

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, December 8, 2014

*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, December 8, 2014 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Marv Landon called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council:

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

Staff:

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz  
City Engineer Dirk Lovett  
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 December 8, 2014 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Landon made the following announcements:

Happy Birthday to Council Member Freedland this coming Thursday, and Happy Anniversary (44th) to Council Member Siegel and his wife Peggi on 12/12.

City Hall and the Building & Safety Department will be closed and there will be no inspections from noon on Wednesday, 12/24/14, through Thursday, 1/1/15, in honor of the winter holidays; City Hall will reopen on Friday, January 2nd.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber announced that the City Manager would soon be celebrating her birthday (12/13).

### **AUDIENCE**

There were no questions or comments at this time.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Update/Presentation Regarding Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD)**

LVUSD Board President Jill Gaines, Board Member Dallas Lawrence, Superintendent Dan Stepenosky, and Round Meadow School Principal Jeremy Resnick were all in attendance. Superintendent Stepenosky handed out a District brochure, and then provided a District update, including information regarding outreach efforts (especially to those 80% of residents in the District who do not have any kids in school), savings to taxpayers due to refinanced bonds, special programs for the students, success rates, technology strategies, Measure E, Common Core, and his new Superintendent Advisory Board.

In response to several questions from the Council Members, Superintendent Stepenosky stated the following:

they try to keep in touch with those who have graduated, although it is a little difficult with changing addresses, etc.; they do have a student advisory board; the State does send more funding to those districts in greater need, as opposed to higher performing school districts; they have not yet seen, but would like to see a report from Calabasas regarding

the library program that is being funded by Hidden Hills with the City's former County library funds; the Waldorf program is an alternative school that focuses on reading development at a student's own pace.

The Council thanked Mr. Stepenosky for his presentation, with the staff stating they would look into obtaining whatever library report was due per the library funding contract.

**B. Consideration of Approval of Community Assistance Grant to Round Meadow Elementary School for Purchase of Hand Held Two-Way Radios for Employees and Self-Expiring Visitor Badges**

Round Meadow Elementary School Principal Jeremy Resnick addressed the Council, stating the following:

this past summer some of the principals attended an active shooter training, for the sake of preparedness; with the training he realized that Round Meadow School is doing a lot right, and the District is very proactive; they do have security cameras at the campuses, and Round Meadow is a very secure school; however, a couple of recommendations were made that would help the school's preparedness; the school does have some radios from the District that are used daily, but every staff member should have a two-way radio to use in case of emergency; right now the only way they have to communicate is via cell phone, and cell phone coverage in this area is not that great, plus a cell tower could go down during a disaster; once school starts all the gates and doors are locked other than the front office, and every visitor coming in has to register and is given a premade visitor badge; some of the parents volunteer often so keep those badges to use over and over, making it difficult to monitor who is on campus at any given time; during an emergency, it is important for him to have an accurate accounting of everyone, so they would like to purchase self-expiring badges; these are sticker badges (with an automatic duplicate so there is a record) that start to turn black and unusable after a certain period of time; he is requesting a community assistance grant in the amount of \$1700 to help purchase the new radios and badges.

There was a short discussion regarding what type of radios would cover the school's needs in an emergency, if it would be possible or practical for the City to give or loan any of its older radios to the school, and what responsibilities come with those radios in regards to keeping them readily available and ready for use.

At the end of the discussion, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the request from Round Meadow Elementary School for a \$1700 community assistance grant to purchase emergency use radios and self-expiring visitor badges, with the City's Emergency Services Coordinator to assist Principal Jeremy Resnick in determining what type of radios would best meet the needs of the school, how many radios would be necessary, and where those radios could be obtained for the best price. If for some reason the approved \$1700 grant does not cover the determined needs, the Council suggested that Principal Resnick ask for an additional grant to cover the extra costs.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. **City Council Minutes - November 24, 2014**
- B. **Demand List**

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

**MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. **Request from Hidden Hills Residents for Monetary Assistance in the Relocation of Transformers and Removal of Telephone Poles from their Properties on Long Valley Road**

Residents Natalie Blossom Levy and Jill Rosenberg, both Hidden Hills residents on Long Valley Road, addressed the Council:

they are interested in getting some poles, overhead wires and transformers in their neighborhood taken down and put in cabinets on the ground for safety purposes; they understand that the City might be able to contribute to such a project; it is becoming more clear that this is very complicated, confusing, and expensive, and they would like to encourage the City to find some common language so everyone understands how this can be done and what the legal responsibilities are for the residents and the City; they have been told that the cost per property could be \$100,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Weber stated that the Council has been dealing with undergrounding issues for some years, and has completed one project successfully while the other attempt was unsuccessful, mainly because the Community Association did not want the large cabinets in the parkway.

Council Member Freedland commented as follows:

in general, he believes it is a great thing to underground wires for public safety, reliability of service, and aesthetics; this is something the Council started working on quite some time ago, with one large project going very well; when looking at possible undergrounding projects, the Council wants to get the most "bang for the buck"; if overhead lines are on private property or are not seen by many people, that is not as attractive a project as one involving wires at a major intersection, crossing main streets, or along parkways where the wires impact more people; this would be a more appropriate use of public funds; in fact, he's not sure if it would be appropriate to spend any public funds for a project on private property; personally, he likes the fact that they are talking to their neighbors and that this could involve getting rid of a string of poles, and if the City can possibly help, he might be in favor of that to a certain magnitude; however, he is not sure the residents understand what all this project would involve and what the costs could be; SCE suggests that a project usually runs about \$100,000 per pole; if there are five poles involved, that could be a half-million dollar project; if all of the involved neighbors want to cover most of those costs, maybe the City could help in some way, such as paying for some engineering costs; this proposed project also involves a lot of transformers, which adds to the costs and makes the project much more complicated; the transformers would need to be relocated to the Long Valley parkway or perhaps on each individual property behind the 3-rail fence (which would be determined by SCE); if the parkways are involved, the Association would have to give its approval; when the City was considering a project at the Tenenbaum corner, which involved wires crossing the street and removal of some poles, the Association objected to the cabinets in the parkway and the homeowners objected to the cabinets on their property.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett suggested that if all the neighbors wanted to take part in this project, that could involve five or six transformers that would need to come down and be relocated. The City Manager added SCE has not done any engineering yet, so nothing is definitely known at this time regarding the number of poles or transformers involved, the relocation areas, the costs, etc. Ms. Rosenberg stated that the neighbors were aware of the engineering costs, but not the other costs, and that she would guess the neighbors would be interested in perhaps spending

\$50,000 each. She also pointed out that per SCE, some cabinets may be able to handle more than one transformer.

A short discussion then occurred regarding the difference between undergrounding overhead wires from pole to pole as opposed to undergrounding the drop wires from a house to a pole (an added expense), and the City's requirement for property owners, when they do a major remodel, to underground from their house to the pole to prepare for possible future removal of poles. Council Member Freedland pointed out that some property owners are not willing to spend that extra money to underground their drops (if not required to do so), so when the Council is looking at possible project locations, it is much more cost effective and less complicated when more of the owners have already undergrounded their wires from the house to the poles.

There was then further discussion regarding the poles on Lasher, whether or not they could come out, whether or not the cabinets could be placed in the back yards closer to the trail, how many cabinets would be needed, the legal issues regarding poles on private property, whether or not the City might be interested in paying for some engineering costs, especially if poles were to be removed along the street, etc. - all questions that could not really be answered without more information and some preliminary engineering. At this point, the Council asked Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Blossom Levy to discuss the project with their neighbors to see how many would be interested, and how much money they would each be willing to pay for this project. Once the Council knows more about the level of interest, the discussion can continue.

**B. Discussion of the City's Filming Ordinance and Direction to Staff**

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz provided the following information:

one of the key things that drives the permit process is whether or not the filming meets the definition of what is called motion picture and television production, which includes all activity related to filming commercial motion pictures, television shows, reality film productions, programs, or commercials; there are some exceptions such as a family video for non-commercial use, a student video or film, or a City produced public access film;

there was some discussion regarding filming that was attempted last month; based on City Clerk Deana Graybill's notes and a description provided by the people who were actually trying to film, it was an infomercial or training video that falls under "program", and thus required a permit; the attempted filming was not videotaping a house for sale, which was an example raised by resident Mike Ashley at a previous meeting.

Council Member Siegel suggested that perhaps the Council should look at the specific issue of allowing brokers or owners to film the inside of a house for showing on websites for selling purposes, as this is something that is often done today but was not even a concept when the current ordinance was adopted. Council Member Freedland thought another section of the ordinance that might be looked at is a restriction against helicopters or any other aircraft or the use of any special effects, that today are being used to take outside property shots. City Attorney Diaz commented that some cities are already taking action to regulate or prohibit the use of drones within their borders, but a city cannot regulate air space for helicopters. Mayor Pro Tem Weber stated that currently drones are illegal for real estate use, but the real estate lobby is pushing for legislation to change that.

A short discussion followed regarding what the Council Members thought should be changed or updated in the current ordinance. At the end of the discussion, the City Attorney was directed to look at amending the ordinance to include an exception for filming homes, both inside and outside, for real estate/selling purposes, including regulations for the possible use of drones that could be used on a property without interfering with other properties. The City Attorney will draft an ordinance that the Council can address at its next meeting.

#### **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. City Clerk Certification that There Are Not More Candidates than Offices to be Elected for the General Municipal Election to be Held on Tuesday, March 3, 2015**

The City Manager provided the following staff report:

the City's next general municipal election was scheduled for March 3, 2015 to fill three seats on the Council, those seats being currently held by Mayor Landon, Mayor Pro Tem

Weber, and Council Member Siegel; the filing period for the election closed this past Friday (12/5/14) at 5:00 p.m., with only the three incumbents filing papers; the Council thus has three options as follows: 1) appoint those who have been nominated, which would be the three incumbents who have successfully and properly filed their papers, 2) appoint any eligible voter if no one has been nominated, or 3) hold the election, which would cost the City an estimated \$12,000; a notice of these facts will be published and posted on Tuesday, 12/9/14; after the fifth day following the date of publication but before 12/18/14, the City Council must meet to either make the appointments or direct that an election be held; therefore staff would recommend that this meeting tonight be adjourned to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, 12/15/14, to allow the Council to adopt the appropriate resolution to cancel the election and appoint the three incumbents.

As there were no questions, the Council directed staff to prepare the necessary resolution to cancel the 3/3/15 general municipal election, and to present that resolution for consideration at an adjourned regular meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, 12/15/14.

**B. Consideration of Proposed Ordinance Amending Animal Control Definitions - First Reading**

The City Attorney explained that an attorney at the County Counsel's office did not like one of the definitions regarding unincorporated County and unincorporated area in the City's Animal Control ordinance, even though that definition has been used for years, and is requiring the City to change the definition. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to give first reading by title only to an ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS SET FORTH IN THE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE AND AMENDING TITLE 10 OF THE HIDDEN HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

**C. 2014 Fiesta - Final Report**

Mayor Landon pointed out that the City went approximately \$3000 over budget on this year's Fiesta, due mainly to less dinner tickets and less wristbands being sold. As there were no questions, the report was received and filed.

**D. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Schoeppner Shows to Provide Rides and Games, and Payment of \$1,000 Deposit to Reserve Date of September 26, 2015**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from Schoeppner Shows to provide the rides (6 major and 4 kiddie rides) and games (total of 9 for the whole day) for the 2015 Fiesta at a cost of \$44,950, and to approve the payment of a \$1000 deposit at this time to hold the 9/26/15 date, with the remainder of the \$17,000 requested deposit to be paid in July. The City Manager pointed out that the total cost is approximately \$2000 less than what the City paid for this year's Fiesta, as the games are being provided directly by Shoepner.

**E. Consideration of Cancellation of December 22, 2014 (Winter Holidays) City Council Meeting**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried, it was resolved to cancel the next Council meeting scheduled for December 22nd, due to the winter holidays.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:**

**Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1):**

**Number of Cases: 1**

**In Regards to Petitions Challenging 2012 Los Angeles Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175)**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:48 p.m. to address the item listed above.

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Weber, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 9:00 p.m., at which time the

City Attorney announced that the Council in closed session discussed the item listed above, and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of December 8, 2014, at the hour of 9:01 p.m., to Monday, December 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

  
Marv Landon, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager