



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

August 23, 2007  
5:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, California 93555

### CALL TO ORDER – 5:10p.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; Director; Dennis Speer, Public Works Director;  
Eva Peterson, Executive Secretary

- **OTHER ATTENDEES:** Nathaniel Lidle, Daily Independent; Frank Nicholson; William Dale Howard; Ralph Lachenmaier; Mark Ball; Robert Gould; Al Huey; John Robb; Teresa Saint Clare; Jerry Gillespie; Nelson Rivera; Danny Wilson; Dale Curring

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tabled until September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES:

**Consideration of Professional Lobbying Efforts** – M. Avery began by reading H. Rose's memo stating "it is advantageous for local governments to maintain open communications with state and federal politicians and bureaucrats. Larger cities often hire full time, professional representatives – more commonly called "lobbyists" – to provide a constant and consistent reminder in Sacramento and Washington, of their city's existence, needs and desires. Many cities – large and small – will send their officials to the capitols. But, they're limited by the amount of time and money that can be expended for the effort. Some smaller cities will employ a consulting representative for a limited time and a specific project (i.e. to lobby for federal funds to build a new wastewater treatment plant). Ridgecrest has sent elected and appointed officials to Sacramento and Washington. In the future, we may wish to retain the services of a professional representative, on a temporary or permanent basis, to help us secure funding and technical assistance for infrastructure and community development projects." We have received a proposal for a retainer of \$12,500 per month. Does the Committee recommend Ridgecrest secure the services of a year-round Representative? Or, should we consider employing a representative only when we have a specific project/program we wish to bring to the attention of Sacramento or Washington?

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- Mayor Holloway stated that he has been lobbying for 8 years for a lobbyist. We need a lobbyist to represent our interests. During this BRAC process it would be beneficial to have a lobbyist. Some lobbyists are effective and some are not. M. Holloway stated he has seen lobbyists representing too many cities however he thinks we should pursue this. The Mayor feels that Congressman Kevin McCarthy has been a big help to Ridgecrest in the state of California and in Washington however, he feels we still need a lobbyist to represent our interests.
- Lois Beres stated the \$12,500 cost is staggering and she would need to know exactly what a lobbyist could do for us.
- M. Holloway provided the example of the \$37M wastewater upgrade – he stated having a lobbyist would have provided the upgrade much faster. He stated he met with the EPA in D. C. years back and failed. The value of a lobbyist is the dollars they can bring back to the City.
- N. Jeglum asked how does lobbyists' work? What can they do that we could not do on our own? She stated she would need more information before giving up dollars that we don't have.
- Ralph Lachenmaier stated he is against pork barrel politics.
- Mark Ball stated he is against placing someone on retainer, that we should investigate obtaining a grant writer to capture dollars. T. Wiknich stated we have a grant writer on staff. M. Holloway stated even with grants they have to get into the pipeline and we have to be at the top to receive the grant.
- Robert Gould stated that it is premature to hire someone full time.
- Al Huey stated that a lobbyist on a "as needed basis" may be better. The City could conduct a risk analysis to determine the City's chances of getting grants. The risk analysis could be done by staff.
- John Robb asked if the City is looking for a federal or state lobbyist. M. Holloway answered that it would depend on the project.
- Mark Ball stated he works in Trona and that Arzele Hale works in essence in the role of a lobbyist. He recommended that perhaps a City staff person can be placed in that role.
- T. Wichnich stated that for now, H. Rose and M. Avery would work this issue and come back to the City Org Committee in October 2007 with additional information.

**Big Rig Parking Ordinance** – M. Avery began by stating that he contacted H&N and they agreed to remove their big rigs off of residential streets. The City attempted to get signs up however, there are new state regulations that D. Speer discovered therefore, D. Speer is working on this issue.

- D. Speer reviewed the 2 proposed ordinances. One of the ordinances he crafted 4-19.104 is a stand along single page document relating to the use of all streets and alleys for parking, standing, and storage of certain vehicles. M. Avery stated it restricts commercial vehicle parking on all streets.
- N. Jeglum asked if the 72hr. limit would continue. M. Avery answered that after 72 hours a vehicle can be removed, prior to that, a ticket could be issued.

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- N. Jeglum asked about the M1 areas? D. Speer replied that posting would be required in any zone – commercial, light weight, etc.
- Robert Gould stated he is in favor of restricting parking especially in residential areas where it presents a danger for children.
- Al Huey asked if Section C is in effect. M. Avery answered, yes.
- Teresa Saint Clare asked about tow trucks being brought home? T. Wiknich stated that emergency 24hr. vehicles, tow trucks, and other such service vehicles would still be allowed to perform their duties.
- Frank Nicholson asked if ordinance is passed will officers issue citations. M. Avery stated that officers have discretion in that area.
- Frank Nicholson asked if 3 ton limit has been dropped over on Argus street area. M. Avery answered, no, however it is difficult to enforce in that particular area since officers do not know what direction the trucks come in from.
- John Robb stated he brings trucks home for better response time and 10,000 lb. limit seems low. T. Wiknich stated the committee will take that into consideration.
- Mark Ball stated that signs on every street would be very unsightly, such as the bicycle path signs on Gateway. D. Speer stated signage would depend on which ordinance is adopted.
- Jerry Gillespie stated anyone with a commercial license driving a pick-up truck is currently in violation of the law. T. Wiknich stated he is aware of that and that is why we are assembled here this evening.
- William Dale Howard stated that tools in contractor vehicles make the vehicle heavier. T. Wiknich stated D. Speer will look at that issue.
- L. Beres stated she is interested in the 1 page document – where we would post at City limits.
- N. Jeglum was in favor of the 1 page document presented by D. Speer.
- M. Holloway agreed with L. Beres and N. Jeglum.
- T. Wiknich would like to send the 1 page document back to D. Speer and H. Rose for final revisions and to then bring back to City Org Committee on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Ridgecrest PD Policy on Enforcement of Federal, State and Local Laws Concerning Illegal Immigration** – T. Wiknich began by stating a citizen came to City Council meeting and asked during open session about illegal immigration and that he was interested in starting a minuteman group in Ridgecrest. Whether or not he has started a group is not what is at issue at this meeting. T. Wiknich stated we are here to discuss the City’s policy on illegal immigration. T. Wiknich stated that during this discussion we are to treat everyone with respect and that we are not deciding anything tonight. T. Wiknich called David Glazer to begin.

David Glazer stated he is alarmed with the influx of illegal immigrants into this country. People are working within the city and not paying taxes. D. Glazer asked for a list of laws he could break. He stated that Provision 287G gives the power of deputizing and individual. D. Glazer stated that Ridgecrest PD has no funding therefore what can the City do. D. Glazer would like to see compliance of immigration laws. He would like:

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- businesses to check social security cards. He states that people here illegally should not work if they do not pay taxes. Social security cards should be checked.
- M. Avery stated that if an undocumented alien commits a felony they can be deported. Glazer asked why not if they commit a misdemeanor? M. Avery answered that ICE does not have the resources. M. Avery stated that we have a good relationship with ICE. Currently an illegal can receive a citation, and their car can be impounded for 30 days. We do not have written procedures however, we are including this in our new procedures manual.
- Al Huey stated that in Hazelton, PA an ordinance was passed which was brought to court by the ACLU. If there is an ordinance passed in Ridgecrest is there a high potential that it will go to court, is it a state issue or a local issue? Al Huey continued by saying when people come in from other countries and burden our resources – PD, social services, etc. – it’s not an ethnicity issue, it’s economic. The last ride along he took with a police officer, the officer picked up someone who was in violation of their probation. The person provided the officer with a phony card yet the officer did nothing. Al Huey would like to see those individuals reported. M. Avery agreed.
- Hazel Barber asked what the function of the minutemen would be. T. Wiknich reiterated that we are not here to discuss that issue.
- Jerry Gillespie blamed businesses that are looking for cheap labor for bringing in illegals into this country.
- Mark Ball asked what PD does with someone carrying false identity? M. Avery stated they determine identity theft? How much has been stolen.
- Nelson Rivera stated he came to the U.S. 10 years ago. He has served in the Navy and has given back to his country. N. Rivera stated he is involved with immigration rights in L.A. He does not want illegals to be treated unfairly – they don’t have a voice.
- Jerry Gillespie stated there is a phone number you can call when you are given a social security number to verify the number.
- Dave Kelly asked do we have a big problem with undocumented individuals. Are we addressing it?
- David Glazer stated people crossing the border illegally are illegal immigrants – it’s a problem.
- Another resident (did not get his name) stated that illegal immigration lowers the wages in this country and it should be stopped at the border. However, it has not been proven that illegals are a burden to this country. They pay income taxes, they pay rent, and they don’t get that many medical benefits. He does not want to see illegals harassed – that would take us back to the Southern black era.
- Roger Harley asked what is the cost of a gang infested City. What is the burden on our society?
- Al Huey stated that in New Jersey illegals killed 3 people (New Jersey is a sanctuary state). Al Huey read an L.A. article stating that 90% of the warrants in L.A. are for illegals and that 75% in of L. A. murders are by illegals, etc.

