



CITY OF RIDGECREST

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED 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 5:01 p.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
The agenda was approved.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES May 13, 2008**
A motion was raised by Lois Beres and seconded by Steve Morgan to approve the Agenda. The Agenda was approved as submitted.
4. **COMMENTS: (PUBLIC COMMENT)**
Dave Matthews - the light at Norma and Las Flores is broken. Commented that the increase in oil prices was affecting public works projects and was interested to hear how this impacted the City.

Dennis Speer advised that costs had doubled.

Dennis Speer advised that Econolite had been out to look at the light on Thursday – Joe Pollock said he had not spoken to them since the service call.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - a. Update on Attorney's Review of Trench Cut Draft Ordinance
ACM Avery spoke with the Attorney's office this afternoon; Attorney is in trial – his assistant - Linda - advised that she will be working on to get the Ordinance in the proper format. Aim is to have on next Council Agenda.
 - b. Trash/Recycling status – including Universal Collection County and City
ACM Avery advised that Kern County Waste Management had met with the City. He also advised that Benz had been put in a holding pattern due to the County proposing to put in place a clean M.R.F. at the Landfill. He said the County had reviewed the L.A.P. and had several concerns with what the State was asking us to do. Further he said that he had one sample Ordinance from California City and that staff was looking to get further examples.

Public Services Director Jim McRea advised that three representatives from the County Waste Management Department had met with the City. He noted that the County had sent a letter to the CIWMB asking that the City be allowed a continuance on some of the deadlines. He said the County was in the process of selecting a Consultant and had asked the City to participate in the process once a consultant was appointed - of reviewing the waste management of the area. Mr. McRea said that the County was of the opinion that changing the base year would not assist the City and they believed that the City was not being properly accounted. He said it was interesting that the County had entered into a contract for a four to five million dollar waste facility at the landfill and they were interested to know if any of the City's current activities would impact on the return on this investment. This facility would be operational 3-4 days per month and receive from residents and smaller businesses. He said the County also discussed expanding the landfill – elevating it 50-60 feet. He noted that the County had reported this method of expansion had been well-received in the previous experience – in terms of soil and water contamination. It was their expectation that the lifespan of the dump would be through approximately 2025.

Chairman Wiknich enquired as to the \$10,000 a day fine. Mr. McRea responded that the City was required to undertake the activities per the Local Assistance Plan but the County was (on the City's behalf) seeking an extension to allow time to review waste management of Ridgecrest.

Member Morgan commented that he hoped the City would be able to come to some agreement with the County for trash agreement on the east side.

Member Jeglum asked if mandatory was imminent. ACM Avery responded that this was most likely but he was not sure in what form this would take place. Mr. McRea said further that currently 80-85% of residents chose to have trash picked up so that mandatory would not increase the figures greatly but that the CIWMB were interested in programs being established. He also explained in response to a question from Chairman Wiknich that it took approximately 18 months to permit a M.R.F.

Manuel Farmer of Benz Sanitation advised that therefore Benz had suggested a transfer station be implemented initially in order to meet the deadlines.

Dave Matthews asked what M.R.F. stood for. Mr. McRea responded it stood for materials recovery facility.

Member Beres said she felt this item needed to be kept on the agenda. Chairman Wiknich asked that update of the trash/recycling remain a permanent agenda item.

c. Update on Sonja Drainage Solution

Mr. Speer advised that work had commenced and he specified the work carried out. He said he had been reviewing periodically but was still interested to see what happened when it was working – i.e. dealing with water.

d. Update on Pot Hole Patcher

Mr. Speer briefed the Committee. He said the check had been cut that afternoon for an Air Pollution permit that afternoon and it was expected the City would be permitted this week or early next week. Further he said training had been purchased with the machinery and the Streets Superintendent had advised that training would commence this week/early next week. However, as a contingency plan Mr. Speer advised he believed he could have an operator from Calare County come over and train City staff – the cost of which he would expect to be reimbursed by the manufacturer. Finally he said that monies were “tapped out” for materials.

Member Morgan asked for clarification that city staff were working with the Air Board as opposed to the manufacturer delivering a “turn key” product. This was clarified by Mr. Speer. Member Morgan and Chairman Wiknich asked that their thanks be passed on to the mechanic acting on the City’s behalf.

e. Discussion on Street Sweeping

Chairman Wiknich asked for clarification on the process of sweeping. Mr. Speer advised this was done by route –every street in town is swept twice a month. He said it was his belief that the City could cut back on this. Further, he said this would lessen tipping fees – which had recently been increased. Annual cost he said would be expected to be reduced by around \$100,000 in doing so. He said if sweeping was abandoned all together it was his understanding after speaking with the Streets Superintendent that part of the City would incur drainage problems as it was very flat in that one area.

Chairman Wiknich commented that he hoped reducing the sweeping would increase the life of the sweeper. Mr. McRea said it was his understanding that this was not necessarily the case given that regardless of how often the streets were swept the same amount of debris was removed. There was further discussion on this topic.

Member Morgan said he would like the Committee to recommend a reduction to every other month except the area of concern – being reduced to once a month. He said further, the sweeper ate the streets up. He said if residents complained his response would be “get a broom out”.

Chairman Wiknich took this suggestion as a motion, which was seconded by Member Beres.

Ayes: Wiknich, Morgan, Jeglum, Beres
Nays: None
Absent: None

ACM Avery asked that this item remain on the agenda for review.

Dave Matthews commented that he did not experience any problems when the sweeper ran through his street.

Mr. Speer said that when he lived in Fresno he received a utility bill each month inclusive of a street sweeping charge.

f. Budget Discussion – Update

Mr. Speer reported that nothing had changed since last meeting.

g. Funding Sources and Grant Applications

Member Morgan said he was curious where the department was with any funding sources or grant applications.

Mr. Speer said the Department was looking at 5311 (bus applications through FDA) grants and safe routes to school program (completion of curbs, gutter and sidewalks qualifying for completing the pedestrian infrastructure on route to schools).

Chairman Wiknich asked for an update on the wheelchair ramps. This information was provided by Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Speer provided a handout of all funding opportunities available through Caltrans including a description of the programs.

h. Street Lighting and Cost Savings

Mr. Speer said he had done a review of intersections in town and counted 610 intersections in town where from traffic engineering perspective street lights would be placed. He said the real count on street lights in existence in the City was 1469 according to the study being conducted by the consultants. He said that potentially there was a public works budget savings therefore of \$105,000. ACM Avery responded stating that the budget line item was in place to account for requirements for public safety.

i. Econolite Billing/Warranty re Traffic Signal Cameras

Mr. Pollock briefed the Committee stating that the proposal originally received from Econolite was to be a “turn-key” figure. He said that he had discovered that the proposal did not include sales tax and that the representative from Econolite responsible for the proposal was no longer with the firm. Mr. Pollock said that over the past 6 months staff had been communicating with Econolite and that now given the outcome of review there were two options available (1) pay the additional amount – for the extended warranty or (2) receive a credit for the outstanding amount – being the extended warranty and at a later date when monies were available purchase an extended warranty. Mr. Pollock said his recommendation was for option (2) given that the lights were currently under the standard warranty and that the City did not have the monies to pay the additional amount.

There was a suggestion from Committee members that Econolite should pay the difference if they had not provided the correct figure initially. ACM Avery suggested that whilst the City might win that battle it could have a long term impact on the City's relationship with Econolite

Member Morgan asked that negotiations commence between the City and Econolite for each organization to “give a little”. Chairman Wiknich confirmed Committee direction for staff to attempt to negotiate with Econolite.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Speer reported that Caltrans had in hand authorization to proceed for design of intersection of China Lake and Rader.

Ward Signal – updated that Kevin McCarthy's office had asked if anything needed a "kick-start". Upon being told about problems at Ward McCarthy's office had called District 6 and programmed District 9's monies for project. District 9 has now said that they will provide money in 09-10. Mr. Speer explained further complications and said that now it looked like things were moving forward.

Mr. Speer introduced Karen Harker as the new Administrative Secretary for the Public Works Department.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.