



## Minutes of Ridgecrest's City Organization and Services Committee

June 14, 2007  
5:00 p.m.

**City Council Conference Room  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, California 93555**

### **CALL TO ORDER – 5:01p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Mayor Chip Holloway and Vice Mayor Tom Wiknich  
Planning Commissioners: Lois Beres

**STAFF:** Harvey Rose, City Manager; Mike Avery, Assistant City Manager; Dennis Speer, Public Works Director; Jim Winegardner, Administrative Services Director; Ron Strand, Deputy Chief of Police; Planning Commissioner; Ann Taylor, Administrative Analyst III; Starla Shaver, Administrative Analyst I; Eva Peterson, Executive Secretary

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Nathaniel Lidle, Daily Independent; Timothy Neipp, The News Review; Craig Peterson; Howard and Barbara Auld; Dr. Daniel Mallory; Frank Nicholson; Jerry Taylor

**ABSENT:** Mike Biddlingmeier, Planning Commissioner

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Moved by Vice Mayor Wiknich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Holloway

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved by Vice Mayor Wiknich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lois Beres

### **ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:**

- **Stop Sign Control for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Traffic on Ridgecrest Blvd** - M. Avery stated that he has staff assigned to wave people through this stop sign for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.
- **Operational Changes on Ridgecrest Transit System** – D. Speer announced that the Ridgecrest Transit system will now allow “Flag Stops” or “Walk-ons”. When people are at a destination and want a lift from a bus that has a scheduled stop, they can request to flag down a bus and request a walk-on. D. Speer stated that there are no regulations or requirements to disallow the public on board. Dr. Mallory stated many of his patients do not use the transit system because there are no fixed routes. T. Wiknich explained that the City is looking into recommendations made by KernCOG into fixed routes. S. Shaver stated performance measures must still be met and walk-on’s will be notified that the City must meet compliance. D. Speer is processing an official policy that will explain the new changes to the system.

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- **Sales Tax Collection** - T. Wiknich stated that a sale tax collection is a source of income for the City therefore people who are not collecting sales tax hinder our revenues. H. Rose stated that the City uses business licensing as a revenue source and the City retains the services of an auditing service to make sure we are receiving our percentage of sales tax. This service has been helpful to us especially at the Fairgrounds. H. Rose stated we could ask a business owner when they are pulling their business license for a copy of their sales tax license and if they don't have one we could report them to the state. C. Holloway stated he was not aware we were doing 2 types of business license fee structures. H. Rose clarified that one is not regulatory. We can ask but we cannot deny processing a business license. It would be to our benefit to report a business that is not collecting sales tax. The solution is to add the question (sales tax license number) to the business license form. This can be done by City staff. C. Holloway moved, L. Beres second and all approved.
- **Licensing of Street Vendors** – There are many vendors in town such as the shaved ice vendors that are licensed to sell their products. The issue is with the flower or rug vendors who come in on the weekends and sell their products without a license. H. Rose stated that in a large city, there is a dedicated inspector that checks retail signage, business licenses, etc. We only have Bob Smith and we do send Bob out however, the problem is being aware of when the vendors are out. H. Rose continued stating this issue would not warrant the labor it would involve plus the cost of a license is only \$10. M. Avery stated it is at the lowest of priority calls for the weekend for PD, however, when the police respond to these calls the vendors are issued a citation. C. Holloway stated that vendors are going door-to-door and have come to his place of business soliciting his customers. T. Wiknich feels that if the public feels we are not doing anything it does not look good on the City. M. Avery stated that a lot of vendors are non-profit organizations and are registered. H. Rose stated that a retailer has certain rights and the retailer can complain if the vendors are getting out of hand. Dr. Mallory asked if there is any fine associated with the citation and M. Avery stated there is a \$50 per day fine.
- **Big Rig Parking Ordinance** – There are roads in town that are getting paved however, the big rigs parking on the roads are making indentations in the pavement due to the weight. Big rigs can also be defined as RV's, motor homes, etc. D. Speer stated he has prepared an outline of permissible action and parking restrictions/options. D. Speer began by explaining:

Section 1-CVC 22507 (CC Ord/Res)

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|------------------|--|
| Restrict parking | - all vehicles - all districts – all times.  |
| “                | - all vehicles except with permits   |
| “                | - height limits – all districts (6' and above)   |
| “                | - height limits within 100 feet of any intersection (designate which streets and post) |

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Section 2-CVC 22507.5 (CC Ord/Res)

- Restrict parking - all vehicles - all districts – limit times (i.e. street sweeping)
- “ - commercial vehicles 10K#’s+-residential (weight) ie trucks

Section 3-CVC 35701 (CC Ord)

- Restrict operation/movement – commercial vehicles 10K#s+-residential district (an exception would be garbage trucks)
- Restrict operation/movement – all vehicles 10K#s+-residential district (some campers & RV)

Dr. Mallory passed around pictures of some of the trucks that are parking near his office and Pony Expresso. Dr. Mallory called C&N Trucking and asked them to move their trucks for he feels it is a safety issue and it impacts the area now and in the future since SSUSD has purchased land in the area. Dr. Mallory asked if maybe the City can make accommodations for the trucks. D. Speer stated that a height restriction at intersections could apply. M. Avery stated he has been involved with oversize vehicle parking in the community for 21 years. There is an ordinance in place for the City of Ridgecrest, however, the area has to be posted, citizens have to be notified and to date the City Council has not approved signage due to the costs involved. Issuance under the current code would include motor homes, camp trailers, etc; however, the Council will have to approve the street posting. F. Nicholson stated if weight limits are set at 17,000 on residential streets, that would solve the problem. T. Wiknich stated we have codes on the books; we just need to enforce them. C. Holloway stated we don't give the big rigs an option, there is no solution. There are also a lot of motor homes in this town, which makes this a big political issue. F. Nicholson stated that designating a place for trucks to park could create an area for crime. M. Avery stated he will get information from other cities and present at the next City Org meeting. T. Wiknich asked if there was anything we could do now? D. Speer stated the vehicle codes and ordinances could be expanded. Dr. Mallory asked if we could paint the curb red by his place of business as a no parking area? T. Wiknich stated Dr. Mallory could request that from D. Speer's office. H. Rose stated that a truck depot could be a solution. The Fairgrounds is available but it does not have the amenities of a truck stop. In the past, request to park at the Civic Center for an overnight has been allowed. For now, this item will be brought back to City Org next month with the committee ready to hear further suggestions. Dr. Mallory's curb by his business will be painted red and C. Holloway asked M. Avery to speak to C&N and T&T regarding the parking.

**County Financing Analysis** – T. Wiknich stated that at the last City Council meeting many items came before Council and a discussion on succession was brought up by T. Wiknich. The reason it was brought up was to look at the funding by the state and county level and what we provide and what we get back. T. Wiknich stated that we want to do an analysis – pros and cons – on possible movement to Inyo County. This is just an analysis, a conceptual idea. We are turning to the committee on how to proceed - we are not hiring any consultants. L. Beres asked

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if there is someone on staff who could do this? H. Rose stated the work could be distributed among a number of people. C. Peterson stated J. McQuiston will provide us with new numbers. The County budget is scheduled for June 25-27th. J. McQuiston will come to the June 20<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. H. Rose stated that the California Transportation Commission and the Kern Council of Government vs. the smaller communities has been disappointing. Money earmarked by Congressman Thomas that we were led to believe was for EKern County has yet to be received. Association of Government for EKern funds are filtered thru KCOG (should not go through Bakersfield). We need to ask the questions and look at the solutions. T. Wiknich stated that this is not a personal attack on J. McQuiston. J. McQuiston is 1 vote out of 5 and J. McQuiston is doing a good job. H. Rose stated the benefits we have received are due to J. McQuiston. C. Holloway stated initially he was enthusiastic about the idea however 24 later after doing some research he has learned that per the California assessor's office, no City since 1909 has succeeded. He has learned that we would have to re-assess and re-deed every piece of property in the City and who would pay for that? It's not practical. B. Auld stated that there has to be a cool down. This was a cart before the horse idea. B. Auld stated the work we have done with BRAC could be in jeopardy. H. Auld stated the idea is so ridiculous that it's not worth dignifying. LAFCO and the supervisors would not approve. Inyo County should be off the table and none of this makes any sense. J. Taylor stated succession should be off the table. H. Auld added that we don't want to give the impression that Ridgecrest is not stable. F. Nicholson feels we should go ahead with the analysis and see the figures and look at what services we are getting. F. Nicholson questions if our Fire Dept. is adequate. C. Holloway stated that his business sense tells him that if you are willing to negotiate you have to be willing to lose everything. We risk alienating Kern County – we need to get succession off the table. T. Wiknich stated to go ahead and gather the numbers. H. Auld mentioned that it's ERAF and other state programs take a lot of money from cities. He also stated he would like to thank Jon McQuiston for all he has done. F. Nicholson stated that the newspapers have blown all of this out of proportion. B. Auld stated she doesn't blame the newspapers. H. Auld stated Inyo County is bankrupt. T. Wiknich asked how H. Auld knew that – when has Inyo County ever filed for bankruptcy? T. Wiknich stated we cannot be making disparaging remarks about Inyo County. We need to work with staff and gather questions; look at annexation agreements – RDA agreements – City and County agreements and how those agreements have benefited us in the last 25 years. C. Holloway asked T. Wiknich what numbers would make him feel comfortable? T. Wiknich stated we need to list a series of items to be investigated. C. Holloway asked T. Wiknich what are you willing to give up? He stated that we put ourselves at a disadvantage with any opponent competing with Ridgecrest. T. Wiknich stated he will meet separately with H. Rose tomorrow. H. Auld recommended others should be invited.

**Future Agenda Items -      Big Rig Parking  
   Election Issues**

**Next Meeting -                July 12th at 5:00pm.**

**Adjourned -                 7:00 p.m.**