

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 9, 2020

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jimmy Sheldrake. One position vacant.

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:35 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda: Motion by Sheldrake; second by Meredith. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve Nov. Meeting Minutes: Motion by Sheldrake; 2nd by Meredith. Approved U.

Guest Speaker: Josephine Fernandez, Community Services Assistant from Community Action Partnership (CAP). Covering various programs available for assisting residents.

Ms. Fernandez introduced herself. She explained the services available. A once-a-year program. Once a year, every year. There is a utility assistance program. This program is in addition to programs offered by SCE, the gas company. At the meeting date, we are still in 2019. There are funds available!

There are also programs for weatherization and energy efficiency. The program administrators assess each situation. Depending on the case, they may be able to get money for improving weatherization and energy efficiency, even upgrading to more energy-efficient appliances. There are special grants, too. She gave her direct line, and stated she is happy to help. They may also pay for propane. Even wood! But for propane or wood, there must be a valid account with a purveyor.

Once a person applies and qualifies, let's say for \$300 in assistance: It takes two billing periods for the state to pay. Note: For mobile homes, often utilities are paid as part of the rent for the space. Similar with apartments. In those cases, checks are handled differently.

Computers: The County refurbishes their old computers, then give them away. Complete with computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, even software.

Tax Prep is available. She also put out a call for volunteers to train to serve in the Tax Preparation Program. There is also a Savings for Success savings-matching program available.

She left flyers and such, with information. She also indicated that she is here to help!

· Q: Where does the funding come from? A: Federal funding, run by the state. The state distributes funding to counties.

Attendees thanked Ms. Fernandez for the informative presentation.

Old Business:

A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:

- Supervisor Manuel Perez is the new Chairman. Supervisor Karen Spiegel is Vice-Chair.
- EDA agenda items: A 60-unit complex in Palm Springs, for low income, and a 50-unit affair at a church in Riverside.
- Riverside County OK'd the raising of rates for Animal Services, across the board.
- The Sheriff wishes to handle their own Maintenance & Real Estate; potential savings?

- Upcoming event: Library Ground-Breaking! January 10th, 1:00 PM. At the site. This project is a public/private partnership: Privately built, then leased to the County. Good things!
 - Upcoming event: Dedication of Jim Venable Park. 17 years in the process! See flyer.
 - The annual “Point in Time Count of the Homeless” is upon us. Participate!
 - There are openings for the Riverside County Grand Jury. Encouraged people to apply.
 - Q: Charlie: We will have a Town Hall Meeting soon? A: Yes!
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Showalter not present. Andy Domenigoni stated that there will soon be a new Ag Theft liaison for our general area.
- C. EMWD Updates; Director Phil Paule; Kevin Pearson:
- Kevin Pearson reported that EMWD has just rolled out a NEW customer service portal on-line, called “My Account.” Lots of features. You can even see your daily usage. This is Phase One. The next phase will launch in 2021. That will include additional functions; e.g. the ability to get info on Use vs Budget. Handy! He noted the move to go to Smart Meters, to understand usage better and help everyone to be more water-wise & efficient.
 - Kevin warned all to not buy into the ‘false news’ being pushed over Facebook & KTLA, regarding steep fines if you shower and wash laundry the same day. Just isn’t so. Research!
 - Q: Will EMWD still be using tiered rates? A: Yes.
- D. Code Enforcement; Marr Christian:
- Code Enforcement is hiring! They will be getting two new staff now, another later. They are training two new hires. Training takes some time.
 - Working various cases, including: Paradise Palms; the old mobile home is about ready to go. Outside storage has been reduced. C.E. is getting many complaints regarding neighborhood repair shops, including complaints from legitimate automotive repair shops, victims, etc. C.E. is working on the activity on Patterson; five cars, animals, bad structures. C.E. working on the homeless up in trees; that turned out to be bags of trash in the trees, not homeless at all. 9th & Patterson: Outside storage cleared out. Illegal dumping, behind mobile home park of California, is coming back.
 - Marr reminded us that the Point in Time Homeless Count is very important. Accurate numbers will help assure proper funding, HUD money, etc.
 - Q: Does C.E. get complaints regarding Food Trucks? A: Marr noted that laws have changed, coming down from the state level. The County passed a Food Truck Ordinance. So many of the trailers and such out there are now legitimate. See new laws for more details.
- E. Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez’ Office; Field Representative Amanda Fisher:
- Ms. Fisher brought fliers that show what bills Melendez is working on. (Or see the Internet.)
 - Q: Rent Control? A: Lawsuits will be likely.
 - Q: AB5, re Contract Workers? A: Contact a lawyer for info. There are lawsuits underway.
 - For the new Driver License: “No Party Preference.” Citizens are advised to look into this.
- F. Senator Stone District Director; Darrell Connerton:
- For the new Driver License: “No Party Preference.” Citizens are advised to look into this.
 - Senator Stone’s office is now vacant. California Senate District 28. However, he noted that their office is still open for business. If citizens have problems, please call.
 - Q: When will a new senator be elected? A: At the Primary Election, coming up.
 - Guest: Brenda Dennstedt, from Ken Calvert’s office. The congressman is on break. He is the ranking member on Defense Appropriations. Brenda is a sitting member on the board for Western Municipal Water District (covering ~200 square miles). She is a 19-year resident in Murrieta. She is also Legislative Assistant with Supervisor Jeff Hewitt.
- G. Valley Wide Recreation & Parks District; Dean Wetter:
- Dean noted that there are 800 square miles in the district. They rate of personnel charge is the lowest. They have 87 facilities so far: The Jim Venable Park will be their 88th. Per Dean, Valley Wide is “keeping their foot on the gas.” He thanked all for support.

- Upcoming event: The Polar Plunge fundraiser. First annual.
 - Q: What are the boundaries? A: Generally Lamb's Canyon on North, Lakeview at west, Sage & Aguanga at south.
- H. Highway 79: No news.
- I. Land Use update; Cindy Domenigoni, et al.:
1. Winchester Community Planning update:
 - a. Winchester-Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207: In process. Awaiting Draft EIR.
 - b. There were requests to the County last month, regarding CHANGES to Land Use at some properties. These are of concern.
 - c. The Land Use Committee reviewed the matters, made recommendations. From there, the Winchester/Homeland Town Association wrote a letter, noting concerns and recommendations. The Town Association formally requested that the MAC forward that letter on to our Supervisor. Dirk Meredith motioned that the Letter be forwarded to the County Supervisor, with an appropriate Cover Letter. Second by Jimmy Sheldrake. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed. Letter with Cover Letter will be forwarded by the WHMAC.
 2. Stone Creek (TR 36365): Pending TPC hearings. Held up due to the Highway 79 Policy Area. (47 units over allowance) This project is located off Grand Avenue.
 3. Domenigoni Plaza – Commercial development at Winchester Rd & Domenigoni Parkway. Update: Moving forward with Grading Plans.
 4. Intersection of Scott Road & Leon Road (near the new high school). Letter sent to Supervisor Chuck Washington. The proponent is proceeding with the Interim Intersection.
 5. Menifee North Specific Plan, TTM 37533 & TTM 29322 (Homeland) – Postponed TPC hearing, pending further discussions. Proponent has reconfigured the park to include about 4.8 acres. Dean Wetter of Valley Wide Parks & Rec is now well involved, which is good.
 6. Leon Road closure: DR Horton project. Work is now underway, and road is closed completely to all but local residents.
 7. K1 Speed: This project may break ground soon.
 8. The next Land Use Committee meeting is scheduled for January 21st, 3:30 PM, at Cindy Domenigoni's office. There will be discussion of a site in Homeland.
- J. City of Hemet update; Jeff Logan:
- Not present; no report.
- K. City of Menifee; Doug Darnell, Senior Planner in the City of Menifee:
- City continues recruitment of new officers for their new Police Dept.
 - Mr. Darnell stated that the City of Menifee is interested in expanding their Sphere of Influence, east of Briggs Road. This caused great agitation and concern among those in attendance.
 - Cindy Domenigoni stated: FYI; consult with US, please.
 - Gregg Cowdery stated that the early city founders promised that their interests would not be east of Briggs Road.
 - Q: What is the city's position on cannabis? A: Darnell stated he did not know.
 - Darnell noted: At present, the City of Menifee does not have a sphere of influence, either side.
- Other Old Business: None.

Open Forum:

- Next month's meeting will be a Town Hall format, featuring Supervisor Chuck Washington!

Next WHMAC Meeting:

The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2020 6:30 PM, at the Community Center. *No meeting in December.*

Adjournment:

The WHMAC adjourned at 7:35 PM JS/JH/Un).