

CITY OF RIDGECREST

CITY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

City Council Chambers
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555



February 2, 2023
5:30 p.m.
REGULAR MEETING

CITY ORG COMMITTEE:

Eric Bruen, Chairman; ~~Solomon Rajaratnam, Committee Member~~ CORRECTION: John "Skip" Gorman, Committee Member; Vanessa Hayman, Committee Member; Bill Farris Jr., Committee Member

CALL TO ORDER – 5:35pm

ROLL CALL – Absent: Skip Gorman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – all in favor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – all in favor

1. Approve draft minutes of the regular meeting dated 11-3-2022.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – none

DISCUSSION ITEMS -

2. SB 1383 Education and Outreach Plan – Updates (McKenzie)

- CalRecycle Local Assistance Grant
 - To date: approximately \$24,345 of funds are unencumbered
 - Eligible uses of funds include Education/Marketing/Outreach
 - Funds must be expended by end of grant term on May 2, 2024
 - Committee Comments:**
 - N/A
- Informational Magnets, Stickers, & Compostable Bag Samples (Grant Funded Education/Outreach)
 - Total Cost: \$2386.86 (2500 magnets, 2500 compostable bag stickers, 250 CoR stickers, 6000 3-gallon compostable bag liners, 3000 resealable compostable bags for distribution)
 - Materials still available for pick-up at City Hall and/or at community outreach events with City representation
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: magnets available at City Hall, help to distribute to community groups for distribution to the community (i.e. Boy Scout groups)

This agenda is available on the City of Ridgecrest website at <https://www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Organization-Committee-3>.

- Bruen: Recommendation for outreach at EOC (i.e. Clean CA/LJSC project); question re: status of pool updates, public works projects, economic development projects
- EcoHero Show Program (Grant Funding Reserved)
 - Miscommunication with school district/administrators = confirmed further clarification from Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction that the program is approved by the district = to date, four schools have scheduled shows for the month of February '23
 - Encumbered grant funds that are not utilized will be eligible for other 'Education' uses
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: Media strategy? Staff to send PR to print media; send notice to Council reps for attendance
- RAW Media Educational Video (Grant Funded Education)
 - Posted January 2023 -delay due to technical difficulties with large file size
 - Staff will be following up with IT re: additional broadcast platforms (i.e. Ridgecrest cinemas, City broadcast, etc.)
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Farris: Positive feedback via social media
- Trash Talk Town Hall #3
 - Potential Scheduling: February 2023
 - Focus on how to reduce trash disposal with proper sorting of waste
 - Include representatives from Kern County PW + WM
 - Remaining consulting hours with Zencity (1 hr.)
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: benefit in delaying timeline for scheduling
- Misc. Public Outreach/Feedback
 - FAQs updated as of 12/13/22, available at City website
 - Continue social media campaigns for 'Trash Talk Tuesday' re: recycling resources, BMPs, etc.
 - Potential to extend 'Trash Talk Tuesday' to print media with limited series weekly/monthly article(s) – recommended timeline?
 - Staff continues to handle direct outreach via phone, email, and in-person to record public feedback and address questions/concerns/complaints
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: Recommended to publish to print media as needed, not on recurring basis

3. Sanitation Services – Landfill Diversion

- Weekly vs. bi-weekly collection of trash materials for landfill disposal
 - Weekly organic collection required by law due to putrescible nature of waste; with new weekly organics collection, 'trash' volume should be reduced with proper sorting of waste streams
 - Cost of increase w/ weekly organics + garbage: \$11
 Cost of increase w/ weekly organics + bi-weekly garbage: \$6
 EOW Trash = \$5 in monthly savings* to residential customers

This agenda is available on the City of Ridgecrest website at <https://www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Organization-Committee-3>.

- Savings based on a household with one (1) 96-gallon trash bin; additional cost reductions available by reducing the size of the trash bin (rightsizing)
- According to a proposal provided by WM, implementing every week trash and organics collection would have resulted in approximately 54% rate increase for residents. The final proposed bi-weekly collection schedule reduces the rate increase to approximately 32% for residents
- Special Cases: households with special needs, elderly, and/or disabled persons that produce a higher than average volume of putrescible solid waste that cannot be recycled (i.e. diapers)
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: Staff should continue to explore options prior to further discussion; verification for the program to ensure criteria are met; would require further negotiation with CoR and WM
 - Bruen: potential to fund program with CalRecycle funding? City staff will follow-up with grant manager to determine eligibility
- MCR/MORE Compliance
 - Mandatory Commercial Recycling (MCR) & Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (MORE) = preceding laws to SB1383 for commercial recycling programs
 - Current diversion #s not up to CalRecycle's expectations – with the implementation of SB1383, the City & WM anticipate the commercial diversion #s to improve
 - City responsible for enforcement of MCR/MORE – staff has been working with WM to identify non-compliant entities and provide additional education/outreach prior to moving forward with necessary enforcement measures
 - Next steps will include a follow-up letter informing of deadlines for auto-enrollment and billing to commence. Waivers are available for commercial businesses *if* specific thresholds set by CalRecycle are met and confirmed by WM. City staff will be following up with approval/denial of waivers received to date within the month of February.
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: questions on specific numbers of diversion requirements; City staff will follow-up with specific thresholds for compliance

4. Review Quality of Life Survey Results – Potential Future Discussion Topics

- Community Events to Improve QoL & Culture (i.e. Night on Balsam)
 - Committee Comments:**
 - Bruen: Ridgecrest has a culture, in a period of change/growth to be used as a baseline for building cultural theme
 - Farris/Bruen: events on Balsam will be great for building up a community culture; benefit to businesses for exposure

COMMITTEE COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS – none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:56pm

This agenda is available on the City of Ridgecrest website at <https://www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Organization-Committee-3>.