

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, January 23, 2012

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 23, 2012 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Jim Cohen called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:

Mayor Jim Cohen
Mayor Pro Tem Stuart E. Siegel
Council Member Steve Freedland
Council Member Marv Landon
Council Member Larry G. Weber

Staff:

City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Siegel, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the January 23, 2012 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Cohen made the following announcements:

We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays, and wish you all a Happy New Year.

For those we may not yet be aware, postage for a first class stamp has increased from 44 cents to 45 cents.

Happy Birthday (on 2/5) to our Fire Department Community Services Representative Maria Grycan.

The Community Association/Parks & Recreation Committee winter social (for both kids and adults) will be held on Saturday, 2/4, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.; call the Association for details.

Congratulations to newly elected Community Association Board Member Bret Katz, and reelected Board Members Rob Raznick and Mitch Jacobs; the City would like to express its gratitude to outgoing Board Member Ron Wolfe, who has served as the City's liaison, but could not run for reelection due to term limits.

This year's Valentine's Musicale "Guys & Dolls" will be held on Friday and Saturday, 2/10-11; tickets are now on sale at the Community Center.

The City would like to extend condolences to Building Official Greg Robinson and his wife Lori on the recent loss of their son.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel wished Mayor Cohen and his wife Joanne a Happy Anniversary (today), with Council Member Weber commenting on the recent loss of a long-time and well-liked resident, Bob Sullivan, who will be missed.

AUDIENCE

Resident Britt Aaronson addressed the Council, expressing concerns with work currently being done by Ashley Construction, Inc. on his property on Bridle Trail Road, and the City's and Association's response to those concerns. She provided a letter and pictures to the Council, which will be placed in the City's files.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

The following report was provided by Community Services Representative Maria Grycan:

There were no fires during the last three months; in October there were 13 calls, consisting of 10 medical, 2 snake removal, and 1 false alarm; during November there were 9 medical calls, 4 public assistance calls, 6 false alarms, and 1 outside investigation (a water problem on Jed Smith), for a total of 20 calls; there were 14 calls in December, with 8 of those being medical, 1 being a public assistance call, 4 being false alarms, and 1 gas leak, which turned out to be negative; during the three months, there was a total of 4 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections and 2 plan checks.

Ms. Grycan wished to point out that CERT training classes were scheduled to begin here in Hidden Hills (at the City Hall) on April 12th. In response to Mayor Cohen, Ms. Grycan provided a summary for the year, as follows:

There were 3 fires, all outside fires as opposed to structure fires, with a damage total of \$15,100; there were 65 medical calls; 1 hazardous materials call; 4 hazardous condition calls, which are usually downed power lines; 36 service calls, which would be mostly snake removals and any invalid or public assistance calls; 35 false alarms; and 1 incident, not specified, which was probably medical.

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

City liaison Lt. Matt Squire presented the following report:

He is happy to be back at the Lost Hills Station as the new Operations Lieutenant and the City's liaison; Council Members and staff may email or call him anytime; during the month of October there was one residential burglary on Jim Bridger; the owners noticed items missing between 10/3-25/11 when there were numerous contractors working at the home; this is very common when renovations occur, as those who have the legal right to be at the residence are often given freedom to roam both outside and inside, which provides access to valuables; this type of crime is hard to investigate and prosecute; there were 43 traffic citations issued during the month, with 34 of those being hazardous, 5 nonhazardous, 3 parking violations, and 1 DUI arrest; in November, one grand theft occurred on Annie Oakley, during which an unknown suspect took jewelry and an iPhone; this investigation is ongoing; 29 traffic citations were issued, with 21 being hazardous and 8 nonhazardous; one grand theft occurred on Round Meadow during December, with the resident believing an ex-tenant might be responsible; 17 traffic

citations were issued in December, with 8 of those being hazardous , 5 nonhazardous, and the remaining 4 parking; the year-end traffic statistics show 204 hazardous citations being issued for the year, with the most common being stop sign violations; in this community, running stop signs and speeding can be very dangerous due to so many people on horseback, walking, running, etc., and these violations are very important to the traffic and motor deputies; in January, the City Manager brought to his attention an incident involving a suspicious person in the City; he would like to encourage anyone seeing something that doesn't look right or looks suspicious to call the Sheriff right away; that's how the Sheriff's Department can work in partnership with the residents, and the residents can be the eyes and ears for the Sheriff; the call may turn out to be nothing, but it is better to check in case there is a problem; with the recent incident, the person involved does have a lengthy criminal history and was recently arrested by the LAPD for a burglary and parole violation.

Council Member Freedland asked if the person was arrested the day he was in the City, or if he could have been arrested for trespassing, and if he was in custody now. Lt. Squire responded as follows:

That particular day, even though the Deputy did recognize the person, there was no known violation; if a person is trespassing, and the person cooperates and leaves when asked, that is not really a violation that the DA would file a case on; it might be different, and perhaps the DA could file a case, if the Deputies have had frequent contact with a particular person and know that he is a major problem; this person currently is in the Twin Towers with a no bail parole hold; again, it is very important for residents to call the Sheriff, day or night, if they see anything suspicious or that does not look right to them, since residents can often see more than Sheriff personnel on patrol; all the Deputies have been briefed to watch for partying at the end of Dixon Trail (any smoking or narcotics use could lead to fires), and have been addressing parking violations (from 3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.) in different areas of the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Siegel asked if Lt. Squire had any additional information on the recent accident involving a young driver who flipped his new vehicle near Jed Smith and Lewis & Clark, and whether or not he was licensed. The City Manager reported that, from the information she had received, the young man had a provisional license and was not violating the requirements of that license. Lt. Squire said a license would be suspended if the driver were under the influence, and might lose driving privileges if high speed or reckless driving was involved. Lt. Squire will provide any additional information if it becomes available.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – December 12, 2011**
- B. City Council Minutes – December 26, 2011**
- C. City Council Minutes – January 9, 2012**
- D. Demand List**
- E. Disbursement List – December**
- F. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – December**

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

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- A. Report from 1/17/12 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The City Manager informed the Council of the following:

The election results were certified, as reported earlier; outgoing Board Member Ron Wolfe will be recognized at a future meeting when all the Board Members are present; budgets were approved for both the Winter Social and the Valentine’s Musicale; there will be an item in the upcoming Round-Up asking for residents’ opinions on allowing construction in the City on the day after Thanksgiving and Veteran’s Day; this proposal was raised in the past, and not well received; a new law prevents the entire Board from conducting business via email, so an ad hoc committee of three will be established to work with the Association Manager on matters before they are brought to the entire Board at a meeting.

In response to Mayor Cohen, staff reported that holidays are listed in the Municipal Code, but the Code does not actually prevent construction on those days, but rather limits noise. The Association actually, in controlling the gates, prevents construction on certain days. Council Member Freedland said when he was on the Gate Committee, the holidays were matched with those of the City, and he believes the holidays for both the City and Association should stay consistent, with Mayor Cohen agreeing.

B. Report from 1/17/12 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meeting

The following report was provided by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel:

Water run-off is the main issue being discussed by the COG at this time; almost all of the water from the COG area drains into the Santa Monica Bay, and the environmental groups are championing cleanup of that water; the County is looking at placing a parcel tax initiative/bond on a future ballot, for which only property owners would vote; if it were to pass, the money would be used for projects to provide clean water, including even small projects such as placing grates and collectors over drains; Hidden Hills drains mainly to the Los Angeles River, so our City will be placed in a different Watershed Area Group (WAG) than the other COG cities; this is a very hot issue for the future.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Approval of an Ordinance Regarding the Procedures to Request a Reasonable Accommodation – Second Reading

Upon MOTION of Council Member Landon, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give second reading to and adopt by title only Ordinance No. 338 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE TO REQUEST A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION FROM THE CITY'S ZONING AND LAND USE POLICIES AND AMENDING TITLE 5 OF THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

B. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - December

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of January 23, 2012 at 8:05 p.m.

Jim Cohen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk