

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 13, 2023

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jimmy Sheldrake; Thomas Laury; Kim Wortman.

Members of the Public.

**Call to Order:** Call to order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:31 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

**Approval of the Minutes** from March 9, 2023:

Motion JS; seconded TL: Unanimous.

### Staff Reports:

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Melissa Morfin, Board Assistant:
  - Improvements at Winchester Road & Haddock Street: Supervisor Washington is working with Cal-Trans in hopes of getting curbs to help protect children crossing the State Highway. Also with RCTC in regard to the General Plan at this intersection.
  - Winchester Signs: Andrea Mares will be visiting the proposed locations to see each site.
  - Potholes on California: The County of Riverside is working on the southbound half; the City of Hemet is responsible for maintaining the northbound (east) side of the street.
  - Winchester Logo: Some ideas are coming in. Citizens: Please submit your ideas!
  - SoCalGas: They presented at the Winchester/Homeland Town Association.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:
  - Stats: February: 306 calls, 2 arrests; March: 394 calls, 2 arrests.
  - Note: Some calls that come in to the Sheriff are not complete reports; please be sure to file a complete report.
  - Q: Death at 9th & Grand? A: Cannot comment; active investigation.
- C. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34: No representative present; no report.
- D. EMWD Updates; Phil Paule, President:
  - Recent rains have mitigated the drought, mostly. Diamond Valley Lake is nearly full.
  - EMWD is proposing to raise rates, ~6%. There will be a hearing in June. Why? Inflation, increases in costs in energy, chemicals, etc. Paule is looking into ways to save on certain costs, rather than a straight % increase.
  - Q: What is your position? A: Let's see the Staff Reports. He supports balanced books, sound maintenance.
  - Q: During the Pandemic, customers behind in payment were not required to pay; what happened after? A: EMWD had ~\$16M in unpaid bills; now down to \$5M. The "Help to Others" fund helped. Mandate ended. Late payments incur a late fee of \$25.
  - C: Costs have indeed gone up, generally 7-8%. A: Yes. Yet there may still be other ways to control costs.
- E. Code Enforcement; Sara Rhoads:
  - March 9 to April 13: 330 open cases; 75 inspections. Conducted a seizure warrant.
  - Winchester Inn: Graffiti removal. Working with property owner on a resolution.
  - Q: Illegal vending, at SH 79 & Haddock area? A: Code Enforcement has a team that deals with this. Some are legal vendors. Still, if property is posted 'No Trespassing' with current documentation on file, can be cleared.
- F. 36<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: Representative not present; no report.
- G. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; represented by Amanda Fisher:
  - Various bills in process.
  - The Senator will be at the Murrieta Fire Department Annual Barbecue event.
  - The Senator and staff have moved into their new offices.
  - Q: Is the Senator looking into the Highway 79 Realignment issue? A: She will check.
- H. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:

- Baseball season has launched.
  - New LED lighting fixtures are being installed here at our park, outdoors & indoors. Also new security system.
  - They'll be remodeling the conference rooms here at the Community Center.
  - CERT training, here, April 28-30 (a 3-day long program).
- I. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians: No representative present; no report.
- J. Winchester Land Use Committee update; represented by Cindy Domenigoni:
- The Land Use Committee met, but there were no new projects to review.
  - They did review the crossing at Winchester Road (SH 79) and Haddock Street, at Winchester School. They drafted a letter regarding the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, urging the Board of Supervisors to support it.
  - They also discussed the SH 79 Realignment Coalition Resolution, to be discussed later.
  - At the LUC, they discussed Light Industrial Uses/Zones: As some areas are in flux, otherwise optimistic proponents with such projects may get cold feet and pull-out of a given project, which is a shame.
  - The next meeting of the Land Use Committee is scheduled for May 2, Cindy's office.
  - Motion by Sheldrake, second by Laury: "That the W/H MAC forward the letter from the W/H Town Association urging the Board of Supervisors support of the proposed Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at the intersection of Haddock Street with State Highway 79, protecting children crossing to Winchester School (with a cover letter clarifying the name of the traffic aid)." Vote: Unanimous.
- K. City of Hemet update; Linda Krupa:
- Ms. Krupa introduced Mark Prestwich, new City Manager for Hemet. Prestwich grew up here (Hemet area).
  - Prestwich stated that the poor condition of roads in the city is an ongoing challenge, with about 30% of roads in 'poor' condition. Costs to bring streets to a 70 run about \$50M; the city's annual budget is \$68M.
- L. City of Menifee update; represented by Doug Darnell, Senior Planner:
- Development continues.
  - Q: Street improvements for Briggs at Menifee? A: Contact the Planner in charge of that project.
  - Q: With all the new development, what about traffic? A: Menifee recently broke ground on Holland Overpass.
- M. Other Departments and Public Agencies:
- Marilyn Castañeda: There is help available for those affected by the fire, through the County of Riverside EMD (Emergency Management Department). See her.
  - CERT Training: Three-day program, scheduled April 28, 29, 30, at the Winchester Community Center.

**New Business:**

- A. Guest Speaker: Hemet Unified School District Deputy Superintendent Darrin Watters
- Watters noted that the District has an interest in the crossing improvements at Winchester Elementary School as well. They had a Study done by Cal-Trans, which at the time didn't 'warrant' a traffic signal. He noted that the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon proposed is a type of 'traffic calming device.'
  - Mr. Watters presented a PowerPoint show about HUSD:
  - The district serves 22,450 students, on 28 sites, over 650 square miles. In our area (Winchester), there are 6,200 dwelling units. HUSD must track development, knowing the number of students in new tracts, etc. Also live births: This figure rose in Hemet, though it went down state-wide.
  - HUSD works with developers regarding potential new school sites. When development was moving more swiftly, they figured they would need three new school sites. Now, as things have slowed, not so much.
  - HUSD can shift students about to balance loads and capacities better. Portables also offer flexibility.
  - Winchester Elementary School presently has a capacity of 866 students.
  - Getting a new elementary school designed, approved and constructed requires about 3 years.
  - Q: Traffic at schools? A: In some cases, offsite- improvements by developers can ease congestion.
  - Q: Safety at WES? A: The recent heavy remodel of the campus brought several improvements, including a secured lobby system, locked-door policy, keyless (electronic) entry system, camera upgrades & more.
  - Q: Where will the next school site be? A: Unknown at this time. About 5 years out for the next elementary.
  - Q: What effects linger from COVID 19? A: All took a hit. Yet now, enrollment is higher than pre-COVID!
  - Q: Home-schooling? A: The staggered schedules that drove adversely affected annual facilities maintenance.
  - Q: Lottery funding? A: Public schools get just ~1.5% of what the lottery generates.
  - All thanked Mr. Watters for his presentation.

**Public Comments:**

**SR-79 Realignment Coalition Resolution:**

- Andy Domenigoni showed the approved route on our Winchester Map (on display every meeting). Told history.
- Andy stated that the realignment is needed: sooner is better. He lamented that other projects get bumped ahead.
- Now is the time to push this project forward. The EIR was adopted in 2016, and is good for 10 years. That means it will expire in 2026, which is not far in the future. This is the only project that qualifies for federal funding. The last large project that received TIFA funding was the 91/15 interchange. He noted that RCTC changed priorities, preferring local projects over large projects. RCTC once was focused on getting people from inland out to LA & Orange: long runs west. But now, business is here, tourism is here. Wine Country, Coachella, etc. But highways continue to be a challenge. The Coalition is coming together to push forward the realignment of SH-79. Our MAC will be the first to support this.
- C (Krupa): The realignment of SH-79 has been in the works for decades. There are many reasons we need this. SH-79 links Temecula to the Coachella Valley; also, linking the Marine Corps bases of 29 Palms & Pendleton.
- Sheldrake motioned, Laury seconded as follows: "That the W/H MAC forward to Supervisor Washington the W/H Town Association letter dated April 13 in support of the **State Route 79 Realignment Coalition Resolution**, under our cover letter." Vote called: Unanimous.
- Linda Krupa reminded all that this is the 100th year for the Ramona Outdoor Play. Also, the Writer Award will be bestowed upon Helen Hunt Jackson. Take part in our local culture!

**Councilmember Reports and Comments:**

- May 6<sup>th</sup>: The Domenigoni Poker Ride & BBQ.
- Logo representing Winchester. Andrea & Robyn, with others, shared some early ideas. Think of ideas!

**Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Winchester Inn was brought up; however, it seems the site is involved in litigation with the County at present.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:25 PM. M:JS / S:TL