

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, October 26, 2015

***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 26, 2015 at the hour of 7:30 p.m. Mayor Larry Weber called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council:

Mayor Larry G. Weber  
Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen  
Council Member Steve Freedland  
Council Member Marv Landon  
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 October 26, 2015 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Weber made the following announcements:

Saturday is Halloween; please check with the Community Association regarding gate rules for the evening; Round Meadow Road will be closed to all vehicular traffic except golf carts from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. from Long Valley to Jed Smith North; no vehicles, including golf carts, will be allowed on Wingfield during those times; remember that golf carts must be street legal and driven by a licensed driver; please be very cautious and courteous so everyone can have a fun and safe evening.

Daylight saving time ends Sunday, November 1st; don't forget to set your clocks back one hour Saturday evening.

Tuesday, November 3rd, is election day; don't forget to vote.

Saturday, November 7th, is the Harvest Musical Festival at the Community Association; my daughter Aubrey is planning the event, which will include several bands; everyone should bring their own picnic.

He recently attended a Los Angeles Mayor's meeting in Santa Clarita, with the discussion centering around transportation and a bid by the City of Los Angeles for the 2024 Olympics.

### AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### **A. Presentation to Outgoing Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Whittle - Newly Promoted to Deputy Fire Chief**

On behalf of the Council, Mayor Weber presented a City plaque to our former Assistant Fire Chief Anthony Whittle. Chief Whittle thanked the Council for the recognition and support, and for allowing the Fire Department to be a part of the community. He is now the Deputy Fire Chief for the Central Region, which encompasses Hidden Hills.

**B. Introduction of New Assistant Fire Chief Luke Claus**

Assistant Fire Chief Claus was unable to attend the meeting.

**C. Los Angeles County Fire Department Reports - August and September**

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

during the month of August, there were 15 responses which included 5 medical calls, 6 good intent calls, and 4 service calls (1 snake, 1 odor removal, and 2 assists), with no fires; there were 6 Fire Prevention Bureau inspections, and 3 plan checks; in September, there were 7 total responses, including 5 medical, 1 good intent, and 1 hazardous material call, which involved a gas leak on a vacant lot due to construction (no damage).

**D. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Reports - August and September**

Deputy Robert DeSantis presented the following report:

in August, there was one Part 1 crime, that being a grand theft auto - a vehicle was taken without the owner's consent - subject returned with the vehicle and was arrested; 19 citations were issued, mostly for unsafe speed and stop sign violations; 13 of these were issued by the Motors; during the month of September, there were no Part 1 crimes and no noteworthy incidents; 25 citations were issued, with 22 of those being issued by the Motors; most of the citations were for stop sign violations and no insurance.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, Deputy DeSantis stated that there were a total of three speeding citations issued for the two months, with most of the citations usually being issued for stop sign violations.

Council Member Freedland described a recent experience whereby he provided the license plate number of a non-resident who was told by the gate guard to do a U-turn to leave the City and instead continued into the City; he wondered how this was handled by the gate guards and then by the Sheriff if that information was given to them.

Deputy DeSantis stated the following:

he would expect the guard to call the Station with that license plate number; he would advise residents not to follow the gate runner and get involved; once called, a Deputy can

follow the vehicle, stop them, and see what is going on; this is not uncommon in gated communities; usually it is a matter of finding the vehicle, but if they find it, they would certainly pull it over; he would hope the guards would have the phone number for the Station and know to call them; if not, they can certainly work with the guards to establish a procedure, as they definitely want to respond to these types of call, which can be nothing, but then again, can be very serious; the guards could also consider posting the license plate number of a violator in the gate house, and not letting that vehicle in unless the Sheriff comes first.

Council Member Siegel asked what special measures were being planned for Halloween in Hidden Hills, to which Deputy DeSantis responded as follows:

the City does not have to worry about coverage; even though some of the larger cities may have more cars in their cities, due to mutual aid agreements, extra units would come into the City if there was a bad incident; he establishes a command post in Westlake Village, as they have close to 4000 people on Halloween night in the Three Springs area; the good thing is, they only have one way in and one way out, similar to Hidden Hills having the three gates to help control access; since the clocks will be turned back Halloween night, those on the early morning shift are held over to cover that additional hour; he would also suggest that youngsters be urged to carry flashlights, especially in areas that are so dark; he also thought it helped in the community to have people using golf carts rather than everyone driving around in larger vehicles.

The City Manager added the following information:

she has been working with the City's liaison Lt. Patrick Mathers to provide extra Sheriff personnel for Halloween, as was done last year; the City will definitely have one member of the Sheriff's posse on horseback, accompanied by a walking volunteer, along with two Motor Deputies; there will also be two black and white patrol vehicles, and at least three Reserves; all the Sheriff personnel in the City Halloween night meet at City Hall for a briefing on their assignments and are also given City radios (except for the Motors) so they are able to communicate with City Hall, all three gate houses, the Association guards at the barricades, and the roving guard (all of whom also have City radios); she will be at City Hall the entire evening monitoring the radio; the Emergency Services Coordinator will also be at City Hall and patrolling in the City.

**E. Consideration of Approval of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Service Agreement for the Success Through Awareness and Resistance (STAR) Program for Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, seconded by Council Member Freedland and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the Service Agreement Between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the City of Hidden Hills to provide the Success Through Awareness and Resistance (STAR) Program for Fiscal Year 2015 - 2016 to six Round Meadow School 4th and 5th grade classes (total of 48 lessons) for ten months at a cost of \$9,194.99 plus the annual 6% liability for a total cost of \$9,746.69.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. City Council Minutes - September 14, 2015**
- B. City Council Minutes - September 28, 2015**
- C. City Council Minutes - October 12, 2015**
- D. Demand List**
- E. Disbursement List - August**
- F. Disbursement List - September**
- G. Financial/Treasurer's Report - August**
- H. Financial Treasurer's Report - September**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Landon, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (with Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and Council Member Siegel abstaining on this item as they were not in attendance at the meeting), B, C, D, E, F, G, and H of the consent calendar as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Informal Update of Potential Power Pole Removals and Undergrounding in the Area of Long Valley Road and Lasher Road**

Resident and developer Mike Ashley addressed the Council as follows:

this matter was discussed previously with the Council; at that time, the Council agreed to contribute \$5000 to match his \$5000 to have Southern California Edison (SCE) conduct a preliminary engineering study in order to help determine future costs for removal of poles

along Lasher Road; he already had an engineer at the time so took the lead on the project; all of the information that SCE requested was provided to them along with the deposit; SCE has now assigned an engineer to the project, which is now being worked on; there is no specific time frame, but hopefully there will be something further to report in the near future; the project includes approximately six poles; he has talked to Jill Rosenberg and Natalie Blossom, as there is a common pole between their property lines that ties into the proposed project; we will not know how involved and how much money these two property owners might be willing to contribute towards the undergrounding until an estimate of the project costs is known.

Council Member Siegel suggested that once SCE has an estimate of the costs, and an approximate cost can be determined per pole removal, the City should send out a letter to those two property owners along with others in that area that might be affected to give them an opportunity to participate in the project by removing poles on their properties and contributing financially. Everyone agreed, but Council Member Freedland and Mr. Ashley pointed out that this is a complicated issue as each property is unique when trying to underground poles due to the pole locations, the need for additional undergrounding from their panels out to the poles, transformer locations, how many residents are served by which poles, etc. Mayor Weber also pointed out that just one individual property owner who might not want to underground from his/her house panel to a pole could disrupt a project, with Council Member Freedland adding that he ran into that in the past when talking to residents about a possible undergrounding project in their area - some were interested, and some were not.

Council Member Landon asked why SCE was not undergrounding the poles that they have recently been replacing in the City. Council Member Freedland and the City Manager explained that the current pole replacements were being done as a safety issue to remove old and damaged poles (after SCE conducted an inventory and evaluation of all the poles within the City), and that it would be impossible to underground those poles without conducting very lengthy and costly engineering studies, again, due to the complexity of undergrounding (location of poles and transformers, number and location of properties served by each pole, etc.). Mr. Ashley said he would update the Council again when he had any additional information.

**MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**A. Reports from 9/15/15 and 10/20/15 Hidden Hills Community Association Board Meetings**

Community Association Board Member and City liaison Bret Katz reported on the actions taken and information presented at both the 9/15/15 and 10/20/15 Board meetings:

the dressage arena at Saddle Creek has been completed; a budget was approved for the 11/7/15 Harvest Music Festival being coordinated by Aubrey Weber; a budget was approved for the Halloween party, which occurred last weekend; a subcommittee was established to look into hedge heights, which will be discussed again in the future; some of the damaged parkways trees are being replaced with larger specimens of pepper trees; resident Lonna Weber helped pick out some of the replacement trees that were ready to be removed from their 48" boxes, so were a very good size (some of these can be seen along Long Valley); \$10,000 was approved for electric shades for the Community Center to protect against the afternoon sun; several holly oaks that were planted to replace some of the pepper trees are now going to be pulled out (they grow very slowly, and the Board chose to discontinue using them) and replaced with pepper trees; the assessment was lowered by one cent to 26 cents per \$100 of assessed value; the Association is very happy with Park West; a budget was approved for the winter social, which they are changing to hopefully attract more adults; one of the major projects underway is the improvement of those parkways that are degraded; a subcommittee has been established to look into possible rules for the placement of different types of signs (political, favorite sports teams, etc.) throughout the community, as some signs cannot be prohibited due to the first amendment.

Council Member Freedland said when he was on the Gate Committee some years ago, they would post in the gate house the license plate number of gate runners so they would not be allowed through the gate in the future, and he wondered what the gate policy was at this time. Mr. Katz said he was not sure that could be done, but that the roving guard could at times get a gate runner to leave, and if not, the Sheriff would be called. Mr. Katz also said they were working to update the gate manual, with one change being made to hopefully improve the flow of traffic through the gates, especially in the mornings - construction crews are being asked to preapprove their workers in advance, and can print out bar code gate passes - the workers who do not have those passes will have to wait until 9:00 a.m. or later to enter.

**B. Reports from 9/15/15 and 10/20/15 Las Virgenes Malibu Council of Governments Meetings**

Council Member Siegel informed the Council of the following:

Measure R, which was a County measure approved for traffic mitigation projects, provided \$175 million to our area COG; the money was to be used for projects over 30 years, but Metro was very generous with the COG cities, who had a lot of projects ready to go, which resulted in approval of almost 70% of the allocation in these first several years; the County did not request any of their allocated funding; however, he recently spoke with a Senior Field Deputy for new County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl regarding the Mureau bridge (which is in the County, but affects Hidden Hills), and then raised the issue at the COG meeting; this is the only area bridge that is not being improved, and the County said they would be interested in looking at that area; the problem now is that since the COG already significantly exceeded its first ten year allocation, Metro is not interested in approving any additional projects; however, Caltrans will be contacted to see if they can provide a rough cost estimate for a design study to upgrade the bridge and the entrances to the bridge on either side; hopefully, Metro and the County can find some money in the near future to at least conduct that design study; the County is also planning on placing Measure R2 on a future ballot, which if approved, would provide additional funding to the COG cities and the unincorporated County area; he will provide any additional information as it becomes available.

**MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. October 5, 2015 Calabasas Library Commission Meeting - Report**

The report was received and filed.

**B. Selection of 2016 Fiesta Dates**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the date of Saturday, September 24, for the 2016 Fiesta.

**C. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Schoeppner Shows to Provide Rides and Games, and Payment of \$1,000 Deposit to Reserve Date of September 24, 2016**

Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from Schoeppner Shows to provide carnival rides (6 major rides and 4 kiddie rides) and 9 games at a total cost of \$35,500 for the 2016 Fiesta on Saturday, September 24th, and further resolved to authorize the payment of a \$1000 deposit to reserve that date.

**D. Charles Abbott Monthly Reports - July, August, September**

The monthly reports were received and filed.

**E. Discussion Regarding AB243 and AB266 in Relation to Marijuana Cultivation and Delivery**

City Attorney Roxanne Diaz informed the Council that the state legislature passed and the Governor approved three bills related to medical marijuana. She then explained the following:

AB266 establishes local control, with a dual licensing system requiring a local license before the state will provide a license; it also addresses delivery services and mobile dispensaries; a city can prohibit delivery in the City, but would need an ordinance to do so; looking at it practically, enforcement issues could be difficult; AB243 manages cultivation; by 3/1/16, if a city has no land use regulations or an ordinance to regulate or prohibit cultivation, the state will be the sole licensing authority (unless a clean-up bill can be approved) and could allow cultivation in a city; therefore, each city should decide whether or not to allow cultivation.

After a short discussion, the Council reached a consensus and directed the City Attorney to prepare the necessary ordinance to prohibit cultivation of marijuana in the City and to prohibit dispensaries in the City, but to take no action at this time to prohibit or limit deliveries into the City.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:**

**A. PERSONNEL  
Government Code Section 54957**

**Title: City Manager**

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR  
Government Code Section 54957.6**

**City Negotiator: Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney  
Unrepresented Employees: City Manager**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Siegel and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to closed session at 8:47 p.m., at which time the City Attorney announced that in closed session the Council would be discussing the items listed above.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Siegel, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cohen and unanimously carried, it was resolved to return to open session at 9:27 p.m., at which time the City Attorney announced that the Council in closed session discussed the items 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 Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of October 26, 2015 at 9:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager

  
Larry G. Weber, Mayor