

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, October 22, 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, October 22, 2012 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Stuart E. Siegel called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:	Mayor Stuart E. Siegel Mayor Pro Tem Steve Freedland Council Member Jim Cohen 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 Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the October 22, 2012 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

The Community Association/Parks & Recreation Halloween Party will be held on this Saturday, 10/27, at the Community Center, starting at 4:00 p.m. for the kids (\$10/ticket) and 8:00 p.m. for the adults (\$20/ticket); call the Community Association for details.

Wednesday, 10/31, is Halloween; please drive slowly and carefully in the City due to expected trick-or-treaters; Public Safety Commissioners will be patrolling in the City that night, along with two Sheriff Deputies.

Happy Birthday to my wife Peggi on Halloween (10/31), and to Council Member Cohen on 11/11.

Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, 11/4; don't forget to set all your clocks back one hour; this is also a good time to check batteries in your smoke detectors.

Don't forget to vote on election day, 11/6; polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Veterans Day falls on Sunday, 11/11; therefore, City Hall will be closed on Monday, 11/12, and there will be no Council meeting that evening; the next City Council meeting will be on 11/26.

Happy Birthday to Mayor Pro Tem Freedland's daughter Kelsey on 11/12.

The filing period for the 3/5/13 City Council election opens Tuesday, 11/13; call City Hall for details.

City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, 11/22-23; there will be no inspections either of those days.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PRESENTATION

To Retiring Los Angeles County Sheriff Commander Tom Martin

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Siegel thanked and praised retiring Commander Tom Martin, who was in attendance with his wife Julie, presenting him with a City plaque in appreciation of his 37 years of leadership, service, dedication, and commitment as a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and as our Captain of the Malibu/Lost Hills Station for 7 years. Commander Martin addressed the Council Members and staff, thanking them for the City's continual support, cooperation, and friendship in working with him and the Sheriff's Department, and stating that he will take nothing but positive memories with him from his time as Captain serving all of the area's five cities. Mayor Pro Tem Freedland and the City Manager also expressed their gratitude for Commander Martin's leadership and friendship.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Los Angeles County Fire Department Reports – July, August, September

Community Services Representative Maria Grycan reported the following:

During the month of July there were no fires, but 18 response calls including 4 medical, 9 false alarm/good intent, and 5 snake removals; the Station conducted 40 inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 5 inspections, and 2 plans were checked; in August, there were no fires, but 15 response calls including 4 medical, 4 false alarm/good intent, 5 snake removals, and 2 public assists; 2 plans were checked; for the month of September, again there were no fires, and only 7 response calls including 3 medical, 3 false alarm/good intent, and 1 snake removal; brush inspections have been completed on 582 parcels, 18 of which have been written up for non-compliance; these 18 are still outstanding (property owners are working with the station), so none have yet been turned over to the Brush Clearance Unit for enforcement; these numbers will change again at the end of October; this is actually a good compliance rate for brush inspections.

B. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reports – July, August, September

Lt. Matt Squire presented the following report:

There were no Part I crimes, no significant incidents, and 3 false alarms in July, along with the issuance of 21 hazardous, 4 non-hazardous, and 5 parking citations; there was also one property damage only collision; during August, there were no Part I crimes, 3 false

alarms, and 34 traffic citations issued, with 19 being hazardous, 6 non-hazardous, and 9 parking; there was one significant incident involving a search warrant for a marijuana cultivation operation in the City; two people were arrested (they are out on bail) and 1000 plants seized along with other cultivation equipment; in the month of September, again there were no Part I crimes, 3 false alarms, and 24 traffic citations issued including 16 hazardous, 6 non-hazardous, and 2 parking, but no collisions; one significant incident involved an arrest for narcotics after a traffic stop; just this past Saturday, one person tried to walk into the community at the Burbank gate and was contacted by Deputies; he was wondering the streets, but it was determined not to be related to any criminal activity, as it was felt the person was unable to care for himself and taken for mental observation.

In response to Council Member Cohen who wondered if there were any other available details on the marijuana operation arrest, Lt. Squire stated the following:

The Detectives really need to keep the investigation leading up to the search warrant confidential; it was actually Commander Martin's Detective Division that worked on the operation, which was very successful; there is nothing further to indicate concern about any other locations within the City; there were some handguns seized, which is usually the case with this type of operation; this involved a lot of good work, and they are very proud of the arrest.

Mayor Siegel pointed out that, even though the City's numbers are small, crime has gone down 82%.

C. Consideration of Assignment of 2011-2012 Brulte/COPS Funds

The City Manager informed the Council of the following:

Every year the City receives Brulte/COPS funds from the State, and a letter from the Sheriff's Department local Captain with recommendations on how to spend those funds; the expenditures are very similar from year to year, with funds being spent for motorcycle enforcement, the STTOP program, and crime impact funds, which can be used for items such as the LET (fingerprint technician) and additional enforcement for events like Halloween; a report has to be filed every September; the report, which is for the 2011-2012 funds, is a little late this year, but that is acceptable to the County; in the near future, the Council will be asked to approve the Brulte/COPS expenditures for the 2012-2013 funds.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to allocate \$100,000 in 2011-2012 Brulte/COPS funds for the following, as recommended by the Sheriff's Department: \$65,000/Motorcycle Enforcement Officers (Motors); \$25,000/Sheriff's Teen Traffic Offender Program (STTOP); and \$10,000/Crime Impact Funds.

2012 FIESTA

A. Recognition of Fiesta Chairman Lisa Moriarity

The Council thanked Chairman Lisa Moriarity for all her time and hard work putting together this year's very successful Fiesta, presenting her with flowers and a restaurant gift certificate.

B. Selection of Dates for the 2013 Fiesta

The City Manager asked Fiesta Chairman Lisa Moriarity and the Council to select dates for next year's Fiesta, with the options, based on the holidays and probable availability of the rides, being either September 21-22, or September 28-29.

Ms. Moriarity then raised the issue of volunteers for the Fiesta, stating that it is very difficult to get people to volunteer any more. This led to a discussion regarding what the problems seemed to be, how many volunteers were needed, what might be the best way to get more residents involved, what the Fiesta was intended to be, and whether it should continue to be an annual event. At the end of the discussion, everyone agreed that the Fiesta should continue on an annual basis, and that every effort should be made as early as possible to encourage more volunteers, appealing to their sense of community and opportunity to meet more people in the community, especially for those newer residents. At the suggestion of Mayor Pro Tem Freedland, a letter will be sent in early 2013 to the newer residents (if possible to get a list of those moving into the community during the last 12-18 months), inviting them to a lightly catered meeting at which Ms. Moriarity and staff can give them information regarding the different Fiesta events and

encourage them to participate in and volunteer for those events. An effort will also be made to involve different groups in the community, perhaps convincing them to help with different events.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to hold next year's Fiesta on the weekend of September 28-29, 2013 if possible to obtain the rides for that weekend, with the weekend of September 21-22, 2013 as the alternate.

Eugene Wolver, this past year's parade Chairman, then addressed the Council, summarizing his thoughts on the parade, and expressing his ideas for next year's parade, if the Council would like him to continue as the Chariman, regarding volunteers, making the parade bigger and better, fixing any problems that did exist, making plans to avoid problems in the future, encouraging community spirit, and beginning the process immediately. The Council and Ms. Moriarity thanked Mr. Wolver for the great job he did this year on the parade, especially after being brought in so late in the year, and thanked him for his willingness to again serve as the parade Chairman for the coming year.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Municipal Code Regarding Boundary Monuments for Final Maps – First Reading

The City Manager reminded everyone that an urgency ordinance was recently adopted to change unrealistic requirements relating to boundary monuments in the City's Municipal Code. When an urgency ordinance is adopted, the Council usually solidifies that action with the adoption of a regular ordinance, thus the proposed ordinance for first reading.

Mayor Siegel opened the public hearing. As there were no comments, he then closed the hearing. Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to introduce and give first reading by title only to an Ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS AMENDING THE STANDARDS REGARDING TRACT BOUNDARY MONUMENTS AND AMENDING THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes – October 8, 2012**
- B. Demand List**
- C. Disbursement List – September**
- D. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – September**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber 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

- A. Report from 10/16/12 Hidden Hills Community Association Board of Directors Meeting**

Community Association Board Member Bret Katz providing the following report:

The Board approved the rebuilding of the slope in the round pen at the Spring Valley arena to improve the riding surface and quality of drainage; the budget was amended for the adult portion of the Halloween party; this is the first time that there will be a kids Halloween party, followed immediately by an adult party, making use of the same vendors for each; a new tennis club has been created; the club will meet from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on Sundays; Deb Spellman has been appointed the new Parks & Recreation Chairman; the following dates have been set for next year: Welcome Party 5/18; Winter Social 1/6; Kids Summer Kick-off Party 6/15.

B. Discussion of City Withdrawal from the Los Angeles County Library System and Designation of Newspaper for Required Notice of Withdrawal Publication

Mayor Pro Tem Freedland provided the following information:

The L.A. County bookmobile serving Hidden Hills was discontinued this past February; it was paid for from a dedicated amount of money, approximately \$258,000/year, collected from Hidden Hills residents as a portion of their property taxes; this money cannot be refunded to the residents, but there are a couple of options regarding the use of that money; the City can just let the County keep the money and use it wherever it sees fit, or the City can withdraw from the County library system and find a different library related use for the money; he, Mayor Siegel, and the City Manager had very productive meetings recently with the County Librarian, Margaret Donnellan Todd, and representatives from the City of Calabasas (many of our residents use that City's library) and the Las Virgenes Unified School District; he and Mayor Siegel believe that the money could be evenly split, giving half to the City of Calabasas library (and perhaps asking for a seat on that library board), and the other half to the School District as long as the District can show a public library related usage; the District has mentioned expanding library connectivity between schools, along with wireless and wifi coverage; he and Mayor Siegel do not feel a need to micromanage the use of the money, as long as the County believes the money is properly used for public library services and for the benefit of the Hidden Hills residents; so the two questions at this time are whether or not the City should withdraw from the County library system, and if so, if that money should be split between the City of Calabasas and the School District; this would not just be a one-time thing, as the money is available annually.

A short discussion occurred during which the following points were made:

The only decisions that have to be made this evening are whether or not to withdraw from the County library system, and if that is the desire, in which newspaper the required withdrawal notice will be published; a public hearing would then be held at the 11/26/12 Council meeting; the County must be notified in the beginning of December of any withdrawal, although funds would not begin flowing to the City until after July 1, 2013; that allows some time to decide what to do with those funds; County Librarian Todd was in the meetings with the School District and has been supportive of the District's suggestions for use of the money; Mayor Siegel has also discussed the matter with our County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who of course is not that happy with the proposed withdrawal, but understands it, as the City currently has no direct library services resulting in many Hidden Hills residents using the Calabasas library; the use of the money for the Calabasas library is not very complicated, whereas more information will need to be provided by the School District to show that the funds would be spent on appropriate public library uses to benefit both the Hidden Hills students and adults; this

could involve Round Meadow School, A.E. Wright School, and Calabasas High School, all of which are attended by Hidden Hills students; if the withdrawal is something the Council wishes to proceed with, and the public hearing is scheduled for 11/26/12, then representatives from the County library, the City of Calabasas, and the School District can all be invited to attend; if the Council chooses to split the money between the two, then agreements would have to be signed with both the City of Calabasas and the School District regarding the use of the money; those agreements could be for any amount of years, as the money will come to the City on an ongoing annual basis.

As there was no further discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to take whatever actions are necessary to withdraw from the L.A. County library system, with a public hearing to be scheduled for the 11/26/12 Council meeting, at which time a resolution can be considered to officially declare the withdrawal. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to designate the *Daily News* as the paper in which the required notice of intent to withdraw will be published.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Charles Abbott Monthly Report – September

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: 1**

At this point, Mayor Pro Tem Freedland recused himself from the meeting due to a conflict, and City Attorney Roxanne Diaz joined the meeting by telephone.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Landon, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:30 p.m., at which time City Attorney Roxanne Diaz announced that in closed session the Council would be discussing the item listed above.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 8:43 p.m., at which time City Attorney 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 Weber, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of October 22, 2012 at 8:44 p.m.

Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk