



Minutes of Ridgecrest's City Organization and Services Committee

July 12, 2007
5:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER – 5:05p.m.

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

STAFF: Mike Avery, Assistant City Manager; Jim Winegardner, Administrative Services Director; Dennis Speer, Public Works Director; Eva Peterson, Executive Secretary

OTHER ATTENDEES: Nathaniel Lidle, Daily Independent; Howard and Barbara Auld; Frank Nicholson; Dorothy Brown; Dale Howard; George Bertrand

ABSENT: Mike Biddlingmeier, Planning Commissioner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Moved by Vice Mayor Wiknich, 2nd by Mayor Holloway

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approved by Lois Beres, 2nd by Mayor Holloway

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:

Big Rig Parking Ordinance – D. Speer began the discussion by stating we need to review what is already on the books. Parking restrictions of all vehicles and trucks by size and/or weight need to be determined. M. Avery passed out a survey conducted by PD identifying 36 big rigs parked on city streets – no citations were issued during the survey. Starting point for restrictions can begin by utilizing the Big Rig Survey. D. Brown noted that a big rig is parked on Gold Canyon all the time and it is not on the list. M. Avery stated he is seeking further direction. M. Avery also stated he talked to Mr. Mike Thomas at the Fair Board and they are willing to allow Big Rig parking at the Fairgrounds for a fee. In addition, M. Avery spoke with Randy Harrison, part owner of H&N and Mr. Harrison was very cooperative, very nice and liked the idea of parking his big rigs at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Harrison would prefer to purchase his own land in the City and to expand his business to other trucking companies. Mr. Harrison will be talking to G. Parsons. Mr. Harrison removed his trucks within 24 hours from the cities' streets. H. Auld stated the Fairgrounds Facilities Committee want to go forward and present to the Board of Directors that they would be able to handle 25 big rigs. C. Holloway stated that we need to clean up the ordinance before we can enforce it. He asked when it was created and revised and D. Speer stated it was created in 1989 and revised in 1994. L. Beres stated we need to do

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something; that our streets are getting beat up. L. Beres also mentioned that large boats and trucks parked on residential streets become a safety issue. N. Jeglum commented that the existing ordinance needs to be enforced and that we need to find a place for big rigs along with limiting big rig traffic into residential areas except for deliveries. C. Holloway questioned if we have ordered signage for the streets. T. Wiknich stated “No”. C. Hollway stated we can signage as an easy first step. M. Avery and D. Speer stated we have to post every street. D. Brown stated that not having signage is penny wise and pound foolish. If signage cuts half the trucks down from parking, it saves the city money on street repairs. She also stated her streets are too narrow and her homeowners association prohibits big rig parking. D. Howard asked if the Fairgrounds will be renting out City land and if the City will be taking in revenue from Big Rigs parking? H. Auld stated the Fairgrounds will be using their own property. D. Howard asked if there are any streets in the city that are not standard city streets – either 2 - 12 ft drive or 2 - 8 ft park lanes. D. Speer stated “Yes” there are some. D. Howard stated what’s the difference between a 12-14,000 truck and a pick-up truck? He then went on to say that trucks do not tear up the roads however, D. Speer stated they do. That is why the first lane on a highway gets more road repairs – due to heavy truck traffic. N. Jeglum stated that design standards are different for residential areas than for industrial areas. D. Speer agreed and discussed TI Truck Index. F. Nicholson read from a prepared statement that he wrote stating that he was a way master out at Trona for 16 years. He stated that truck empty weigh 22,000 lbs and full can weigh 80,000 lbs which is 40 tons which is equivalent to 40 cars. Many trucks carry pure sulphuric acid, chlorine gas, ammonia and if spilled it cannot be cleaned up with water. These chemicals must be taken to a secure landfill out of state to be disposed of and that would be an expense to the City. F. Nicholson stated he wants to live in the City of Ridgecrest not the Ridgecrest Truck Stop. He passed around pictures of big rigs on the streets of the City and brought in a jar of gravel that he stated was pieces of the streets. D. Howard stated that the highway patrol would take care of haz mat drivers that were out of compliance. D. Brown stated that some streets are too narrow to allow trucks, boats and motor homes to park. F. Nicholson added that it’s not safe for to ride in the bicycle lanes when you have to go around a big rig. C. Holloway asked if it would do able to warnings before issuing tickets and M. Avery stated warnings could be issued. Weight based ordinance was proposed by M. Avery and will be reviewed by Committee. N. Jeglum agrees with this weight aspect. L. Beres prefers new ordinance. C. Hollway asked if M. Avery would set up fines? M. Avery stated he would need to set up ordinance first then look at what other towns are doing. For now, posting will be done, and selective enforcement of current code while working towards new weight based ordinance. C. Holloway moved and 2nd by L. Beres.

Internal Service Funds (ISF) – M. Avery stated that the City Council asked that we look at the ISF funds and what do we want them to look like next year. M. Avery and J. Winegardner have been tasked to complete this by October 2007. They will be explaining what ISF funds are, how they work, and how to easily identify them. There have been some changes to account numbers to follow the ISF line item easier. Also, our audit shows that many cities have ISF funds. J. Winegardner stated that City Council has given staff direction on how to spend the ISF

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reserves. D. Brown asked if this is a pool of money? J. Winegardner explained that there are 5 ISF funds. M. Avery stated that he and J. Winegardner will be preparing a visual report to the Committee on ISF funds and how they work for an August or September 2007 presentation.

Future Agenda Items - Big Rig Weight Ordinance

Next Meeting - August 9th at 5:00pm.

Adjourned - 6:50 p.m.