



# *CITY OF RIDGECREST*

## **INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

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

**Tuesday November 18, 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 (Vice-Mayor) Wiknich, Lois Beres, Nellavan Jeglum, Steve Morgan

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dennis Speer, City Manager Mike Avery, Public Services Director Jim McRea, Administrative Secretary Danielle Valentine

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved as submitted without dissent.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was moved by Member Beres and seconded by Member Jeglum to approve the Minutes of 14 October, 2008. The Minutes of 14 October, 2008 were approved as submitted.

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

None

5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

a. **Presentation of Universal Trash Pick Up – Update on Draft Ordinance**

City Manager Mike Avery advised that the draft ordinance inclusive of recommended changes had been sent to the City Attorney for review. He indicated staff was waiting to hear back with an expectation to have that feedback available for the December meeting. Chairman Wiknich asked if the City was still working with the County and expecting to hear back from them in time for the December meeting also – this was confirmed by Mr. Avery. Member Beres asked if the ordinance was sent as per the draft brought before the Committee – Mr. Avery confirmed saying that it also included the changes requested by the group.

Manuel Farmer – Operations Manager Benz – asked if Benz could be involved when the ordinance came back from the Attorney. Mr. Avery responded that saying Benz could review the document. Mr. Farmer explained that Benz representatives would like to review the ordinance before it goes to Council. Chairman Wiknich advised that if Paul Benz would like to be involved the item would most likely be heard at the next meeting. Member Jeglum asked if Committee members could have the

opportunity to review the ordinance before the next meeting and Mr. Avery said this would be possible if it came back from the Attorney in time.

Don McKernan commented that he felt mandatory trash collection would do a lot to help clean up the streets and address a lot of the problems with people not taking care of their responsibilities. Chairman Wiknich concurred saying he had a friend call him saying that he had made his run to the dump with 2,550 pounds of trash.

b. Review Final Report by Carollo

Public Works Director Dennis Speer briefed the Committee referencing the report presented by the consultants (Carollo) to the City Council at their last meeting. Mr. Speer said he understood it was the wish of Committee members that he brings the report to the Committee. Chairman Wiknich said it was difficult to discuss the report when all committee members did not have a copy. Mr. Speer committed to making copies for Committee members and (at a cost) to members of the public.

Member Morgan said he had only been able to read through the report briefly. He said he believed it was a good start, albeit it was very late, and provided the opportunity to discuss ideas with other purveyors. He asked how long the City had been waiting for the report and Mr. Speer responded that the report was due in October of 2006. Member Morgan said he knew of at least one company who had a specific interest – PERC. Member Morgan said that the Mayor and he had conversations with that company at the California League of Cities Annual Conference held recently. Mr. Speer indicated he had received promotional information from a number of vendors – and it was particularly interesting as proposals were anywhere from design-build companies to design-build-operate companies. He offered to gather initial information packets, categorize it and make a presentation to the Committee. Member Morgan said he believed the City was in a difficult position due to the recent passing of Joe Pollock and he knew staff was working on a measure in the interim but that he didn't believe it was appropriate to discuss this report at length at this point given how long ago the process was started and the need to go through a lot of information.

Member Jeglum said she had some broad-based questions. She said she understood the WWTP was currently on the base – this was confirmed and noted that there were also fields located off base. She asked where the proposed new site would be and Mr. Avery said several sites were supposed to be offered and that had not been done, the focus in the report had been on the current site. He said public hearings had not been held and therefore there was no confirmed new site. Mr. Speer confirmed this document was an assessment of existing facilities and a projection of what the City's needs would be in a number of years but what had not been done by the consultant was a meeting of the expectation to offer alternative sites. He said that when this had been brought up with the consultants they refuted saying they expected more money for this service. Mr. Speer said it appeared that the consultants had used a boiler-plate document and staff was not at all pleased with this particular study. He said staff felt that the next consultant should take what was useful to move ahead as far as the environmental committee and design went. Member Jeglum asked if the needs assessment was credible and Member Morgan

said he believed so and emphasized that as technology had advanced since this project was started City could choose to go in a different direction. Mr. Speer said the consultants had also not met the expectation that a recommendation would include capacity for expansion. Member Jeglum asked if the Base' sewer needs were taken care of at the current plant – this was confirmed. Public Services Director Jim McRea said that whilst this was a good report it was not what was asked for and it was provided late.

Chairman Wiknich asked “where to from here?” Mr. Speer suggested that after committee members had an opportunity to review the report the City needed to go out to an R.F.P. but first had to decide on procedure – i.e. defining the process to a traditional one or alternatively go a step further and consider a design-build or design-build-operate option. Mr. Avery said the City could also look at other methods to get rid of effluent.

Mr. McKernan 1543 E Bowman Road spoke to the Committee saying that when Carollo had started the project almost 3 years ago they had indicated to him that their instruction was to build the cheapest plant and therefore they sited the plant where they did – and it ended up right outside his front door. He said he had asked about the rules for living next door to a sewer pond and nobody thought that he should have anything to do with it, but given it was directly influencing his house; his investment in Ridgecrest, he did not know how things got this far along without somebody looking at what was happening and this had gotten him quite upset. Mr. McKernan asked what he could do – would he just wait to get a letter in the mail asking for his comments.

Mr. Avery said part of the process was public hearings and the City had not come to that part of the process yet. Mr. McKernan said he didn't know how these ponds could just come next door to his home. He said that the harsh reality was that the smells were not mitigated by the new processes sited by Mr. Morgan. He suggested that ideas such as going across into San Bernadino County where there were no houses be considered. Mr. McKernan emphasized that he did not wish to fight but he hoped to see something reasonable come about. He said the plant should be sited where it had the least amount of problems. Mr. Avery then spoke about alternatives being considered. Mr. McKernan asked if he could be informed as the process moved forward and Mr. Avery indicated he would be more than happy to include Mr. McKernan on a distribution list so that each time the project was discussed he would be notified. Mr. McKernan said he would provide his email address to Mr. Avery. Mr. McKernan then said that that Joe Pollock and Jim McRea had been very good to him and he wanted to work more closely with the City to sort things out. Member Beres then asked if she could also be kept up to date with any updates.

## 6. DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Speer advised that Wastewater were continuing their assessment of piping and had discovered an 80 foot section of pipe had been “lost” – i.e. irreparable damage. He indicated that assessment would continue and ultimate the City would put out to bid for

replacement. He indicated that the more the camera was run the more damage was found and that mostly the damage was beyond “slip-lining”.

Mr. Speer went on to say that he had attended a project status meeting at KernCOG that morning and all necessary tasks had been completed to move forward with board approval of the interim FTIP – the second version – he provided an advance copy to Mr. Morgan. Mr. Speer said that KernCOG had emphasized they had been through a strenuous process to get their funding approved. He also reminded members that design for Ridgecrest Boulevard would be due by the end of the fiscal year – to meet the requirements of CMAQ. Mr. Speer then explained that this design was going hand in hand with Corp Yard predicated upon by some bond sales but that he had committed to keeping KernCOG in the loop with that process.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

DRAFT