

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, June 8, 2009

***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, June 8, 2009 at the hour of 7:33 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 Larry Weber  
Council Member Monty E. Fisher  
Council Member Jim Cohen  
Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Staff:

City Treasurer Eddie Bauch  
City Attorney Roxanne Diaz (8:25 p.m.)  
City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
Bookkeeper Randee Weinberger  
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the June 8, 2009 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Freedland made the following announcements:

Congratulations to the Community Association/Parks & Recreation Committee on a very successful adult welcome party on May 30<sup>th</sup>; they did a great job and it was well attended.

The kids welcome party sponsored by the Community Association/Parks & Recreation Committee will be held on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Community Center; call the Association for details.

Just a reminder that Father's Day is Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, which is also City Engineer Dirk Lovett's birthday.

The first day of the Association's summer camp is Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>; call the Association for more information.

Congratulations to our videographer Aubrey Weber (daughter of Mayor Pro Tem Weber) who graduated from Chaminade Saturday.

### **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **Las Virgenes Unified School District Update on the Technology Program Funded by the Four City Grant**

Las Virgenes Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Donald Zimring provided the following introduction:

This is a very exciting time for the District; the District was honored by Governor Schwarzenegger for being on the cutting edge of technology, which is largely due to the investment of the four area cities; the Governor held a press conference this morning at Calabasas High School (which Mayor Freedland attended) and unveiled his digital textbook initiative; the District and he himself personally helped write legislation for this five years ago; due to the Four City Grant money (provided by the four area cities, including Hidden Hills, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, and Westlake Village), the District is poised to be in a position to serve as a model for the rest of the State; the technology has allowed the District to better serve the students, parents, and communities by providing such things as teacher websites, online report cards and gradebooks, blogging, etc.; digital textbooks allow teachers to create their own electronic communities and scale material to the level of the students; the four-cities grant money provided the foundation for the District's EETT (Enhancing Education Technology Competitive grant, which brought another \$1.4 million for equipment; the District is hoping the City will continue support for technology through the Four City Grant.

Dr. Zimring introduced two of the School Board Members who were in attendance, Cindy Iser and Jill Gaines. A very interesting power point presentation on the technology program, including interaction with the Council, staff, and audience, was then provided by the following District personnel: Assistant Superintendent of Education Mary Schillinger; Director of Management Information Systems Mike Carmody; Mary Hamre and Jeanne Sbardellati, Teachers on Special Assignment; 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Round Meadow George Hees; and Technicians Bryan Starr (help desk), Elias Armenta (network), and Seyed Anvari (elementary sight tech).

Following the presentation, the Council Members had questions which were answered by Dr. Zimring as follows:

There are 14 servers, and 560 high-end laptops that are delivered to the classrooms on 28 different laptop carts; the laptops do not go home with the students, and are all mirrored the same with the information stored on the servers; at the end of the grant, the District has to show results, with the intent to increase already very good writing scores; even though most of the students in the District have access to computers at home, the response of the students has been amazing; the challenge is to keep the kids engaged, and this approach is working, as they all love having the individual laptops in the classroom and it helps to keep them in school and involved.

Mayor Freedland commented as follows:

The residents of Hidden Hills should feel very fortunate to be in the Las Virgenes Unified School District, and the District should feel very fortunate to have Dr. Zimring as its Superintendent; his efforts to be on the cutting edge of technology is a phenomenal benefit to all of the District's students; he himself was at the press conference earlier today, but would like Dr. Zimring to provide a brief summary of the money the Governor is hoping to save through the implementation of the digital textbooks, and whether or not any money saved will be available to the District or be returned to the State.

Dr. Zimring stated the following:

This all comes from the vision of the Board of Education; the District totally supports the Governor's concept regarding digital textbooks; in this day and age, the written textbook is no longer the most effective or powerful way to teach, plus textbooks are very expensive; some science books can be \$150 each; the District can spend \$1 million a year on textbook replacement; they are on a seven year cycle, and when the textbooks arrive, they are already antiquated; using a digital media, you can make revisions, reformat, and align to high state standards; kids learn at different paces, and often the textbooks are below the level of our students, so they are constantly adding material; the savings by going digital are minimally \$300 million statewide annually; for this District, the savings could be in the high six to low seven figures; the work still needs to be done, and they are looking for state-aligned materials that are open source free; so the savings could be vast; at the insistence of the District, the Governor has stated that any money saved stays with the District for more teachers, more programs, etc.

Council Member Cohen asked about a statement made during the presentation regarding appropriate use of the technology, and wondered if this was an issue. Dr. Zimring responded as follows:

One of the key elements they want to teach the students is cyber safety and cyber citizenship; they have pretty effective firewalls in place to prevent access to inappropriate sites, and the parents and students have to sign an acceptable use policy; but no system is perfect, and a constant monitoring effort is required; if there is a problem, it is a disciplinary action that has to be dealt with appropriately, which could even result in a felony charge.

Dr. Zimring thanked the Council Members for their time, and for their support.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Review and Discussion of Preliminary Draft City Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

Mayor Freedland presented the draft budget that was prepared by the Budget Committee, consisting of himself, Mayor Pro Tem Weber, City Treasurer Eddie Bauch, and staff. Mayor Freedland pointed out that it showed an estimated surplus for the coming year of \$2000, although this could change depending on whether or not the State borrows up to 8% from cities (taken mainly from expected property taxes). A short discussion occurred, with no changes being suggested. The City Manager explained that the budget would be placed on the next agenda for formal approval.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – May 11, 2009**
- B. City Council Minutes – May 25, 2009**
- C. Demand List**
- D. Disbursement List – April**
- E. Financial Treasurer’s Report – April**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A, B, C, D, and E of the consent calendar as submitted.

## **MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. Report from 5/19/09 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Board President and City liaison Ron Wolfe presented the following report:

The Board heard a presentation on the proposed adult facility on Mureau Road; it seems to be a very well thought out project; there is an opening on the Equestrian Services Committee; if anyone is interested they should call the Association Manager; they approved some swimming pool modifications to conform to new laws; the 2009-2010 budget was approved, which actually reduced expenses somewhat.

Mayor Freedland asked if the assessment rate was determined, with Mr. Wolfe responding as follows:

The rate has not yet been determined; expenses are approved, but the assessments from the County do not arrive until around September, at which time the Association works backwards from those numbers to determine the rate to cover the expenses; the Association has both study reserves and general reserves; the Board is committed to, if necessary, move some of the general reserves into the study reserves to hopefully lower the assessment rate below this last year's assessment rate of 29 cents.

**B. Report from 5/19/09 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments**

Council Member Siegel, who is also the President of the COG, presented the following report:

At the Council's direction, a letter of support for AB 139 was sent, but shortly after, the author of the bill pulled it from consideration; some scientists are looking at a long-term study of health factors at Surfrider Beach to determine where any pollutants and bacteria are actually coming from, and to what degree; many people claim the water makes them sick; this should work to everyone's advantage as there will be actual scientific data to either support or dispel these claims.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. Consideration of Approval of Community Assistance Grant to the Hidden Hills Community Association for Parking Lot/Perimeter Fence Improvements**

The following information was provided by Association Board President Ron Wolfe:

At the Burbank gate, it is now possible to drive or walk into the City Hall parking lot and then walk right into the community; currently, there is nothing to prevent this, and there have been some problems; the Association obtained bids to install some fencing that should prevent this from occurring; per the plan, the following would be added: a matching pilaster on the right side of the City Hall parking lot driveway (as one exits the lot), a wrought iron fence (matching existing fencing on the other side of the driveway) from that pilaster along the street to right across from the gatehouse, and then a wrought iron fence across the middle of the parking lot (where there is now a 3-rail fence); a pedestrian gate would be installed in this last portion of the fence, right across from the gatehouse; a speaker at this pedestrian gate would allow the guard to buzz someone in with an access code; the Association would like the City's help in paying for this fencing.

Council Member Fisher had some questions, which Mr. Wolfe answered as follows:

There is currently a large electronic gate in the fencing between the two parking lots for horse trailers to pass from one lot to the other; that gate has not worked for many years, and the Association believes it is no longer necessary; along the north side of City Hall (behind the gazebo down to the lower parking lot) is a 3-rail fence with shrubbery that looks very nice; the Association did not feel that fencing should be changed at this time; if it is necessary in the future, perhaps a chain link fence could be added there with additional shrubbery to screen it; the pilasters and fencing to be added would match what is already existing so as to look uniform.

The City Manager provided additional information:

The Association is asking for \$2500 from the City's community assistance grants, which is general fund money; there is currently \$2715 remaining in this year's grant budget; this money would be used to help pay for the fencing (estimated cost \$3850) and pedestrian gate (estimated cost, including removal of the existing motor and gate, \$1560) spanning the area between the two parking lots; with the City's \$2500 grant, the Association's costs would be approximately \$2900; the estimated cost for the pilaster and fencing along the street is \$4500; since this is in the road right-of-way, the City will pay these costs from restricted gas tax funds.

Council Member Cohen had several questions which were answered, but the height of the fencing was not clear, although it will match the existing fencing and be "non-climbable". Upon MOTION of Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to authorize the expenditure of \$2500 from the City's community assistance grant funds to the Community Association to help cover the costs for City Hall parking lot and perimeter fence improvements.

**B. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - April**

The report was received and filed.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:**

**Potential Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c):  
Number of Potential Cases: 2**

At this time, City Attorney Roxanne Diaz joined the meeting. Upon MOTION of Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:25 p.m., at which time Mayor Freedland announced that the Council in closed session would be discussing the items listed above.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:56 p.m., at which time City Attorney Roxanne Diaz announced that the Council in closed session discussed the items listed above, and that no reportable action was taken.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Consideration of Approval of Amendment to City-County Municipal Law Enforcement Services Agreement**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Amendment to City-County Municipal Law Enforcement Services Agreement, extending the existing agreement for up to one year as determined by the City Manager, at service rates not to exceed those proposed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of June 8, 2009 at 8:58 p.m.

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Steve Freedland, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk