

**Ridgecrest City Council
Successor Redevelopment Agency
Financing Authority
Housing Authority
AGENDA**

February 18, 2026
Regular Session 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

Travis Endicott, Mayor

Kyle Blades, Mayor Pro-Tem

Solomon P. Rajaratnam, Vice Mayor

L. Scott Hayman, Council Member

John 'Skip' Gorman, Council Member

Travis Reed, City Manager

Keith Lemieux, City Attorney
Martin Koczanowicz, City Attorney



**City Hall, Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest CA 93555**

Ricca Charlon, CMC
City Clerk

rcharlon@ridgecrest-ca.gov
(760) 499-5002

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact Ricca Charlon at (760) 499-5002. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

Watch meetings on-line:

All of our meetings are streamed live at <https://ridgecrest-ca.gov/369/Watch> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/cityofridgecrest/live> and are also available for playback after the meeting.

Call in for public comments:

To participate with verbal comments, *please call (760) 499-5010*. This phone line will allow only one caller at a time, so if the line is busy, please continue to dial. We will be allowing a 20-30 second delay between callers to give time for media delays and callers to dial in. If you wish to comment on multiple items you will need to call in as each item is presented.

*Agendas are available on the City Website
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**RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
FINANCING AUTHORITY
HOUSING AUTHORITY
AGENDA**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Regular Session – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

REGULAR SESSION

- Pledge Of Allegiance
- Invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA - Persons wishing to address the Council on matters that are within the Council’s jurisdiction and DO NOT ALREADY APPEAR ON THE AGENDA, may do so at this time.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/DIRECTION

CONSENT CALENDAR – All Matters Listed Under The Consent Calendar Are To Be Considered Routine And Enacted By One Motion Unless Pulled By A Council Member Or A Member Of The Public.

1. *Proposed Action To Approve Draft Minutes Of The Regular Ridgecrest City Council Meeting Dated Feb. 4, 2026* **Charlon**
2. *Proposed Action To Approve Draft Minutes Of The Special Ridgecrest City Council Meeting Dated Feb. 9, 2026* **Charlon**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. *A Public Hearing And Approval Of A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Establishing A Finding For Unmet Transit Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet With The Public Transportation System For Fiscal Year 2026-2027* **Transit**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Kyle Blades and Solomon Rajaratnam
Meeting: 1st Monday of the month @ 5:15 p.m.
Location: City Hall Conference Room B, 1st Floor
➤ **Next meeting March 2, 2026**

Finance Committee

Members: Solomon Rajaratnam and Scott Hayman
Meeting: 2nd Tuesday *every other month* at 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Hall Conference Room B, 1st Floor
➤ **Report from February 10, 2026**

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Mayor Endicott and Kyle Blades
Meeting: 4th Thursday each month at 5:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall Conference Room B, 1st Floor
➤ **Next meeting January 26, 2026**

Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee

Members: Mayor Endicott and Scott Hayman
Meeting: 1st Tuesday each month at 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Hall Council Chambers
➤ **Report from February 11, 2026**

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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**Ridgecrest City Council
Successor Redevelopment Agency
Financing Authority
Housing Authority
STAFF REPORT**

SUBJECT: Proposed Action To Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council Regular Meeting Dated February 4, 2026

PRESENTED BY: Ricca Charlon, City Clerk

SUMMARY:

Draft Minutes of the City Council / Successor Redevelopment Agency / Housing Authority / Financing Authority Regular Meeting Dated February 4, 2026

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve minutes

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: Action as requested

Submitted by: Ricca Charlon

Action Date: Feb. 18, 2026

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**RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
FINANCING AUTHORITY
HOUSING AUTHORITY
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

**Special Session – 5:00 p.m.
Closed Session – 5:10 p.m.
Regular Session – 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting was recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period of time from date of approval by the Ridgecrest City Successor Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority. Meetings are recorded solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

ROLL CALL – 5:00 p.m.

Council Present: Mayor Endicott; Mayor Pro-Tem Blades; Council Member Gorman; Council Member Hayman

Absent: Vice Mayor Rajaratnam

Staff Present: City Attorney M. Koczanowicz; City Manager Reed; City Clerk Charlon

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *Motion To Approve* – Blades – Gorman – 4 ayes; 1 absent

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. *Approval Of Consulting Services Agreement With Mr. Ron Strand To Assist As Needed With The Groundwater Adjudications And Upcoming Mediation* **Attorney / Reed**

Public Comment – M. Neel

Motion To Approve – Blades - Hayman – 3 ayes; 1 no (Gorman); 1 absent

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION – 5:25 p.m.

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Existing Litigation (GC Sec. 54956.9)
Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC

REGULAR SESSION – 6:36 p.m.

ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION – Mayor Endicott will be the representative for GA mediation

PRESENTATION

2. *Safely Surrendered Baby Awareness Proclamation* **Council**

PUBLIC COMMENT OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – M. Licitra; M. Neel; S. Whiting; M. Sinnott

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/DIRECTION

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3. Proposed Action To Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council **Charlon**

- 4. Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest, California, Requesting The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Kern To Consolidate A General Municipal Election To Be Held On June 2, 2026, With The Statewide Primary Election To Be Held On That Date, Pursuant To §10403 Of The Elections Code **Charlon**

Motion To Approve – Blades - Hayman – 4 ayes; 1 absent

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- 5. Approval Of An At-Will Employment Agreement For Professional Services For City Manager With Travis Reed **Attorney**

Motion To Approve – Blades - Gorman – 4 ayes; 1 absent

- 6. A Resolution To Approve A Surplus Police Vehicle Donation Agreement Between The City Of Ridgecrest And The Friends Of The Fair **Ysit**

Public Comment - None

Motion To Approve – Hayman - Blades – 4 ayes; 1 absent

ORDINANCES

- 7. Adoption Of A Resolution And Introduction And First Reading Of An Ordinance Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code To Clarify That Any Term Of Service On The Council That Is More Than Two Years Counts As A Full Term For Purposes Of Term Limits And To Change Mayoral Term From Two To Four Years And Placing The Measures On The Election Ballot For June 2, 2026 Election **Attorney**

Public Comment – L. Horny, T. Wiknich, M. Neel, A. Gross, M. Sinnott, S. Whiting

Motion to Approve A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest, California, Calling For The General Municipal Election To Be Held On Tuesday, June 2, 2026 For The Submission To The Voters A Question Relating To Local Ballot Measure Clarifying And Resetting The Terms Of Office For Council Members And Resetting And Changing The Term Of Elected Mayor with the change of wording as follows: In order to correct an ambiguity, shall the City of Ridgecrest Municipal Code be amended to change term limits from 8 consecutive years to two 4-year terms, and provide, for purposes of term limits, that any council member appointed to a partial term of more than two years shall be deemed to have served a full term for the purposes of determining term limits? Gorman - Hayman – 4 ayes; 1 absent

Motion To Introduce An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code To Provide For 4-year Term For An Elected Mayor, Set Term Limits At Two Terms And Clarifying A Term Calculation For An Appointed Council Member Gorman - Hayman – 4 ayes; 1 absent

Motion To Waive Reading In Full Of An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Ridgecrest Amending The Ridgecrest Municipal Code To Provide For 4-year Term For An Elected Mayor, Set Term Limits At Two Terms And Clarifying A Term Calculation For An Appointed Council Member Gorman - Hayman – 4 ayes; 1 absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Committee

Members: Kyle Blades and Solomon Rajaratnam
Meeting: 1st Monday of the month @ 5:15 p.m.
Location: City Hall Conference Room B, 1st Floor
➤ **Report from February 2, 2026**

Finance Committee

Members: Solomon Rajaratnam and Scott Hayman
Meeting: 2nd Tuesday *every other month* at 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Hall Conference Room B, 1st Floor
➤ **Next meeting February 10, 2026**

Infrastructure Committee

Members: Mayor Endicott and Kyle Blades
Meeting: 4th Thursday each month at 5:00 p.m.
Location: City Hall Conference Room B, 1st Floor
➤ **Report from January 22, 2026 / January 29, 2026**

Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Committee

Members: Mayor Endicott and Scott Hayman
Meeting: 1st Tuesday each month at 5:30 p.m.
Location: City Hall Council Chambers
➤ **Report from February 3, 2026**

OTHER COMMITTEES, BOARDS, OR COMMISSIONS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – 8:03 p.m.

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**Ridgecrest City Council
Successor Redevelopment Agency
Financing Authority
Housing Authority
STAFF REPORT**

SUBJECT: Proposed Action To Approve Draft Minutes Of The Ridgecrest City Council SPECIAL Meeting Dated February 9, 2026

PRESENTED BY: Ricca Charlon, City Clerk

SUMMARY:

Draft Minutes of the City Council / Successor Redevelopment Agency / Housing Authority / Financing Authority SPECIAL Meeting Dated February 9, 2026

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve minutes

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: Action as requested

Submitted by: Ricca Charlon

Action Date: Feb. 18, 2026

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**RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL
SUCCESSOR REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
FINANCING AUTHORITY
HOUSING AUTHORITY
DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday, February 9, 2026

5:30 p.m.

This meeting was recorded and will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk for a certain period of time from date of approval by the Ridgcrest City Successor Agency/Financing Authority/Housing Authority. Meetings are recorded solely for the purpose of preparation of minutes.

ROLL CALL – 5:30 p.m.

Council Present: Mayor Endicott; Mayor Pro-Tem Blades; Vice Mayor Rajaratnam; Council Member Hayman; Council Member Gorman

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Attorney M. Koczanowicz (Webex); City Manager Reed; City Clerk Charlon

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *Motion To Approve* – Blades - Rajaratnam– 5 ayes

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA ONLY - None

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - Existing Litigation (GC Sec. 54956.9)

Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al.

Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC

ATTORNEY REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION – S. Rajaratnam will be the representative for GA mediation as Mayor had an employment conflict.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:01 p.m.

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**Ridgecrest City Council
Successor Redevelopment Agency
Financing Authority
Housing Authority
STAFF REPORT**

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing And Approval Of A Resolution Of The Ridgecrest City Council Establishing A Finding For Unmet Transit Needs That Are Reasonable To Meet With The Public Transportation System For Fiscal Year 2026-2027

PRESENTED BY: Sergio Covarrubias & Justin Schuchman, Transit Division

SUMMARY:

The Transportation Development Act of 1971 (TDA), as amended, provides for the disbursement of funds from the Local Transportation Fund for various eligible transportation uses.

These funds are distributed by the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG), in its capacity as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency. An eligible claimant, such as the City wishing to receive TDA funding through Kern COG must conduct an annual review of the transit needs of the individuals and groups in the community which utilize the service.

Kern COG Resolution 90-04 defines “unmet transit needs” as follows:

“An unmet transit need exists if an individual of any age or physical condition is unable to transport himself or herself due to deficiencies in the existing transportation system.

Exclusions are as follows:

1. Those requests for minor operational improvements.
2. Improvements funded and scheduled for implementation in the following year.

The term “reasonable to meet” is defined as:

1. Operational Feasibility: The requested improvement must be safe to operate, and there must be adequate roadways for transit vehicles
2. Duplication of Service: The proposed service shall not duplicate other transit services
3. Timing: The proposed service shall be in response to an existing rather than a future need
4. Service must meet the legally required farebox ratio (PUC Sections 99268.2, 99268.5 and CAC Sections 6633.2, 6633.5) with fares close to fares of similar service.”

The hearing was duly noticed at least 30 days (December 17th , 2025) prior to this evening.

It is appropriate for council to open the Public Hearing, receive written and oral comments regarding any “unmet transit needs” and determine whether these “needs are reasonable to meet.” The documentation of the Public Hearing will be forwarded to Kern COG so the city remains eligible for TDA funds.

**Ridgecrest City Council
Successor Redevelopment Agency
Financing Authority
Housing Authority
STAFF REPORT**

FISCAL IMPACT: None at this time, yet this is a positive to the City Budget

ACTION REQUESTED:

Open the Public Hearing, consider all public comments per the criteria previously described.

Provide direction to staff if necessary.

Approve a Resolution and Establish a finding for “Unmet Needs” that are “reasonable to meet” with the Public Transportation System for fiscal year 2026-2027

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by: Sergio Covarrubias & Justin Schuchman

Action Date: February 18th, 2026

RESOLUTION 26-XX

A RESOLUTION OF RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A FINDING FOR UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS THAT ARE REASONABLE TO MEET WITH THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 29350, the County of Kern and the State Board of Equalization have entered into an agreement that provides for the collection of certain additional sales and use taxes in Kern County that are returned to Kern County, administered by the regional transportation planning agency (Kern Council of Governments) and use for the purpose specified in California Public Utilities Code Section 99200 et seq.; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Utilities Code 99401.5, Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is required to establish and define the terms “unmet transit needs.” Kern COG Resolution 90-04 defines “unmet transit needs” as follows:

“An unmet transit need exists if an individual of any age or physical condition is unable to transport himself or herself due to deficiencies in the existing transportation system.

Excluded are:

1. Those requests for minor operational improvements
2. Those improvements funded and scheduled for implementation in the following year.

The term “reasonable to meet” is defined:

- Operational Feasibility: The requested improvement must be safe to operate, and there must be adequate roadways for transit vehicles
- Duplication of Service: The proposed service shall not duplicate other transit services
- Timing: The proposed service shall be in response to an existing rather than a future need
- Service must meet the legally required farebox ratio (PUC Sections 99268.2, 99268.5 and CAC Sections 6633.2, 6633.5) with fares close to fares of similar service”; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ridgecrest receives Transportation Development Act funds from Kern COG for various transportation uses; and,

WHEREAS, before any allocation of Transportation Development Act funds is made for a purpose not related to public transportation services, a public hearing must be held to determine if there are any “unmet needs that are reasonable to meet” in the public transportation system: and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was duly advertised and held on December 17th , 2025, to receive public comments regarding unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council considered all available information, including the information presented at the public hearing on February 18th , 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ridgecrest is required to submit findings from the annual unmet transit needs public hearing to Kern COG by the end of April 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest that:

- 1) The facts herein are true, and the Council has jurisdiction to consider and make findings in the matter herein mentioned; and
- 2) The Council hereby determines that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet within Ridgecrest; and
- 3) The Transit Division, or Public Works Director is directed to submit this finding and the supporting documentation to Kern COG.

ADOPTED, AND APPROVED, this 18th day of February, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Travis Endicott, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ricca Charlon, City Clerk