

Winchester/Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 10, 2015

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Attendees:

Winchester MAC:

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

Ex Officio:

Opal Hellweg, Legislative Assistant for Third District Supervisor

Members of the Public

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

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Sheldrake; Second: Meredith. Approved, unanimous except Horecka, not yet present.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Meredith; Second: Sheldrake. Approved, unanimous.

Guest Speaker: Sergeant Lesley Huennekens, from Animal Services.

After a brief biography, Lesley told us of her role and about Animal Services in general in Riverside County. Facts & figures included: 1,784 service calls, 223 dead animals, 51 dog bites, etc. 510 animals impounded so far this year. Adoption fees are \$16 for an altered dog. Announced the 2015 "Trunk or Treat" event & Pet Contest. Announced that Inspectors are now going through our community, checking for current licensing & rabies vaccines. She suggested pet owners take heed. License fees for unaltered dogs run \$100. She reminded citizens of the Pit Bull/Mix Ordinance in Riverside County: ALL subject dogs must be licensed. There is a limit of just four dogs per parcel, regardless of the size of the property, unless there is a valid Kennel Permit for an operation.

Opened the floor to questions, on a wide range of topics, not all noted here:

C: Eve Plumb noted that there are low-cost programs for altering pets: PALS, for example.

Q: Will Animal Services have a representative at 40th annual Cat Show? A: Lesley didn't know; will check.

Q: Microchips: It was noted that microchips must also be registered to actually be of use. Animal Services registers the chips as part of their deal (\$20 per). Rabies shots are \$6, IF a Vet is available on site (req'd).

Q: Do the employees of Animal Services have training for dealing with large animals? A: Most are trained for small animals, however a few have some training in dealing with large animals (horses, cattle, livestock).

Q: Is A.S. available 24/7? A: No. One shift only, 7:30-5:00. But there is a person on call.

Q: If there is a problem with a pit bull, will A.S. come out? A: Yes, that would trigger a visit.

Q: Dead animals? A: Call Animal Services.

Q: How long are animals kept before they are "put to sleep"? A: That depends. State says three days minimum. However, Animal Services does not kill for space. They try to hold the animal for at least 10 days. The San Jacinto Animal Campus, on Grand Avenue, has 580 spaces.

Q: Are there "Foster Spaces" (out in homes, e.g.). A: Not really needed. They have a successful program which recently placed 435 dogs in just ten days.

Q: Impounds, process? A: There is a process. Enforcement is billed to the owner. Sometimes expensive.

Q: Budget? A: Lesley did not know the dollar budget. She noted that A.S. is County-wide.

Q: Rabies discussion. A: Leslie noted that there are only a few rabies vaccines allowed in California. Rabies is very rare; hardly a case in 30 years. Bats are an issue: Several cases of rabid bats so far this year.

The audience thanked Sergeant Huennekens for her presentation.

New Business.

A. Noted that there will be a Transportation Summit (RCTC) at the Winchester Community Center on September 23rd, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Come one, come all!

B. Other: Mary Plumb noted that she saw a surveying team working on Cortrite (likely for storm drains).

Old Business:

- A. Update – Opal Hellweg, 3rd District Legislative Assistant; Opal not present. No report.
- B. Sheriff Dept.;
 - Lt. Guillen reported: Nothing significant. Part I crimes are down. Mail theft is a big issue. Lt. Guillen will be moving on. He introduced Lt. Greg Fellows. gfellows@riversidesheriff.org Fellows gave a brief bio. His 25th year of service. Jurupa, Norco, Menifee, even Los Angeles. Most recently Internal Affairs. Recently promoted to Lt, and moved to the Perris Station.
 - Q: How is the marijuana land use law enforcement going? A: There two teams on the task, busy every day. The teams are likely aware of the various growers in our communities already.
- C. EMWD Updates:
 - Kevin Pearson & Phil Paule. The Olive sewer line is complete. The Salt Creek line was wrapped up September 2nd. Noted that EMWD is not in Stage 4b: 30% cut in water budget. They failed to meet the State-mandated cuts, hitting only 18% rather than the 28% mandate over the 3 summer months. EMWD and customers has already been conserving greatly. So the extra margins are especially difficult to meet, between the 2013 benchmarks (already lowered usage) and current values in 2015. All of the \$450M budget for the Turf Replacement program was used up: No more available. Horecka suggested that EMWD place a numeric value on the bar graphs of water budgets on our bills, so that users could see that value (since it already exists, show it). Kevin will look into this suggestion. Kevin noted that, after Stage 4b, there is 4c (eliminates outdoor budget), then 5 (cuts some of indoor).
 - Phil Paule opined that EMWD & customers are already doing a great job reducing water usage, and have been for many years. He sounds frustrated with State Bureaucrats coming down to “manage” out local areas, setting restrictions, possible lawsuits, etc., and unfairly targeting Inland areas. He noted that EMWD serves 555 square miles, 34% of the population of Riverside County, and serves one of the ten largest geographic areas in the Country.
- D. Highway 79 (realignment) update.
 - Transportation Summit (RCTC) at the Winchester Community Center: See above. Dirk attended the meeting that was in Val Vista. He noted the minor reroute of one of the routes near the north, to leave more of a margin around the mountain, which local Native Americans hold sacred. Target for the completion of the project is out around 2040. The Environmental work should be done in 2017. Design next, possible start of 2022. Gregg discussed bridges & interchanges briefly.
- E. MWD Proposed Solar Farm:
 - No news. Option likely expired. Action: Drop.
- F. Land Use:
 - Downtown Core Planning: See Transportation Summit info, above.
 - 1. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No. 1120, Housing Element: Cindy Domenigoni sent their letter to the County on time.
 - 2. Riverside County General Plan Amendment No. 960; EIR Comments are due 8/19/15. Cindy Domenigoni sent their letter to the County on time. Some of 960 will be going to the Planning Commission on August 16th.
- G. City of Hemet update: Jeff Logan reported on misc. minor items. None affecting our area directly. The WTA Land Use Committee will write a letter regarding the annexation proposed by Hemet.
- H. City of Menifee
 - Andy reported that he has not yet scheduled a meeting with Menifee City Manager Rob Johnson yet.
- I. Other Old Business:
 - None.

Open Forum:

- 1. No items.

Next WMAC Meeting:

The next WMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 08, 2015, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.

Adjournment: The WMAC adjourned at 7:55 PM.