

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, February 26, 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, February 26, 2007 at the hour of 7:32 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after asking L.A. County Fire Department Community Services Representative Maria Grycan 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 Attorney Roxanne Diaz  
City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
Building Official Greg Robinson  
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 February 26, 2007 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

Tuesday, 2/27, is the last day to request an absentee ballot for the City's General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, 3/6; please do not forget to vote; the polls at City Hall (the only polling place) will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The L.A. County Fire Department is offering CERT emergency training classes here at City Hall on Wednesday evenings from March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; the training is free and open to everyone; call City Hall for more information.

Daylight saving time begins earlier this year – on Sunday, 3/11; do not forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on that date; this is also a good time to check the batteries in smoke alarms.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for 3/12/07; at this meeting, the three newly elected Council Members will be sworn in, and the Council will reorganize; everyone is invited to join the Council for a small reception after the meeting.

The seventh annual spring food drive will be held from Saturday, 3/17 through Saturday, 3/24; the canned/packageged groceries are being donated to the West Valley Food Pantry located in Woodland Hills; please leave items at any of the three gates (bins will be provided) during those dates, or call Nancy Pearson for more information.

### **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

#### **A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Report - January**

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan informed the Council of the following:

During the month of January there were 11 responses - 2 emergency medical, 8 false alarm/good intent, and 1 hazardous condition with no fire (an overheated motor); there were also 2 station inspections, and 16 hydrant inspections (includes inspections conducted by both Fire Station 68 and Fire Station 125, which may include the City of Calabasas); no plans were checked during the month.

**B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Report - January**

Lt. John Benedict presented the following report:

There were 3 noteworthy incidents in January; the first was a residential burglary in the 24900 block of Lewis & Clark; a front door was pried open while the resident was on an extended vacation; jewelry and currency were taken; the second was a garage burglary in the 4700 block of Robert Guy; a statue was taken from the open garage, so there was no sign of forced entry; the third was a domestic violence incident in the 25000 block of Jim Bridger; a resident was arrested for assaulting his wife; the Department responded to four false alarms during the month; there were no traffic collisions; 39 hazardous citations were issued, along with 8 non-hazardous citations, and 1 parking violation.

Council Member Freedland commented as follows:

In the last several months there have been reports of vehicles congregating at the end of Lewis & Clark; this often happens late at night, and debris is left; he does not know if there is any connection, but it is interesting to note that one of the burglaries just reported occurred on Lewis & Clark; last evening he saw a couple of vehicles hanging around in that area; he asked if the Sheriff's Department could increase patrols there.

Lt. Benedict replied that patrols have been watching Dixon Trail for some time, and he will ask them to also check Lewis & Clark more frequently.

In relation to the traffic citations issued, Mayor Cohen asked if there was any specific location that seemed to be a problem area. Lt. Benedict was not able to provide exact locations where a large amount of the citations were being issued, but said most of them were on the main streets – Jed Smith, Round Meadow, and Long Valley.

**C. Consideration of Issuance of Proclamation for Safe Communities Month March 1 – 31, 2007**

Lt. John Benedict asked the Council for a proclamation for Safe Communities Month, which is an awareness campaign the Department does annually to get communities involved in looking at safety issues. Mayor Cohen, on behalf of the Council, issued the proclamation and presented it to Lt. Benedict.

Mayor Cohen also issued a Certificate of Recognition to be presented to Sergeant Peter Charbonneau who would be retiring on March 29<sup>th</sup> after serving with the Sheriff's Department for thirty-two years.

**D. Consideration of Approval of Shared Expenditure for Training for Lost Hills Sheriff Station Certified Forensic Computer Specialist**

Lt. John Benedict provided the following information:

The Certified Forensic Computer Specialist is shared among the five area cities; the Specialist retrieves information and data that is used as evidence in investigations and often vital for cases; he is capable of retrieving items that have been deleted from computers, and is also the administrative computer person for the entire station; the Captain is asking for funding to provide required training to maintain the Specialist's certification.

The City Manager informed the Council that the City's portion of the training costs would be approximately \$870, which could be paid from the City's COPS/Brulte funds. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the expenditure of \$870 as the City's share for certification training for the Lost Hills Sheriff Station Certified Forensic Computer Specialist, with the expenditure to be paid from available COPS/Brulte funds.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – February 12, 2007**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – January**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – January**

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 2/20/07 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Community Association Board Member and City liaison Ron Wolfe provided the following report:

The Valentine Musicale was a huge success, with \$18,000 being collected for the three charities – A.E. Wright Middle School, the Wildlife Waystation, and City of Hope; the sign for the Long Valley entrance is being fabricated on site and should be finished within a month; the gate will have to be closed for short time, but residents will receive plenty of advanced notice regarding the closure.

In response to questions from Council Member Freedland and Mayor Cohen, Mr. Wolfe stated the following:

The Board just approved a bid to patch the sinkhole at Lewis & Clark and Jed Smith, so the work should be completed soon; in regard to outdoor lighting, the Architectural Standards do not allow lights on tennis courts and sport courts; even though lights are not allowed in arenas, the Board has chosen to clarify that language in the Architectural Standards; there is a process to be followed, which includes publishing the clarifying wording, allowing time for comments, holding a hearing, etc.

- B. Report from 2/20/07 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting**

Council Member Siegel presented the following information:

In the future, one of the items that will be coming before the Council from the COG is a proposed social host ordinance; some of the other cities in the COG have had an

increasing problem with teenage parties; in some cases the parents are not present; in other cases, the parents are providing liquor to the youngsters, believing that since they are drinking anyway, they might as well drink at home; some feel this should be addressed on a more serious level; currently, the Sheriff cannot do much unless they actually witness laws being broken; there are a number of different versions of the ordinance; Ventura County has one, and some of the cities have a different version; Lost Hills Sheriff Captain Tom Martin was at the COG meeting to suggest that the cities try to come up with one ordinance that would serve all five of the area cities; the ordinance would provide for fines for the adults, and would give the Sheriff more enforcement capabilities; some of the wording in the proposed ordinance should be amended to assure that there is some component of disturbance before the ordinance can be enforced; the way it is now written, it would be possible for an unhappy resident to turn in his neighbor for just sitting in the back yard having a beer with his own children; even though it will probably be very difficult and take time to get all five cities to agree on one proposed ordinance, the Sheriff will continue to work on this issue with the cities.

**C. Mesivta School Update**

Council Member Siegel informed the Council that he had been invited by Rabbi Gottesman to attend a building dedication at the Mesivta School on Mureau Road on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and asked if the Council would like him to present a plaque from the City at that time. As the Council agreed, staff will prepare a City tile plaque.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following update:

Last week, the City staff and attorneys, the developer and his attorney, and representatives from the consultant preparing the EIR (Rincon) took a field trip to the subject site for educational purposes; everyone walked a portion of the site and viewed it from different locations, including from the 101 freeway; the consultant is still working on the EIR.

**B. Building and Safety Cost Tracking**

Building Official Greg Robinson informed the Council of the following:

In October of 2005, the Council agreed to eliminate the building cap for the outstanding workload from the tracking process; at that time a fund balance was created and shown on the Financial Statement, which was then to be recalculated twice a year; the October 2005 estimate of \$164,000 was used as a base figure for the costs to complete the outstanding workload; at the end of June 2006, the fund balance was calculated at \$126,677.82, with the latest calculation for January 2007 at \$125,577.69; this shows a very steady workload, and appears to be a much better measurement than what was used previously; when the cap was used, the billing was based on 65% of the revenue collected; since June 2006, the billing has been approximately 44% of the building and safety revenues.

Council Member Freedland commented that the June 2006 and January 2007 estimates were so close, suggesting that this method appeared to be much more accurate than the previously used cap. As there were no objections from the Council, Mayor Cohen directed staff to revise the fund balance (estimated costs to complete the current workload of outstanding permits) on the financial statement to reflect the latest calculation of \$125,577.69, and further directed staff to recalculate this fund balance in approximately six months.

**C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - January**

The report was received and filed.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

**Existing Litigation:**

**Government Code Section 54956.9(a)**

**Name of Case: 1. People of the State of California; City of Hidden Hills v. Charles Burtzloff, Jennifer Burtzloff, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. LC 075623**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 7:56 p.m., at which time

Mayor Cohen announced that the Council, in closed session, would be discussing the item listed above.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:11 p.m., at which time City Attorney Roxanne Diaz announced that the Council, in closed session, discussed the item listed above, and that no reportable action was taken.

**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 February 26, 2007 at 8:12 p.m.

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Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk