those emergency conditions by everyone, led by Emergency Services Director Jim Doran; the Fiesta happened to be the same weekend of the fires, and although the air quality was not the best, the Fiesta was still one of the best the City has had; part of the success of the Council has been due to the fact that Mayor Berg was very inclusive, looking to the other Council Members, staff, City Attorney, vendors, etc. for input and cooperation; most importantly, Mayor Berg has brought a great sense of humor to the City and its activities, and he deserves a thank you.

Council Member Freedland – It has been a great year, and to watch how smoothly the public hearings have gone has been impressive; there have been one or two long meetings, but otherwise the meetings have moved along very well; it has been a pleasure, and the City has been well served.

Council Member Siegel – He believes that Mayor Berg has followed in the tradition that serves this City and Council well – that being “less is more”; this is not a Council that likes long-winded speeches or lengthy agendas; not a lot of people come to the meetings, but that usually means the residents are happy and being well-served; however, that also provides an opportunity for mischief, but that does not happen here; it appears that the Council is doing a good job, as the room is not usually full except on good occasions like this; he thanked Mayor Berg.

Council Member Fisher – In keeping with that tradition mentioned by Council Member Siegel, he does not have that much to say, but would like to thank Mayor Berg for sharing his time, his expertise, and his knowledge; Mayor Berg has always explained his position if they did not agree on something; he has great respect for Mayor Berg.

City Manager Cherie Paglia – On behalf of the entire staff, she would like to thank Mayor Berg; he has kept everyone laughing, has always been available, and was always there when needed for anything; he has treated the entire staff with great respect, and has been very supportive; she also wished to point out that all of the Council Members serve on a completely

voluntary basis; they are not paid for their service to the City, which is very different than most cities where Council Members are compensated.

Mayor Berg had these additional comments:

In the past, this City has had a tendency to “stay under the radar” and not get that involved outside of the community; he believes this is probably history, as the City did get more involved with outside organizations, like the LVUSD Board; he thinks the City is well enough respected to now take a prominent role in various aspects, whether that involves the schools, surrounding developments, other cities, etc.; the City needs to be in the forefront with some issues, and he knows the City will be well represented by the new Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

D. Selection of Mayor

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

E. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

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

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

F. Remarks by Incoming Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Cohen made the following comments:

He wished to thank the other Council Members for their confidence in him; this year he will try to keep on the same level course; the Council has managed to decrease legal expenditures this past year, which means the City is not in much trouble, and he would like to continue that trend; even though most votes by this Council are unanimous, he will

try to remember when calling for the vote to ask for any opposing views; he will also try to keep the humor that outgoing Mayor Berg has instilled; he wants the residents to know that the doors to City Hall are always open, and that the Council Members are always available to the residents, whether by phone, fax or email; he invited everyone to attend the meetings and encouraged them to participate; he expects the Council Members to also participate at the same level they always have.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stated the following:

He also would like to thank the other Council Members for their confidence in electing him as the new Mayor Pro Tem; he has a lot to learn about participating more in the region, but is sure that the rest of the Council will be able to guide him in that regard.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition of New Neighborhood Emergency Assistance Team (NEAT) Members

Emergency Services Director Jim Doran stated the following:

There are four residents who have recently completed their training to become NEAT members; they were very committed as they had to take make-up classes in other cities; they are now being asked to make a commitment to the City by taking an oath of office and helping the City when there is some type of emergency or disaster; there will be additional training in the future, as it is always ongoing.

Mr. Doran administered the oath of office to the following four residents:

Ron Gonen
Ralph Lake
Donald Petrie
Claudette Rice

Each of these residents was then presented with a Certificate of Achievement by L.A. County Fire Department Community Services Representative Maria Grycan, and with a NEAT backpack by Mayor Cohen, who congratulated the new NEAT members and thanked them on behalf of the Council for their willingness to serve the City in this capacity.

Council Member Siegel commented as follows:

He sometimes encounters an attitude exhibited by some residents who believe that the people who volunteer for these types of things are those who are not very busy and do not

have much going on in their lives; but looking at these four people proves that is not the case, as these are very busy and successful people; being busy is not an excuse for not getting involved; this is an important contribution to the community; during a major disaster, no other agency is going to be here to provide help; we are going to have to look out for ourselves for some time; he would like to thank all the volunteers and these four individuals for offering their help and their time.

B. Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments (LVMCOG) - Update

The following update was provided by LVMCOG Executive Director Terry Dipple:

The COG is a voluntary organization of the five cities of Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, and Westlake Village that was founded in the late 1990s to work on issues of mutual concern; the COG has been successful in providing a return on its investments for the involved communities; \$121,000 was received from FEMA to prepare a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; \$100,000 was received, again from FEMA, for emergency preparedness; Council Member Berg has served on the COG Board, with Council Member Siegel being the current representative and also the past year's president; Council Member Siegel helped the COG to refocus from taking on too many projects to just three or four priorities for the benefit of the five communities; one of the main goals is to work on a regional approach to emergency preparedness, and to complete the Highway 101 Emergency Traffic Management Plan; the COG is also interested in providing training for both electeds and staff members of the five cities; it is very important that Hidden Hills is looking at being more involved in the region, as the COG wants to work with the City, its staff, and residents on these very important issues that the COG will be addressing.

Council Member Siegel added the following comments:

During this past year when he was President of the COG, it became apparent that the COG was going in many different directions; he has always felt, even before the establishment of the COG when there were more informal meetings, that the most important thing for the region as a whole to address is public safety; he thought the COG was the perfect vehicle to coordinate the efforts of the individual cities' disaster response teams; with that coordination, if one city needed help during a disaster, that help could be provided by any of the other cities in the region that were not affected; in looking at the priorities of the COG, there are actually six, with three of those being related to the coordination of public safety and the disaster response teams; in addition, the State has mandated ethics training, which he feels could be provided by and through the COG, along with other required training; the COG is planning an upcoming meeting whereby all five Council Members from each of the five cities get together; he would also like to place on the next agenda for consideration by the Council a resolution supporting

AB2015, which would affect the number of Board Members on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), as well as moving Calabasas and Malibu (two cities in the COG) into the Western Region of the SCAQMD, with the rest of the COG cities.

Mr. Dipple had the following closing comments:

In looking at disaster preparedness, the COG wanted to conduct a tabletop exercise before fire season; the exercise was scheduled and presented by the L.A. County Fire Department and Community Services Representative Maria Grycan; it just happened that the tabletop exercise was completed several weeks before the actual Topanga fire; because of this exercise, everyone felt much more prepared for the fire and the communication levels were increased; he wished to thank the Fire Department.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - February

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan introduced Stephanie English, who just started with the Fire Department today as a Community Services Representative for Santa Clarita and La Canada Flintridge, and then presented the following report:

There were eight responses during February; two of those were rescue/emergency medical, five were false alarm/good intent calls, and one was a service call involving an animal rescue; assistance was given to a horse that had fallen and caught his hooves in metal pipe fencing; there was one station inspection, and four Fire Prevention Bureau inspections; the report shows fifteen fire hydrant inspections, but all of the hydrants within the City have been inspected; in addition, the Department conducted one Rescue Youth Program activity, and three station tours for a total of 26 people.

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

Captain Tom Martin presented the following report:

During the month of February, there were no Part I crimes, only one false alarm, and no traffic accidents.

C. Consideration of Request for California Seat Belt Compliance Campaign (CSBCC) Mini-Grant

Captain Tom Martin provided the following information:

This is the second year that the Sheriff's Department is asking for these grant funds; the goal was to reach 92.5% compliance for seat belt usage in Hidden Hills; they fell a little short of that goal last year, starting at 81% compliance and increasing that to 86%; from May 15th – June 4th, 43 seat belt citations were issued; he does feel that the program, which was conducted in each of the five area cities, was successful; they wish to do the program again, hoping for even better compliance this year; the grant requires that a survey be done before the program starts, and again at the end of the program.

Mayor Cohen pointed out that the grant request was for \$6871.12. The City Manager explained that the City was not paying directly, but by approving the request for the grant, was authorizing the Sheriff's Department to request that funding from the State of California Office of Traffic Safety in the City's name, in order to conduct the program within the City. Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to submit to the California Office of Traffic Safety an application, as prepared by the Sheriff's Department, for a \$6871.12 California Seat Belt Compliance Campaign (CSBCC) mini-grant to be used for overtime and reporting costs for seat belt compliance during a 21 day period in May and June of 2006 in support of the Click It or Ticket national mobilization.

D. Round Meadow School Traffic

The following report was provided by Public Safety Commission Chairman Jim Doran:

He and the City Manager recently met at Round Meadow School with Sergeant Phil Brooks and Deputy John Caffrey to discuss and hopefully resolve some of the traffic problems in that area; three major problems were identified; the first problem involves drivers, who are either exiting Hidden Hills or approaching the school from Mureau Road, who are stopping in the middle of street and letting their children exit the vehicles; these areas are posted as "No Stopping Anytime" zones, but if a vehicle is stopped due to traffic and cannot proceed, a ticket cannot be issued for blocking traffic; but when they are stopped, and the children are exiting the vehicle, it is very dangerous for those

children; he would suggest that the Council authorize the establishment of a “No Passenger Unloading” zone on Round Meadow Road from John Colter to Mureau Road.

Mayor Cohen thought the creation of such a zone might confuse people, as they may think they cannot park on the parkway and allow their children to exit the vehicle there. A short discussion followed, during which Council Member Freedland expressed his support for such a zone, as did Council Member Siegel, with Council Member Siegel suggesting that such a zone only be in effect during school hours, and also asking for a map to see exactly where the zone would be established and how that would affect the different areas. A map will be prepared, and this matter will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Doran continued his report as follows:

The second problem involves U-turns being made inside the gate, right behind the gatehouse, creating potential hazards and blocking traffic; he would suggest the installation of a “No U-Turn” sign on the barrier post at the back of the gatehouse; the third major problem is parents driving into the bus drop off area on the school grounds and dropping their children there; this area is supposed to be for busses only; Deputy Superintendent Donald Zimring has agreed to install additional signage at the entrance to this area.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – March 13, 2006**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – February**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – February**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Berg, 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 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Report from 3/21/06 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting

Council Member Berg reported that the Association Board Members discussed the water flow and drainage problems near old Eldorado Meadow Road and across several of the lower lying properties in that area, with a sub-committee being established to further investigate the matter and report back to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Board Member Ron Wolfe and the City Manager informed everyone that even though both the CC&Rs and the City's Municipal Code do not allow swine to be kept in the City, it appears that the interpretation by the attorneys for both the Association and City, based on earlier court cases, is that pot-bellied pigs are domesticated pets and do not fall under the definition of swine.

Mayor Cohen provided the following dates for upcoming Association events: the adult welcome party on June 3rd, the kids welcome party on June 17th, and the first day of summer camp on June 19th. He also pointed out that the Association recently changed gate guard companies, and was hopeful, after a short adjustment period, that there would be noticeable improvements.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Charles Abbott Monthly Report – February

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Cohen wished to thank everyone who attended the meeting this evening, and to specifically acknowledge his family, including his wife Joanne, his children Dana and Brian, and his sister and brother-in-law. He then invited everyone to join the Council Members and their families for coffee and refreshments at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 27, 2006 at 8:33 p.m.

Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk