

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, September 14, 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, September 14, 2009 at the hour of 7:30 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 Council Member Monty E. Fisher Council Member Jim Cohen Council Member Stuart E. Siegel
Staff:	City Engineer Dirk Lovett City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	Mayor Pro Tem Larry Weber

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Weber.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the September 14, 2009 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Freedland made the following announcements:

Welcome to Kelsey Freedland – this is her first night as the City’s official videographer.

Happy Birthday to Mayor Pro Tem Weber’s son Connor; he is 21 today and celebrating with his family, which is why Mayor Pro Tem Weber was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

Happy Birthday to Council Member Cohen’s daughter Dana (9/16).

There will be an Association Board meeting Tuesday night during which there will be a public hearing on the Saddle Creek Park project.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday, 9/18; Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Sunday, 9/27.

The next two Council meetings (9/28 and 10/12) will be cancelled; the next meeting will be held on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

City Hall, the Community Center, and Building & Safety will be closed and there will be no inspections on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Columbus Day.

Just a reminder that this year’s Fiesta will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>; the brochures are being printed now, so should be mailed to each household in the very near future.

On behalf of the Council, Council Member Siegel extended a Happy Anniversary to Mayor Freedland and his wife Susan, celebrating 20 years on 9/24.

## **AUDIENCE**

Resident Mathy Wasserman introduced Lesli Stein, whom she is endorsing for election on November 3rd to the Las Virgenes Unified School District Board. Ms. Stein addressed the Council, stated her qualifications for the position, encouraged everyone to vote, and asked for the Council's support.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Bike Safety City**

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Woodard provided the following information:

Children do not ride bikes that much anymore, and are not aware of rules and safety issues; previously the Sheriff's Department rented an interactive safety city that could be set up on playgrounds, but it was old; for the last few years, he has been working on developing a state of the art bike city to help educate children on safe bike riding; the bike safety city, that can be set up on dirt, grass, or asphalt, will be available for use at elementary schools and community events in Hidden Hills and the other four area cities; as children ride bikes through the bike city, they will see 5' high, 3-sided plexiglass buildings, including the City Halls, fire and police stations, remotely controlled signals, vehicles, etc. to help them learn and practice bicycle and pedestrian safety.

In response to Mayor Freedland and Council Member Fisher, Deputy Woodard explained the following:

Production of the bike safety city will hopefully begin next week, so it will not be ready for this year's Fiesta, but should be completed for use after the holidays and before the end of this school year; it can be used as often as cities want, with a calendar to be developed; the bike city requires only a couple of people to run it, and they can use volunteers; all five cities are sharing in the costs, and he will also seek sponsors; for example, if a grocery store wants to contribute, they can have their name on a store front in the bike city; the bike city is pretty complete, and includes a cone section with S turns, braking, and other skill lessons; they will hand out certificates and a workbook to the children involved; the bike city is totally contained in a trailer (with all the City logos) that will be stored at the Sheriff's station; it only takes about one-half hour to set up on any flat surface.

Mayor Freedland pointed out that some years ago, in conjunction with a local bike shop, a bike safety program was offered, which included bike tune-ups and a helmet giveaway, and that

maybe that could be included with this bike city. Deputy Woodard stated that was a part of this game plan – AAA has a trailer that can be used at times, bike shops will come to provide tune-ups and safety checks, and they do have a source for some free helmets.

Council Member Cohen asked what ages were being targeted with the bike city, wondering if middle school students would benefit from the safety instruction, and perhaps even adults. Deputy Woodard responded as follows:

He will include tricycles, razor scooters, and small bikes; the target group is the elementary students, but if he feels the middle school students will benefit, they will also be included; kids know how to ride bikes, but they do not know the rules of the road; the adults are a separate issue; they do have a committee that includes some of the riding clubs; they are working together to understand both points of view, and there is a lot of cooperation; some of these clubs would like to participate and discuss their experiences on the actual roadways.

Mayor Freedland pointed out that the City would most likely be able to use TDA bicycle funds for its share of this project, which all of the five area City Managers had agreed to support. The cost to Hidden Hills will be approximately \$3035.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Consideration of Approval of a Request for Filming Permit at 25115 Eldorado Meadow Road and 5400 Jed Smith Road**

The City Manager stated the following:

The City received a request for filming for a reality show; the City's ordinance allows two filming days per calendar year at a property; the applicants own two houses in the City, so have requested two filming days at each house for this year, and another two filming days at each of the houses for the next calendar year beginning in January; the applicants have paid all the fees, provided all the necessary insurance, and completely satisfied all the requirements of the ordinance, providing a very well done application packet.

Mayor Freedland opened the public hearing, with resident Marv Landon being the first to speak as follows:

He has the pleasure of living across the street from one of the applicant's properties; when they first started filming, there were a few problems, but they have all been corrected; the filming crew is brought into the City in one van, and no one can even tell when the filming occurs; he feels that this request will present absolutely no problems.

Resident Nancy Houchen was next to address the Council:

She lives three doors down from one of the proposed filming properties; she agrees with Mr. Landon; she has lived in this location since 1991 and has not noticed any problems or disruptions, and in fact, was not even aware that filming was occurring; they are keeping it low key and doing a very nice job, so she does not see any problems with the proposed filming.

The following comments were provided by resident Andrea Josephson:

She and her husband have lived in the City for 19 years; she is not inconvenienced by this filming proposal, is very appreciative of receiving notice, and wishes them the best of luck; however, she is not sure that she is happy with the filming ordinance, and beyond the filming, there are other problems with different things happening in the City, such as large charity events or large parties which the gates cannot control; she would like to see the City be proactive, and when there are problems, to let the gates know; the City Manager is always helpful, but once City Hall closes, and calls are placed to the gates, they do not seem to know what is happening and tell residents to call the Sheriff; she does not want to report neighbors to the Sheriff; and even if she did call the Sheriff, if she does not know where the party is or where the noise is coming from, she would not know what to tell them; the gates should be aware of the different events; she does not believe that houses in the City should be rented for weddings, charity events, filming, etc., as she wants to keep peace and quiet in the neighborhood, and make sure security is not compromised; she is just asking the City to look at the trending regarding what is being allowed and permitted within the City.

Mayor Freedland commented as follows:

The City does not employ the gate guards and really has nothing to do with the gates, so any gate issues should be reported to the Community Association; he would also encourage her to call the Sheriff if there is a problem, and even if she doesn't know exactly where the problem is, the Sheriff will be able to find the problem location; in relation to the filming, there were previously very few restrictions; the City drastically reduced the number of filming days allowed to two per calendar year.

Council Member Siegel added his comments:

No matter what the City does proactively to establish rules and regulations, there will still be people who choose to break those rules; there is no way to stop that, other than to address it afterwards; this applicant has been very responsible and they are our neighbors, which is a different situation; there were concerns regarding others who might not be neighbors and not so responsible, which is why the City proactively changed the rules for filming.

As there were no other comments, Mayor Freedland closed the public hearing. Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve a filming permit to allow two days of filming during this calendar year, and two days of filming during the next calendar year, at each of the properties located at 25115 Eldorado Meadow Road and 5400 Jed Smith Road, for a total of eight days of filming.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes – August 24, 2009**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – July**
- D. Financial Treasurer’s Report – July**

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, and D of the consent calendar as submitted.

#### **MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

##### **Report from 9/2/09 Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) Four Cities Meeting**

Council Member Cohen provided the following report from this meeting that he attended along with Mayor Freedland and the City Manager:

A technology update was provided, along with information regarding a District-wide walk to school day on 10/7/09; November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the election for the LVUSD Board, with three incumbents and two others vying for the seats; the group discussed the possibility of scheduling a “one District – one book” event, designating one book for everyone in the District/four cities to read; a report was provided on the latest Child Nutrition recycling efforts; a sub-committee of this group has been appointed to look for a consistent source

of funding for technology and other projects; our representative on that sub-committee is Mayor Pro Tem Weber; the State of California has drastically reduced the education budget, which will result in an 18% decrease in funding for the LVUSD; at the same time enrollment is either steady or increasing, with more parents returning their children to public schools; the Las Virgenes Education Foundation (LVEF), a private entity, raised over \$100,000 this past year by presenting a concert at the Thousand Oaks Civic Center; the LVEF also provided summer school this year for 900 students while employing 29 teachers; a day is also being scheduled for District-wide flu shots.

The City Manager provided the following additional information:

The City of Calabasas will be conducting a drive-through flu clinic just for that city's residents; there will also be a free drive-flu clinic in November at the Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center for residents of all of the five area cities; this event is actually serving as a Point of Distribution (POD) regional exercise for the Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments; it is not known yet what type of flu shots will be given, as it depends on what is available from the County.

#### **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

##### **A. Consideration of Approval of Municipal Law Enforcement Services Agreement Renewal**

The following staff report was provided by the City Manager:

The City's current 5-year contract with the County of Los Angeles/Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement services was to expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year; however, there was some disagreement between the County and its 40 some contract cities over payments from the Liability Trust Fund; all of the contract cities pay a percentage of their contracts into this Fund to cover claims against the Sheriff's Department, which does the hiring and training of its personnel that serve the cities; the contract was extended for a short time until these disagreements could be resolved; the Board of Supervisors recently approved the new 5-year agreement to provide law enforcement services to the City, and is asking the City to now also approve the proposed agreement; the new agreement calls for negotiations to begin nine months before the agreement terminates for possible renewal or extension, which should prevent this type of delay in the future, and also provide time for cities to investigate all options.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the Municipal Law Enforcement Services

Agreement by and between County of Los Angeles and City of Hidden Hills to provide law enforcement services for the next five years, from September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014.

**B. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Backbone System Improvement Project**

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following report:

The LVMWD sent the City a Notice of Intent for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); comments, if any, are due by 9/26; the purpose of the project is to provide the LVMWD with greater emergency water supply in the event of a natural or other disaster, and to enhance system flexibility and redundancy to meet the current and projected water demands for the service area; the proposed project contains five distinct components, one of which will impact residents of Hidden Hills traveling out the Round Meadow gate; a 30-inch diameter pipeline will be constructed in Mureau Road, commencing just east of Crummer Ranch Road, extending west to Las Virgenes Road, then south on Las Virgenes to Agoura Road; he sees no need to comment, but just wanted to alert the Council.

Mayor Freedland and Council Member Cohen asked when the project was scheduled to start, especially the portion that will affect the City's residents. City Engineer Lovett did not have that information, but will attempt to get those dates.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

**Anticipated Litigation:**

**Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b):**

**Number of Potential Cases: 1**

At this time, City Attorney Roxanne Diaz and Special Counsel Larry Wiener joined the meeting by telephone. Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:12 p.m., at which time Mayor Freedland announced that the Council in closed session would be discussing the item listed above.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:55 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 Siegel, seconded by Council Member Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of September 14, 2009 at 8:56 p.m.

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Steve Freedland, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk