

# Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 12, 2017

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

#### Winchester MAC:

Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; Dirk Meredith, Vice-Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Jimmy Sheldrake

Absent: Jeff Logan

#### Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor

Members of the Public

Call to Order: Call to Order by Dirk Meredith at 6:32 PM.

### Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Motion by Meredith; second by Horecka. Approved by the four present.

### Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Motion by Sheldrake; second by Meredith. Approved by the four present.

### Approval of November Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Motion by Sheldrake; second by Meredith. Approved by the four present.

Guest Speaker: Terri Kasinga, of Caltrans District 8 Chief Public and Media Affairs. Mr. Kasinga described the project for new medians along State Highway 74 (Hwy 74). The project is essentially an engineering matter, aimed at enhancing safety along the corridor. The EIR was slated to be approved already. It should be approved by the end of January or mid-February. He described the project: Construct a raised-curb median and left turn lanes to replace the existing two-way left-turn lane outlined by striping, and widen segments of roadway without two-way-left-turn lane to accommodate the proposed median. There are three sections. Hwy 74 is among the ten worst in the nation. CalTrans has access to certain safety money, for reactive construction. The projected cost is \$29,000,000. Construction start is slated for 2019, in three sections. In our general area, the section is as follows: From about 0.6 miles east of the 215 to 0.4 miles west of Acacia.

The floor was opened for questions:

- Q: Will some left-turn pockets prohibit U turns? A: Probably. Not in our area, but in Hemet, due to inadequate width of road to make a U turn without having to do a three-point maneuver.
- Q: Will access to all properties be maintained? A: No access will be eliminated, though in many cases a driver will need to make a U turn to get to a drive on the opposite side of the street, as is common.
- Q: Will there be signals? A: Whatever signals exist will remain. No new signals proposed, as there is no budget for such work, and signals are very expensive. Traffic signals are planned based on the need for same and funding for each.
- Q: Have medians been proven to reduce accidents? A: Medians have been shown to enhance safety, yes. Studies have shown there is a 25% to 30% reduction in accidents. A two-way left turn lane is safer than a double yellow. A median is safer yet. Safer still are barricades, though these would not be appropriate for residential areas.
- Q: Is this project consistent with the General Plan? A: CalTrans sent to the project to the County. The County reviewer took no exceptions.
- Q: Will this impact bus routes? A: The medians will enhance safety, including for pedestrians crossing the highway to catch buses. The project does not plan to alter bus stops.
- Q: Will there be landscaping in the medians? A: No. Governor Brown mandated that no landscaping be placed in medians, due to water consumption; especially considering the drought. Kasinga noted that cities may override this order. However, the proponent would have to pay for the initial costs of the landscaping, irrigation, controls, water and maintenance, of course, all expensive.

- C: A citizen noted that the traffic signal at Hwy 79 & Simpson has bad timing. A: Kasinga will have someone look into the matter.
- C: A citizen opined that a traffic signal is needed at Hwy 79 & Haddock (at the Elementary School). A: Kasinga stated that CalTrans has studied that intersection. Federal mandate has eight steps that must be passed for a signal to be installed. The study required takes 4-6 months to process, from collecting data, running warrants, etc. CalTrans can start the study, but they'll need about \$50k in funding to do so. CalTrans would require support from the County of Riverside. A new traffic signals can run from about half a million to a million dollars, with ADA work, etc.
- C: A citizen complained about drivers speeding through town. A: Regarding speed limits: The law says that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed in the stretch is what the limit is based upon. CalTrans cannot unilaterally change a speed limit sign. Formal traffic studies are required.

New Business.

- A. Public Use Permit No. 931 – Charter School K-8<sup>th</sup> at Keller and Pourroy Road (600 students. This project is NOT within our MAC boundaries.

Old Business:

- A. General County update; Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant:
  - Opal noted that Supervisor Benoit has passed away.
  - The Hospital is still doing well.
  - The efficiency study of the Sheriff Department is underway.
  - Marijuana studies on on-going. The County will be bringing their plan up at the County Supervisor's meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM, downtown Riverside.
  - Opal introduced Jeff Comachero, the new chief of staff to Supervisor Washington. He has been City Councilman in Temecula, mayor four times, and is here to serve.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Lieutenant Edward Chavez reporting:
  - Chavez gave updates on crime stats: Nov: 197 calls for service, 2 arrests; Dec: 202 calls, 6 arrests.
  - There was a disturbance call in Homeland, which led to an arrest: \$20,000 worth of marijuana, a fire-arm, and the perp was out on felony probation; taken to jail.
  - Chavez recounted the 1199 "mayday" event on Interstate 15, near Indian Truck Trail. CHP had stopped a driver for DUI. Driver let loose with an AK-47 rifle. Chase ensued, ending in Tuscany Hills. The perp tried to break into a house; got into a house, though residents escapes. Gun battles... No civilians hurt.
- C. EMWD Updates:
  - Kevin Pearson stated that about 40% of the state is now out of drought conditions.
  - The State Board will meet on February 7<sup>th</sup>. They may declare the drought over or partly over. The drought will be over when the Governor says the drought is over.
  - The work on the recovery wells by the ponds is slated to begin at the end of January.
- D. Highway 79 Realignment update:
  - No update. No funding on the horizon.
- E. Land Use update:
  - New Tentative Parcel Map #37171. Subdivide a 1.2 acre parcel into two lots, residential parcel, just south of the Fire Department. No exceptions taken by the MAC, for this very small item.
  - GPA 1120 Housing Element and Downtown Winchester – TPC 10/5/2916:
    - Went before the Board of Supervisors on December 6<sup>th</sup>: Approved! Sierra Club filed a lawsuit.
    - GPA 1207: Support for our vision of the downtown core was passed by the Planning Commission. It is scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Partial funding has been allotted for the second phase of planning. Jerry Jolliff, Planner. Once a planner is assigned, he will come out to meet with us. They have an aggressive schedule.
    - The Housing Element was approved by the Committee at County. There are some concerns for the downtown core. The WTA Land Use Committee will meet with County Planners. Since the MAC will be dark in December, those with and interest in keeping up with this matter are advised to attend the WTA meeting in December.
  - Winchester/Homeland General Plan Amendment #1207:
    - This is continuing to move ahead through the County.

- Proposed K-1 Speed CUP 03733:
  - No news.
- F. City of Hemet update; Jeff Logan reporting:
  - Jeff Logan not present; no report.
- G. City of Menifee update:
  - Andy Domenigoni is still planning to set up a meeting with the new mayor.
- H. Other Old Business:
  1. Dean Wetter of Valley Wide Parks & Rec spoke. There will be a public hearing at the County Administrative Center, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM, regarding “Detachment” of the parks in Menifee. We are so advised. Contact the District Office at 654-1505. Cindy Domenigoni stated that the Winchester Town Association took this item up; the WTA has taken action to support Valley Wide, asking that Menifee retain Valley Wide. The WTA asked that the WHMAC receive, review and pass on a letter of support. A motion was made by Meredith to support this letter; second by Sheldrake. Discussion ensued. The motion was amended, to read as follows: “The Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council supports the letter written by the Winchester Town Association in support of Valley Wide Parks and Recreation in the City of Menifee continuing to operate and maintain the parks they currently operate and maintain.” Motion to forward the letter from the WTA to the County made by Meredith; second by Sheldrake; passed by Domenigoni, Meredith, Horecka, Sheldrake; Logan absent.

#### Open Forum:

1. Gregg Cowdery announced that there was a Zone 4 Flood Control meeting. Gregg attended that meeting. While there, he made the Flood Control engineers aware of areas of interest in our area that have significant flooding issues still. He noted that the Homeland Channels are moving ahead, and that work is continuing with the Green Acres Dam.
2. A citizen inquired as to maintenance of Shady Lane and Memory Lane, over in the groves. These roads are not County-maintained. Opal took her address; will inquire further. Gregg Cowdery noted that the groves were part of the American Eucalyptus Tract of the late 1800’s.

#### Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center. The WHMAC was dark in December.

Adjournment: The WHMAC adjourned at 8:35 PM.