

CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 14, 2016

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, March 14, 2016 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

Staff:

City Engineer Dirk Lovett
City Manager Cherie L. Paglia

Absent:

Council Member Stuart E. Siegel

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of Council Member Siegel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the March 14, 2016 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Weber made the following announcements:

Congratulations to City Engineer Dirk Lovett, who was recently honored by Charles Abbott Associates for his 30 years of service.

Happy Belated Birthday to Mayor Pro Tem Jim Cohen's son Brian (3/10).

Happy Birthday to Council Member Stuart Siegel's grandson Oliver, and to Council Member Marv Landon's son Hayden, both on 3/24.

Even though he's not here, we would like to wish Council Member Stuart Siegel a Happy Birthday on Friday, 3/25.

The Hidden Hills Guys Ski Trip was very successful, raising over \$70,000 for brain cancer research.

He attended an L.A. County Mayor's meeting on 3/2 at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach; he would highly recommend a visit to this very unique museum; the main topic at the meeting was transportation, but the Mayor of Inglewood also discussed the process of getting the Rams back to the area.

AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING

Minor Accommodation
24829 Jacob Hamblin Road
Addition and Renovation

Council Member Freedland recused himself and left the Council Chambers at this time, as he lives within 300' of the subject property.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett provided the following staff report:

the applicant is requesting to alter a portion of the single story (of the two-story house) that currently encroaches 4'11" into the 25' side yard setback; the applicant wants to do an addition, which includes a single story addition within the same setback area; there will also be a second story addition, but it is outside the setback so is not a part of this application; the City's Municipal Code says a minor accommodation may be granted to allow "any alteration, expansion or extension of a nonconforming encroachment into a setback provided that the alteration, expansion or extension encroaches no closer to the property line than the existing encroachment"; notices were posted as required, and also mailed to all those property owners within 300' of the subject property; however, since the notices were not mailed by the required date, the hearing can be opened and comments taken, but to allow sufficient time for any comments, the hearing should be continued to the next Council meeting at which time the Council can make a decision; the lot itself is one acre with a small pad and a steep downslope in the rear, with an existing building of 3865 square feet; the applicant is proposing to alter the side of the existing home and to construct a new single story addition, roughly 16 square feet of which is proposed to be in the setback, 20'7" from the side property line; a small portion of a covered patio is also proposed within the setback, 23'4" from the side property line; the proposed improvements within the setback will extend no further into the setback than the existing buildings; other homes on Jacob Hamblin have similar encroachments; the applicant's argument in favor of this request is that the existing residence and the proposed improvements in the setback are in conformance with the neighborhood characteristics; per the City's Municipal Code, the Council may grant a minor accommodation if it will not have a material adverse impact on the public welfare or adjacent property; staff believes the finding can be made, but again, the Council should not express any opinion on the minor accommodation until the next meeting; the proposed additions and plans have been approved by the Community Association.

Mayor Weber then opened the public hearing, at which time the architect for the project, Yvonne Lau, answered several questions, stating the following: nothing is being torn down, the roof is not coming off, they are building under an already existing overhead roof hang and filling in the front colonnade, removing the pool (part of which is in the setback), and building a new pool outside of the setbacks. As there were no further questions, Mayor Weber continued the public hearing to the next Council meeting on Monday, 3/28/16.

Council Member Freedland rejoined the meeting at this time.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. City Council Minutes - February 8, 2016**
- B. City Council Minutes - February 22, 2016**
- C. Demand List**
- D. Disbursement List - January**
- E. Financial/Treasurer's Report - January**

Mayor Pro Tem Cohen had several questions regarding the difference between the demand list and the January disbursement list, the authorization level for staff without Council approval, and the cost for the annual *Daily News* subscription, as he was quoted prices that were less than what the City is being charged. Staff answered the questions and will also contact the *Daily News* to see if the annual cost can be lowered. 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, B, C, D and E of the consent calendar as submitted.

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. Report from 2/16/16 Hidden Hills Community Association Board Meeting

Community Association Board Member and City liaison Bret Katz informed the Council of the following:

at the last Board meeting, the primary discussion centered around the use of the theater, what types of events can be held there, who can hold those events, and how to make sure the resources are properly used and by whom; they have not reached a solution yet, but will be discussing the matter again at their meeting Tuesday night; they approved a proposal to reframe the posters in the theater lobby, and to purchase additional tables and chairs for the pool area; the Association removed the trees from the Meyerstein property outside the front gate, and he was very happy to see that they received numerous competitive bids for the work; they are still working on parkway reconstruction, giving some work to Zacha and some to Hutchinson, depending on the type of job; again, it has been good to have more than one bid; they made several changes to the proposed new language for the Architectural Standards regarding front yard screen planting, so those changes are being republished.

In response to Council Member questions, Mr. Katz stated he had not seen the agreement for the Association to remove the Meyerstein trees, and did not know when that agreement was signed or by whom; however, it was most likely related to the use of the property by the Association for vehicle storage at one point, or as Council Member Landon suggested, to allow the installation of the curb and sidewalk at that location.

B. Discussion and Direction to Staff Regarding City Solid Waste Collection Services, and Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee

Council Member Freedland recused himself and left the meeting room, as he directly owns Waste Management stock, and while under the revised rules there may not be a conflict because his stock ownership is small, the City Attorney recommended he recuse himself nonetheless to be on the safe side and to prevent any appearance of conflict.

City Engineer Dirk Lovett presented the following staff report:

the last time we signed an agreement with Waste Management, it was for seven years with an additional three year option, that was approved; the agreement allowed them to raise their rates annually, but only by a certain percentage, so it was very controlled; the agreement is expiring at the end of this year, so it is time to renegotiate or go out to bid again; staff made a very strong effort to obtain bids ten years ago, but to no avail; many RFPs were sent out, vendors were personally called, and some said they would submit a bid, but the only one received was from Waste Management; he has been contacted recently by one or two companies that have expressed an interest, but he does not anticipate a very good response or even much interest when it comes right down to it; years ago the City actually had two vendors, which some people liked, for the competitive rates; however, there were trucks all over the City and containers on the streets every day; it is up to the Council Members whether or not they would like to go out to bid, or try renegotiating with Waste Management; it might be a benefit to the City to negotiate with Waste Management, explaining that if they cannot provide a decent proposal, then the City will go out to bid.

Mayor Weber liked that idea, as it still would leave the door open for obtaining bids if an agreement cannot be reached with Waste Management. He also pointed out that when the City had two companies, eventually one bought out the other. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen, as much as he

would like to see other bids, was willing to take a chance with the negotiations, as he felt Waste Management was reasonable and fair during the original contract negotiations. Council Member Landon also pointed out that in most businesses today, due to rising fuel costs, etc., prices are not going to go down.

The City Manager and City Engineer Lovett stated the following:

Marilyn Gallagher is still with Waste Management, and she and the company have both been very responsive when the City has needed anything or there have been any problems, which are few and far between; Waste Management does provide the waste hauling services to all the COG cities in the area; even when other companies in the past expressed an interest, they were not able to provide the valet service that the City requires; it is also well known that waste haulers do take over certain areas, and it really is not profitable for someone else to come into that area, as they do not have yards close by and cannot just send a couple trucks a great distance to provide service to a small area like Hidden Hills.

The Council Members all agreed to negotiate with Waste Management, in hopes of obtaining a good and fair proposal, and if that is not possible, to then go out to bid. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee for negotiations, along with Council Member Siegel, who was appointed to join Mayor Pro Tem Cohen.

Council Member Freedland rejoined the meeting at this time.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Consideration of Approval of Proposal from In-N-Out Burger and Payment of \$500 Deposit to Provide Lunch at the Community Center for the 2016 Fiesta

Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from In-N-Out Burger to provide lunch at the Community Center for the 2016 Fiesta, and to approve the payment of a \$500 deposit to hold the date of Saturday, September 24th.

B. Consideration of Approval of City of Hidden Hills Response to the 2015-16 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Interim Report on Inadequate El Nino Planning for County Homeless Population

The City Manager provided the following staff report:

the L.A. County Civil Grand Jury prepared a report on homelessness in the County, and provided that report and its findings (regarding the provision of shelters to homeless people during an El Nino event) to all 88 incorporated cities in the County; by law, all those cities must respond to the findings and seven particular recommendations within ninety days; staff has prepared the draft responses to the Grand Jury recommendations, and is asking the Mayor and Council to review and approve those responses for submittal.


Upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to review and approve the City of Hidden Hills response to the 2015-16 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Interim Report findings and recommendations on inadequate El Nino planning for the County homeless population, and to direct staff to submit the letter response to the presiding judge of the Superior Court.

C. Charles Abbott Monthly Report - January and February

The January and February reports were received and filed.

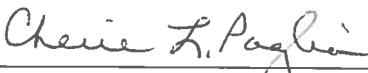
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Freedland, seconded by Council Member Landon and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 14, 2016 at 8:08 p.m.



Larry G. Weber, Mayor

ATTEST:



Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager