

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 9, 2021

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC:

- James Horecka, Secretary; Gary Long; Jimmy Sheldrake (presided).
- Chairman Andy Domenigoni is on vacation. 5<sup>th</sup> seat vacant at present.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant, was on vacation; Pacifica Hoffenberg filled in.

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:32 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve by Long; second by Horecka. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2020, July 8, 2021, & August 12, 2021:

Motion to approve by Long; second by Horecka. Approved unanimously.

**Guest Speaker:** Fire Chief Bill Weiser, CAL FIRE / Riverside County Fire Department.

- Chief Weiser introduced himself & gave a brief bio.
- Riverside County Fire Dept has 84 stations and 19 city contracts. The fourth largest in California!
- Riverside County Fire Dept contracts with Cal Fire to staff, equip, and manage people. Cal Fire owns the stations and the equipment. In cities, city personnel are also involved.
- Cal Fire is a state affair: An all-hazard department. Nine stations are totally state stations. Example: Air stations like Hemet Ryan, with droppers and hand crews.
- Here in Winchester: We are protected principally by Riverside County Fire Department. Our local station includes a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) unit.
- Chief Weiser has been Fire Chief since last August. He started back in 1981; he came to Riverside in 1986.
- As our area is growing rapidly, they hope to add a station: "Pourroy" Station, north of French Valley.
- The Chief also hopes to disconnect the HazMat unit from Winchester Station, as a stand-alone.
- He noted that fire season has started: September is "Preparedness Month," so please be prepared!
- The large fires in northern California are still active, still problems. There's some support from RivCoFire.
- Q, Angela Little: Does RivCoFire still offer CERT training? A: No, they're not involved anymore (2016?). (CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team.) The Chief suggested to all that everyone be prepared, with at least an Earthquake Kit. One reason RivCoFire is no longer involved is that they became too busy: 172,000 calls came in last year: This year, they expect 180,000. Very busy!
- Q: How do we report an abandoned house? A: Code Enforcement.
- Q: Explorers? A: Explorers are Boy Scouts, 18yrs/younger, who volunteer with RivCoFire. They are screened, get trained, etc. Includes photographers, water tenders, chaplain....

### Old Business:

- A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant; on vacation; Pacifica Hoffenberg (assistant for Supervisor Washington) filled in as follows:
  - No significant news.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Carrico & Deputy Gomez:
  - Crime stats: August: 260 calls; 7 arrests. Investigations of illegal marijuana groves continue.
  - Q: In what ways are the Sheriff's Dept involved with the homeless? A: they offer resources to them, and work with others to help move them along: Perris Homeless Outreach Team (HOT); all-county. Also CBAT: Community Behavioral Assessment Team.

- Q: Is there a preferred place that homeless be? A: No. Like anyone else, free to move about.

C. EMWD Updates; Director Phil Paule:

- EMWD may be our Guest Speaker next month (TBD). There is much new development in our area.
- Q: Turf Replacement Program? A: See EMWD website, etc.
- Q: Pile of dirt near water tank at Pourroy & Benton? A: He'll have to look into that. EMWD has nearly 100 water tanks, which must be maintained.
- Q: Is our groundwater brackish? A: Yes: "Salt Creek!" Lake Skinner & Diamond Valley Lake are reservoirs for MWD (not EMWD). EMWD has built two desalination plants (very expensive), which have doubled their capacity over the past 5 years. While desalination is expensive, desalinated water now makes up 20% of their portfolio. Paule noted that their water import is about the same as it was in 1990, thanks to conservation, desal, etc., despite area population doubling!
- Q (Angela): Does EMWD ever partner with owners of private water wells? A: Some. With dairies, e.g., they exchange recycled water for potable water.
- Q: Are water restrictions on the horizon? A: Paule doesn't see it here, just yet, thanks to conservation. However, water restrictions are the Governor's call.

D. Code Enforcement:

- No representative present; no report.

E. Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto's Office:

- No representative present; no report.

F. Senator Melissa Melendez; Amanda Fisher:

- It's end of session in Sacramento.
- Upcoming Town Hall, at the Canyon Lake Cowboy, Canyon Lake, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9AM>
- Veterans' Expo: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10-2, free. Monte Leon Meadows. ~60 vendors. She brought fliers.

G. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; Robert Byers, Recreation Supervisor:

- The playground project is moving along. They hit a snag: Power lines!
- The project to improve disabled access is moving along. May be finished later this month.
- Autumn Elegance," a big fundraising event, is slated to November 5<sup>th</sup> at Soboba Casino.

H. Highway 79:

- No fresh news.

I. Land Use update; Cindy Domenigoni absent; Gary Long reported:

1. Winchester Community Planning update: Still awaiting DEIR. Perhaps in October?
  - a. Winchester-Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207: Awaiting EIR.
  - b. Environmental Justice Area Planning. --- Approved by Board of Supervisors 07/20/2021.
2. CUP #03662 – Newport Road Swap Meet, 10-year extension: Approved.
3. Cannabis Storefront Retailer – CUP #190032; not yet approved by the Board of Supervisors.
4. Crossroads / Boulder Crossing – TTM #38305 & TPM #38037 – NW corner of Hwy 79 and Domenigoni Parkway: Presently under construction. Rough grading appears complete.
5. Matthews Road: Proposed change of zone. See July Minutes.

J. City of Hemet update:

- No representative present; no report. Eddie Sell, Hemet Fire Dept, was in attendance.

K. City of Menifee update:

- No representative present; no report.

L. Other Old Business:

- None.

Open Forum:

- Gregg Cowdery noted that Jerry Jolliffe has finally retired. He served our community well, helping advance our efforts planning for our future. Thank you, Jerry!
- Angela Little: Register your opinions regarding Redistricting, on-line. Based on the recent Census.

Next WHMAC Meeting:

The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment:

The WHMAC adjourned at 7:36 PM.