

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 11, 2024

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Thomas Laury; Jimmy Sheldrake.  
Members of the Public.

**Call to Order:** Call to order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

### Approval of the Agenda:

Motion TL; seconded JS: Unanimous.

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

Motion JS; seconded TL: Unanimous.

### Staff Reports:

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Melissa Morfin, Board Assistant: *County Rd X2*
- Regarding reducing the speed limit on Domenigoni Parkway: This route is governed by RCTC, not Cal-Trans. As it turns out, RCTC's Traffic Engineering Division performed a fresh Engineering & Traffic Study (ETS) of Domenigoni Parkway recently, filed July 10, 2023. Results:
    - West Zone, Briggs Rd to 1900' west of Leon Rd: 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 66 MPH. 0 accidents in 2 years. Conclusion: Retain the existing 55 MPH limit.
    - East Zone, 1900' west of Leon Rd to Domenigoni Parkway: 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 69 MPH. 32 accidents in 2 years. Conclusion: Retain the existing 65 MPH limit (the maximum allowed, per CVC 22349).
  - Status of the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon at the intersection of Haddock St & SH 79, serving Winchester Elementary School and our Park: Still in the early stages of the process.
  - There is funding available for exterior home repair and cleanup. Also senior assistance. Flyers left at desk.
  - Melissa introduced Opal Hellweg: Opal stated that they'd tried to arrange for some holiday cheer last month, but our MAC is 'dark' in December. As she was here today, she distributed Gift Cards to seniors (over 60 y.o.), from the Riverside County Office of Aging. (Many thanks!)
  - Q: What about the ETS for Winchester Road? R: Still working on that one (which is under Cal-Trans).
  - C: Citizen expressed concern over the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Riverside and the City of Menifee. The MOU has the potential to affect our community, yet our community was not consulted. Our leaders feel blindsided and left out.
  - Further discussion of the ETS along Domenigoni Parkway. Horecka summarized the results: No changes.
  - Q (A. Little): What is the status of funding for the Realignment of SH 79? A: MM does not know.
  - Q: News on upcoming meeting of Supervisors regarding a Nexus Study on the GPA? A: MM doesn't know.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Captain Kevin Lamb:
- Stats: December: 347 calls, 4 arrests. For Homeland: 292 calls.
  - Lamb transferred from Lake Matthews Station. Earlier, he'd served at the Perris Station for 6-1/2 years.
  - C: Angela Little is still experiencing persistent problems with trespassers on her property. It was noted that a recent change in the law make 602 Notices good for three years, not just one.
  - Q (A. Domenigoni): How many officers typically cover Winchester? A: Generally 4 & 4.
  - Q: What area is covered? A: Perris, Mead Valley, Homeland, Nuevo...; down to Scott Road.
- C. California Highway Patrol; Steven Rusk, Lieutenant: Not present; no report.
- D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Dan Olson:
- Area covered: Winchester Area, east through Val Vista. Also the Hemet-Ryan Air Base, and Bautista Canyon Conservation Camp. Olson lives near Lake Skinner; ~35 years.
  - Statistics for the 2023 year: 979 calls total. 663 were medical aid calls; about 70%, which is typical. Fires: 42 fires, 5 of which were single-family dwellings, 16 other, 9 vegetation fires. 136 traffic collisions.

- Station 34 will be remodeled to support the HazMat Team. There were over 50 applicants to the HazMat Dept.
- News: Riv. Co. Fire bought a new site at the south end of Keller Road at Washington, for a new Fire Station.
- Q: Does Station 34 over Homeland? A: Yes/Maybe. Depends...
- C: Many thanks to Captain Moffit & Fire Station 34 for their generous Christmas donations for local children!
- Discussed Defensible Space Inspectors (DSI). They are a different team from the suppression side.
- Regarding data related to service calls, particularly Traffic-related calls: If requested to do so, Fire can provide data. Andy Domenigoni stated that such data would indeed be of use to us in understanding the effects of increasing traffic in our area (note 32 accidents over 2 years along the 2-miles of the Parkway west of SH 79).
- C (A. Little): In September, Horecka had mentioned certain turn issues at a couple of intersections. R: Horecka summarized what he sees as a major contributor to school-related traffic jams in the AM & PM: The lack of a dedicated left turn lane at the following: 1. NB SH 79 left into WB Haddock. 2. WB Simpson into SB Columbia. 3. NB Columbia left into WB Simpson. In all three locations, cars pile up behind cars waiting to turn; lose patience, then run-around the waiting cars, passing on the right using the dirt shoulder. Unsafe!
- E. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez:
  - There are assistance programs available; flyers left at table.
  - Customers can view their water use on-line, via MyAccount. Shared a story in which a leak was picked up.
  - Next month, the General Manager of EMWD will be at our MAC meeting: Overview of services, projects...
  - Q: Who does the notifications for new projects? A: Varies. EMWD is working to streamline the process.
- F. Code Enforcement; Matt Piper:
  - Rough numbers: About 70 open cases. Closed about 48 cases. Did 78 inspections.
  - Winchester Inn: They hope to begin demolition in early February. Raze fully, including footings & septic tank.
  - Patterson Avenue cleanup: In progress.
  - Q: There's a burned-down house in Homeland. A: Piper will look into. Noted the one-time cleanup program.
  - Q: Status on the pig farm? A: Waiting for a warrant.
  - C: Piper noted that a number of vehicles were cleared from a parcel via the one-time cleanup program.
- G. Emergency Management Department; Camille Collins, Emergency Services Coordinator:
  - EMD prepares for, mitigates and responds to emergencies. The County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been accepted by FEMA. EMD is now working on updated their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
  - CERT classes are coming up soon. See her.
  - Incidents: SCE PSPS events: Electrical Power Shutoff / Public Safety. They track outages and those impacted.
  - Aided with messaging regarding an incident. EMD also assisted with flooring, sheltering w/ Elm Fire, etc. They can assist with: Sandbags, warming centers. She left info with us. The recent earthquake (Jan. 5) should serve as a reminder: Be prepared. The San Jacinto Fault is an active fault. Be sure to tap into reliable sources!
- H. 36th District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: No representative present; no report.
- I. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; Amanda Fisher:
  - Ms Fisher advised us of several bills introduced by our senator.
- J. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
  - There were seven events in December, at 5 facilities: a big success!
  - Survey: 2000 results. Favored an indoor recreation area.
  - January & February will be a bit slow, picking up in March. He covered various events. See Valley Wide.
- K. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians: No representative present; no report.
- L. Winchester Land Use Committee update; Cindy Domenigoni:
  - See the Land Use Committee Meeting Report, dated January 11, 2024, on file.
  - Some highlights of LUC meetings:
    - Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>: Guest Lance Retuya presented two projects.
    - LUC reps met at Supervisor Washington's French Valley Office with Robyn Brock (Chief of Staff), John Hildebrand (County Planning Director) and Paul Swancott (Asst County Planner of WCP). Andy Domenigoni represented the WH-MAC. Cindy will present a report to the WH-MAC at the meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>: The LUC discussed the Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.
    - Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>: Guests Greg Lansing (Lansing Companies) & Trip Hord (Project Manager) updated the LUC on four projects: A. Enclave TTM 38007. B. Emperor North TTM 31500. C. Potential change of zone request on a 33-acre parcel on Domenigoni Parkway. D. A 40-acre project called Eucalyptus Grove, TTM 32394, fronting on Simpson Road. The Dispensary is slated to go before the Board of Supervisors on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Next meeting of the LUC is scheduled for December 5th, 3:00 PM, at Cindy's office.

- C (Sheldrake): Please comment on the MOU. R (Morfin): Our MAC was made aware of the MOU at the meeting with Supervisor Washington's office on December 7<sup>th</sup> (after the fact). The MOU is between Riverside County and the City of Menifee. It does not change our input in any way, process-wise. C (Sheldrake) expressed his disappointment that our MAC was not involved. R: Riverside County does urge developers to come before us. This MOU was between County & Menifee.
  - C (Cindy): Part of our December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting was about communications. This is an example of a lack thereof.
  - C (A. Little): Sent an email to County expressing her concerns over the MOU. R: Melissa Morfin will take our input back to the Supervisor, and will report back.
- M. City of Menifee update; Doug Darnell, Planner:
- The Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the Menifee Valley Specific Plan at their meeting coming up February 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Regarding the MOU: He had no involvement in the MOU.
  - Q (CD): Info on road improvements for the above project? A: Please contact Ryan Fowler, Project Planner.
  - Q (Cowdery): Does Menifee have an MOU with Hemet? A: Darnell is not aware of one.
  - Q (Cowdery): Re rerouting Briggs Rd; will City limits be changed to follow curve? A: No.
  - C (Thomas L): This (MAC in the dark about the MOU) is not the way to do business.
- N. City of Hemet: No representative present; no report.
- O. Department of Animal Services: No representative present; no report.
- P. Other Departments and Public Agencies: NONE.

**New Business:**

- A. Guest Speaker: Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (Juliana Adams, Chief of Emergency Management & Government Affairs for Flood Control, and Shane Reichardt, Public Information Officer for Emergency Management Department).
- The team gave a PowerPoint presentation. Defined "El Nino." Noted that the National Weather Service is predicting a moderate El Nino this year. Discussed "Atmospheric Rivers." Told of preparations being made by Flood Control, including: Inspections, Maintenance, Training, and Drills.
  - Flood Control's responsibilities general cover large infrastructure. Cities cover drained 36" & under. The majority of drainage actually occurs on private lands.
  - Consider adding Flood Insurance to your property coverage. Start with your insurer.
  - Be prepared: Before the storm: clean gutters, check grading, fix leaks, prepare sandbags if needed, etc. Flyers. Be familiar with your property & area, be ready for the storm Plan and do before, as best you're able. Having a plan if vital, as is sharing it. Have backup plans, too. Print them out. Check with schools, day care, etc. Consider medications, pets. Know evacuation routes. Be ready for power outages. Have battery backups and extra batteries for phones, devices, necessary equipment. Make a kit.
  - Check out: RivCoReady.org/Alert-RivCo, and register for AlertRivCo to receive local alerts.
  - 211 offers valuable information during storm events. Avoid travel & flooded areas during storms.
  - Q: HAM systems? A: If you are a HAM Radio Operator, contact the County to volunteer!
  - All thanked the presenters for their informative presentation and lively discourse.

**Public Comments:**

- None.

**Councilmember Reports and Comments:**

- Jimmy Sheldrake thanked the Flood Control representatives for the Riverside County Flood Control's good work.

**Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Suggestions for future topics:

**Adjourn Meeting:**

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:34 PM. M:JS / S:TL
- Winchester Historian Gregg Cowdery opened a Time Capsule. Those who were able stayed for a spell.