

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, January 22, 2007

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, January 22, 2007 at the hour of 7:32 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking Community Association Board Member Ron Wolfe to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council: Mayor Jim Cohen
Mayor Pro Tem Monty E. Fisher
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff: City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the January 22, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

The Community Association's annual Valentine Musicale will be presented on Friday and Saturday, February 9-10; tickets go on sale at the Community Center at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 1/29; each family is limited to four tickets; call the Association at 227-6657 for more details.

There are five candidates for three seats for the upcoming City's General Municipal Election on Tuesday, March 6th; absentee ballots can be requested between 2/5-2/27; the last day to register to vote for this election is Tuesday, 2/20.

Congratulations to Miles Gibbons and his wife who had a baby boy on 1/13/07.

At the request of Mayor Cohen, Mayor Pro Tem Fisher proudly announced that his daughter was recently promoted to Senior Vice President for Seattle's Best Coffee/Starbucks, running the commercial division in Seattle.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Reports – November and December

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan presented the following report:

During the month of November there were 9 responses, with 4 being medical and 5 being good intent; the Department led the earthquake tabletop exercise, with a functional exercise being planned, probably for March; there were also 9 responses in December – 3 medical, 3 good intent, 1 smoke/odor removal, and 2 public assists; the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 4 inspections, and there were no plans checked; there is a fire at this time in Thousand Oaks, south of the 101 freeway near Hampshire, that is pretty much contained; the Ventura County Fire Department is handling the fire, and has requested only one engine and one Battalion Chief from L.A. County, coming from Westlake Village; L.A. County has a strike team in the area (staffed for the current fire weather), but it has not been called; the current fire is west of the fire that burned in that general area last year, so if the fire moves east, there would be a natural fire break.

Mayor Cohen asked about the recent Malibu fire, with Ms. Grycan responding as follows:

The final report shows 5 homes destroyed, 6 homes damaged, and 20 acres of brush burned; the cause will most likely never be determined; but if they were to guess, it was probably started by discarded smoking material along Pacific Coast Highway.

B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reports – November and December

The following report was provided by Lt. John Benedict:

There were no felony crimes during the month of November, but 1 vandalism involving a cracked window at the Spring Valley gatehouse; a summons was issued, and it is his understanding that the suspect made restitution, and no charges were filed; there were 4 false alarms during the month, and 3 traffic collisions – 1 at Jed Smith and Round Meadow involving two vehicles, 1 in the 5100 block of Round Meadow with a car hitting a parked vehicle, and 1 hit and run property crime at Round Meadow/Mureau; 36 hazardous citations were issued (mostly stop sign and speeding violations), 7 non-hazardous, and 1 parking citation; during the month of December, there were 4 felony crimes; there was 1 grand theft, two burglaries from unlocked vehicles (Paradise Valley and John Colter), and mailbox thefts, in conjunction with recent mailbox vandalism; the Detective Unit is interviewing potential subjects, and it is hoped that this matter will be resolved soon; 6 false alarms occurred during December, along with 1 traffic collision involving property damage only at Lupin Hill/Penland; 26 hazardous citations were issued, as well as 13 non-hazardous and 14 parking citations.

Mayor Cohen asked if the citations were localized, with Lt. Benedict responding that most were issued on Long Valley and Round Meadow Roads. Lt. Benedict then introduced Watch and Field Sgt. Todd Weber, who will be assisting him with Hidden Hills, and who might give the monthly reports or can be called whenever Lt. Benedict might not be available.

C. Consideration of Approval of Proposal and Request from the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station for Equipment and Training

Sgt. Phil Brooks provided the following information:

The Sheriff's Department is asking all of the five cities to purchase new equipment and training from existing CLEEP funds; they would like the following equipment: 1) a laptop computer, to be used by the final traffic investigator Vanessa Bernard; 2) a digital camera; 3) a Vericom braking device which does an analysis of brakes; 4) a crash data retrieval system, which analyzes speed, braking, gears, etc.; and 5) a DBD crush jig,

which measures crush damage on vehicles; all of this equipment would finalize the Department's needs to do complete collision investigations to save time and money, and to help obtain prosecution; the cost for four of the cities is \$5208 each, with Calabasas paying slightly less as that City has already purchased a laptop computer for its assigned detective.

Council Member Freedland had several questions, which were answered by Sgt. Brooks as follows:

One set of the equipment is needed (not one set for each City), with each City's share of the total cost being \$5208; the digital camera is expensive, as it has lights for night shots, a tripod, and a macro lens; it is the technology that is approved by the courts.

Council Member Freedland asked if the City's CLEEP funds would be used, and if the other cities had approved the purchase. The City Manager explained that CLEEP funds could be used only for equipment, not for training, so it might be easier for the City to use Brulte/COPS funds, and that the City's approval could be given subject to the approval of the other four cities also being obtained by the Sheriff's Department. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to authorize the expenditure of \$5208 to the L.A. County Sheriff's Department for traffic investigation equipment and training (per the proposal dated 12/1/06), with the monies to be paid from either Brulte/COPS or CLEEP funds at the discretion of the staff, and to be paid subject to the other four area cities (Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, and Westlake Village) also approving the expenditure, as the proposal is for one set of equipment to be shared by all five of those cities.

D. Satellite Phone Demonstration

The Council asked Assistant Emergency Services Director Larry Weber to demonstrate and explain the City's satellite phone. Mr. Weber provided the following information:

The City has two satellite phones, which provide the final key to a complete communication system; the satellite phones would only be needed if both regular and cell phone lines are down; the phones only work outside at the present time as the City does not have a special satellite antenna on the City Hall building; to use the satellite phone,

the aerial is put up, the phone may need to be turned to pick up the satellite signal, and then it is dialed just like a cell phone, except that a 10 digit number always has to be dialed, as the area code is a special satellite phone area code; any number, anywhere in the country can be called, incoming calls can be received, and it can be hooked up to the laptops to pass data.

In response to questions from Council Member Freedland, Mr. Weber stated the following:

He would suggest that a satellite antenna be added to both the City Hall, as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the Community Center, as the Alternate EOC; two phones are typically used, one in the field and the other one inside, so the antennas would be needed for that inside phone; he will investigate the antennas; even if the City's repeater is down, the City still has the hand-held radios for talk around within the City, but the satellite phone would probably be necessary for communication with the County, which is the organization that made the recommendation to purchase two of the satellite phones; the City has an annual plan with 1800 minutes; anything over the 1800 minutes would be \$1 per minute.

Mayor Cohen asked if weather was a significant deterrent to the use of the phones, with Mr. Weber responding that snow, heavy smoke, and fog could indeed cause problems.

Council Member Freedland reminded everyone of the recent problem when much of the community and all three gates lost phone service, and residents could not call down to admit guests; he wondered if the City, especially if they had a third satellite phone, could loan the phones to the gates, and have the gate phone numbers automatically forwarded to the satellite phone numbers. Council Member Siegel pointed out several problems with that suggestion – the people at home also would not have phone service, and may not have cell phone reception, so the gates could not reach them, nor would the residents have a phone to call the gates, even if the gates were using the satellite phones. Council Member Siegel thought the Gate Committee might need to adopt a different and perhaps more lenient policy for admittance during such a situation.

Mr. Weber felt it was important to have the gate guards trained in the use of the 2-way radios so all three gates could communicate with each other, although that would not resolve the issue of

contacting the residents or having the residents contact the gates. He thought it would be cheaper to purchase cell phones for all three gates, as opposed to satellite phones.

Ron Wolfe, Community Association Board Member, addressed the Council:

The Association is looking into this issue from both a short and long term view; they will purchase cell phones for each gate, and buy whichever cell phone service works for each particular gate, even if that means using three different services; those cell phone numbers will be shared with the residents so they have the numbers if such a situation arises again; residents will also be asked to provide cell phone numbers to the Association for the data base, so those numbers can possibly be used if the regular phone service is out; in the long term, since cell phone service is not very good throughout the City, they have asked Bob Coffey to look into cell phone reception and possible improvements (is a tower necessary, are there companies willing to come into the City, what is the cost, etc.).

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – January 8, 2007**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – December**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – December**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher 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

- A. Report from 1/16/07 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Community Association Board Member Ron Wolfe informed the Council of the following:

The steel was dropped off last week for the front gate sign; the sign needs to be fabricated on site, since it is so large, then connected, clad with wood, and finished; it should be completed in a couple of months.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher mentioned a picture that one of his employees just took that looks like the remnants of the original metal sign (still standing) for Hidden Hills that could be seen from the freeway; he was not sure, but thought the sign was somewhere on the lot between the real estate office and the freeway. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher thought the Association might be interested in the sign for historical purposes, and will investigate further in order to give Mr. Wolfe additional information.

B. Report from 1/18/07 Las Virgenes Unified School District/Area Cities Meeting Regarding Technology

Council Member Freedland provided the following update:

He, Mayor Cohen, and the City Manager recently met again with representatives from the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) and the other three cities in the area – Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, and Calabasas; the LVUSD is rolling out new high tech teaching tools called Elmo units that they plan on placing in every classroom; a demonstration was provided at the meeting; the unit consists of a video camera that interfaces with a microscope, a laptop computer, a projector, and a remote control which allows the teacher to walk around the classroom and still project on the screen; websites can be accessed; with bond money, the LVUSD can pay for equipment, but not for personnel, so is asking each city for additional funding; the District is trying to find the best way for the cities to give the funding and for the District to receive it; he feels the City will probably want to get on board with this project, as there are many Hidden Hills residents who support and place a high value on the LVUSD; the City's portion would not be cheap, but the amount being asked for is not large; the District would like a three year commitment, not ongoing support; one of the suggestions made was to ask each city to pay \$55 per student, which would be approximately \$51,000 for the three years (\$17,000 per year); the District would like to demonstrate the Elmo unit for the Council; he thinks the Council should consider this request for funding, whether it can be done with a community grant or some other means.

Mayor Cohen added that this was consistent with the presentation made by LVUSD Board Member Terilyn Finders at a recent Council meeting, and that the discussion was ongoing, with another meeting scheduled for next month. He asked the other Council Members to give him or Council Member Freedland any comments or suggestions they might have regarding this issue.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett reported that the consultant was working on the draft EIR, and is still on schedule; he is getting ready to send out the Notice of Preparation.

B. Consideration of Proposed Resolution Regarding Poll Workers Stipend

The City Manager reported the following:

When the Council adopted the resolution calling the City's general municipal election and setting stipends for the poll workers, those amounts were \$75 for an inspector and \$55 for a clerk (based on what the County paid its workers); since then the County has raised the amount it pays poll workers to \$100 for an inspector and \$80 for clerks; it is suggested that the City also adopt these new rates for the one inspector and three clerks that will work the City's election; poll workers work very long hours, beginning around 6:00 a.m. and staying until the polls close at 8:00 p.m., plus then staying even longer to count ballots by hand.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 794 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS ADJUSTING THE STIPENDS TO BE PAID TO POLL WORKERS FOR THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

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 January 22, 2007 at 8:04 p.m.

Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk