

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 11, 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 6:30 PM.

Flag Salute. Introductions.

**Approval of the Minutes** from April 13, 2023:

Motion JS; seconded KW: Unanimous.

### Staff Reports:

Aa CHP:

- Alex Antillon briefed us on current statistics in our area: Fatal collisions: 6; Collisions: 609. DUI: 162. Total contacts: 5,831.
- A focused enforcement detail is coming, covering a broad area, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Memorial Day weekend, statewide.
- Q: How many officers? A: Slated for 47, but currently have only about 37 out of the Temecula office.
- Q: Are DUI statistics climbing? A: No, they're holding about the same. Q: More in an area? A: Wine Country.
- All thanked the CHP for helping keep our highways safe.

A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Andrea Mares, Board Assistant to Supervisor Washington:

- Mark calendars: May 30<sup>th</sup>: Mobile Vet Unit! Spay & neutering services. Supported by UCI funding. She left flyers in back (see for details). If you miss this one, they are planning another for autumn.
- Participate in Resident Questions, via Google Questionnaire.
- Available: Grant funding for local non-profit organizations (or non-local that have local benefit).
- Q: Any update on the Highway 79 Realignment Coalition Resolution? A: No answer at this time.
- Q: A builder in Homeland graded some property, which caused issues; illegal? A: They'll have to follow-up.
- Q: Is there an opinion on Advanced Infrastructure Funding? A: Robyn Brock is looking into this.
- Q: Update on our General Plan Amendment process? A: Perhaps early fall?
- Q: Status on signs? A: Did Andy Domenigoni visit all the sites with the rep from Cal-Trans? A: Not yet. A: Andrea said she will follow up on this and report back.

B. (*jumped ahead one*) Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Chris Matthews, new Battalion Chief:

- Self- introduction: He's been here about six months. A local, with a home off Scott Road.
- Updates: Added another five engines. The Air Base is up and running, with a Type-1 helicopter to boot.
- He reminded us that Defensible Space Enforcement is starting up.
- Q: New says that the red fire retardant used in drops may be taken away? A: Perhaps; wait & see results.
- C (AD): Opined that it'd be nice if officers could differentiate between 'weeds' and 'fields.'
- C: Wishing that weed enforcement dates were static each year. Countered: Must be tied to weather, seasons.
- C: Expressed unhappiness when County or Cal-Trans doesn't abate weeds, but he has to.

C. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:

- Stats: March: 394 calls, 2 arrests. April: 347 calls, 3 arrests.
- Gregg Cowdery complimented the Sheriff Department for corralling the suspects in the recent murder.
- Kim Wortman complimented the Sheriff Department for the parole sweep.
- Jimmy Sheldrake complimented the Sheriff Department for their participation in the Domenigoni Poker Ride.

D. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez:

- Drought status has been dropped back to Stage 1 Water Contingency Plan, from 2B. Still, use water wisely.
- The mailings for Proposition 218 went out, regarding proposals for a potential increase in rates.
- She informed us that there will be a public hearing on June 21<sup>st</sup>, at EMWD headquarters. Attend, be heard!

- Reasons behind proposed increase include: Inflation, increasing costs of fuel, food, labor, chemical, etc.
- Noted that EMWD water service in Winchester began in 1960; Homeland 1956.
- Q: When will the project at Esplanade be done? A: Unknown.
- Q: How many at EMWD vote? A: The 5 on the Board. Q: How many customers? A: About a million.
- Q: Is the EMWD Budget available on-line? A: Did not know offhand.
- Alma noted that EMWD aggressively pursues grant funding, and wins many: Over \$100 million!
- E. Code Enforcement; Matt Piper:
  - They handle the Winchester area, from south of the Parkway to Homeland.
  - Since our last MAC: 25 new cases. 51 inspections. Closed 31 cases.
  - Code Enforcement is working on clearing out illegal vendors. A few at SH 79 & Haddock did not have permits: Given warnings; if they violate again, they'll be given citations.
  - Q: Status of local homeless? A: About the same; just a few. Recent issues with fires in the groves.
  - C: Resident noted that there are people living in cars near the EMWD property (ponds).
  - Q: Status on the 'pig property'? A: It's improved some.
  - Q: What resources are offered to homeless persons? A: Lots of services are available and routinely offered.
  - Reminder: 602 notices are valid for just one year, date-to-date.
- F. 36<sup>th</sup> District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: Representative not present; no report.
- G. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; no representative present; no report).
- H. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
  - Shultz noted that it's been one year since this meeting space was named in honor of Dirk Meredith.
  - Remodeling of various things at this park continue, including the conference rooms in the Community Center.
  - "Movies in the Park" is scheduled of May 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Diamond Valley Aquatic Center will open May 27<sup>th</sup>, in time for Memorial Day weekend.
  - June 3<sup>rd</sup>: A park warming event at Heritage Lakes Sports Park.
- 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 did not meet in this time period; no LUC report. There are no projects under review.
  - C: Angela noted that fencing went up at around the Winchester Inn, & some graffiti was abated.
- K. City of Hemet update; no representative present; no report.
- L. City of Menifee update; no representative present; no report.
- M. Other Departments and Public Agencies:
  - Camille Collins, E.S.C.: LHMP updates are going on. LHMP = Local Hazard Management Plan. Covers floods, fires, earthquakes and more. For more information, please visit: [RoCoReady.org](http://RoCoReady.org)

**New Business:**

- A. Guest Speaker: Mr. James DeAguilera, regarding proposed uses for the former Winchester Inn property.
  - Mr. DeAguilera introduced himself; a former Planning Director in the City of Loma Linda. He noted that his wife is a graduate student in environmental sciences.
  - He noted they've been involved in the Winchester Inn about two years. They've endured problems with vandalism, graffiti, etc. They've made some fresh efforts.
  - He stated that Code Enforcement has asked that the building be demolished, as a hazard. They would prefer to remodel the building, into an appropriate use. Open to some ideas.
  - C: A restaurant & bar, as it's always been, would be nice. R: That option is open; they're reviewing the math.
  - DeAguilera stated they had considered cannabis, but that the other store opened to the south; too close.
  - C: Horecka mentioned that the Winchester Inn was a 'real' cowboy bar & eatery; a rare thing.
  - Aguilera stated that cannabis sales is of interest to them. They filed litigation against the nearby vendor.

**Public Comments:**

- None.

**Councilmember Reports and Comments:**

- Logo representing Winchester. Andrea & Robyn, with others, shared some early ideas. Think of ideas!
- Another area engaged the Art Department of a local high school to come up with a logo. Indeed, Temecula followed a similar path long ago. In fact, their motto was the idea of a student during a competition.

- One motto floated: "A place to come home to."
- Gregg Cowdery brought up an idea from long ago: "Winchester: The town that would not die." <laughter>

**Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Ideas, please.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 7:42 PM. M:KW / S:JS