



CITY OF RIDGECREST

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

City Council Conference Room
100 W. California Avenue.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Infrastructure Committee Members: Chairman Tom Wiknich; Members Steve Morgan, Lois Beres and Nellavan Jeglum

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tom Wiknich, Mayor Pro-Term Steve Morgan, Planning Commissioners Nellavan Jeglum and Lois Beres.

Staff Present: City Engineer Joe Pollock, Assistant City Manager Mike Avery, Administrative Secretary Danielle Valentine

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Assistant City Manager Avery advised that Item b. would be reviewed by the Community Development Committee and that Items d. and e. were to be discussed at the City Organization Committee meeting. A motion was moved by member Beres and seconded by member Morgan to approve the Agenda including removal of Items b. d. and e. The Agenda was approved with amendments.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES March 11, 2008**

A motion was moved by member Morgan and seconded by member Jeglum to approve the Minutes of 11 March, 2008. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

4. **COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

Luis Wincin of 842 W. Sonya – said he and his neighbors were still having problems with nuisance water in the drainage ditch near their properties. Mr. Avery advised that the City had received a final determination from Lahonton and was now looking at two other options – these were being reviewed by Public Works Director Dennis Speer. Mr. Wincin said he had been asking the City to do something since 2003. Chairman Wiknich advised that the City had done some grinding and member Morgan advised that the City would have spraying done again.

Pat Burke 837 Sonya – asked to note that last summer he and his neighbors had been prepared to come before the Infrastructure Committee – their main concern being the West Nile Virus. He said they called Code Enforcement Bob Smith before the meeting who asked them not to go to the Committee and promised that if they gave him 30 days he would have the situation handled – Mr. Burke said he had not heard from Mr. Smith since that day.

Chairman Wiknich responded that the City was working to find a way to fix the problem and asked that it be added as an item to next month's agenda.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

(a) Ridgecrest Septic

Mr. Avery said that it was the opinion of the City Attorney that Benz Sanitation holds the exclusive contract for all commercial and residential waste collection in the City.

Member Morgan then referred to the only option being to give a 10 year notice. There was further discussion as to the impact the introduction of mandatory collection would have on this 10 year agreement with Member Morgan saying that this would open up the contract for negotiation.

Mike Neel – commented that if the nature of the contract was changing the City could open up waste collection for proposal from other businesses.

Chairman Wiknich advised that the City would as part of the process advertise publically.

It was agreed that Mr. Begin should be advised that currently Benz held an exclusive contract.

(b) Review of Streets Initiative

Chairman Wiknich said that he continued to receive positive feedback and that questions now being raised were of a more specific nature such as “to what standard will the streets be repaired”. He noted that a recent survey held by the citizen action group CARS gave very positive results with the worst being an 80% approval of the Streets Initiative outline.

Chairman Wiknich noted that the Initiative needed to be ready for the November Ballot and asked the Committee for their recommendation as to whether the Initiative needed to come back for full discussion or was ready to go before the Council.

Member Beres said it was her option that if the details as they stood were what had been ‘sold’ to the community the Initiative should go as it was to the Council. Member Jeglum concurred.

Mike Neel – asked City Engineer Joe Pollock how often roads needed to be maintained saying he had been told that the reason the streets were in such disrepair was because there had been no maintenance.

CE Pollock responded that depending on the amount of traffic this should be done every 5-10 years. He pointed out that whilst the City used to get a lot of funding for maintenance that funding was no longer available. He said that whilst the State gave funding to build roads they did not make funding available for road maintenance – they viewed this as a local issue. CE Pollock said that without the TDA funding the residential streets would suffer.

ACM Avery advised the Committee that there was only one line in the Ordinance about the citizen action committee and asked if the Committee wanted to change that.

Member Morgan said he could see this being set up pre-vote but not as part of the ballot. Member Beres agreed saying it should be kept simple. It was agreed that the Initiative would go to Council as it was.

(f) Recommendation on ordinance for a moratorium on prohibiting utility cuts in new or newly repaired streets for five years except under certain emergency conditions

CE Pollock recommended continuing this item as Public Works Director Dennis Speer who was absent had done a lot of research on this topic. This recommendation was seconded by ACM Avery.

Chairman Wiknich opened the item for public comment and asked that a draft document be provided for the next meeting.

??? IWVWD – advised that the Water Board would not have a problem with a five year moratorium provided there were exceptions for emergency situations.

Debbie Hespeth of SCE – said that on behalf of SCE she would agree.

Larry Dugano IWVWD – noted that if the City could keep the utilities informed referring to their past working relationship with CE Pollock that would be helpful.

There was general agreement that the quarterly meetings with the City should be reinstated.

(c) Committee Discussion – should a recommendation be made to the City Organization Committee to include a full time City Roads (sic) Inspector

Chairman Wiknich said he had included this item as a follow on to discussions from the previous meeting regarding lack of staffing for road inspections.

Member Morgan noted that there had been an open (unbudgeted) position in Engineering for five years.

Member Beres asked if a full-time City Roads Inspector would resolve the staffing issue. CE Pollock responded that three people would be needed for the following functions:

- Inspections
- Design drafting for road construction
- Manage traffic counting

Member Morgan said that given the cost that would be a hard sell. CE Pollock noted that finding experienced personnel would also be difficult.

ACM Avery said that the City also had a budgeted engineering position open that was also not filled.

Member Jeglum asked if the new fees would have any impact on funds available for these positions and ACM Avery responded that the funds generated from those impact fees could not be used for personnel.

Member Morgan made the suggestion that the Committee make a recommendation that the unbudgeted position become a budgeted position. Chairman Wiknich noted that by consensus the Committee would make this recommendation to the City Organization Committee who were responsible for overseeing the budget.

6. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Dennis Speer absent – no report.

Member Morgan noted that the Committee needed to discuss the budget for infrastructure. ACM Avery said he hoped PWD Speer would have an expenditure report ready in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.