CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

Monday, March 10, 2008

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hidden Hills was duly held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall, 6165 Spring Valley Road, Hidden Hills, California 91302 on Monday, March 10, 2008 at the hour of 7:34 p.m. Mayor Stuart Siegel called the meeting to order and presided thereover after leading the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council:	Mayor Stuart E. Siegel
	Mayor Pro Tem Monty E. Fisher
	Council Member Jim Cohen (left at 8:06 p.m.)
	Council Member Larry G. Weber
Staff:	City Engineer Dirk Lovett
	Building Official Greg Robinson
	City Manager Cherie L. Paglia
Absent:	Council Member Steve Freedland

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to excuse the absence of Council Member Freedland.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the agenda for the March 10, 2008 regular meeting be approved as submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Siegel made the following announcements:

On behalf of the Council, he wished a happy birthday to Council Member Cohen's son Brian.

He invited everyone to the next Council meeting on March 24th for the reorganization of the Council; the Council Members will select from among themselves a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem; there will be a small reception after the meeting.

AUDIENCE

Resident and Round Meadow School PFA Co-President Mathy Wasserman addressed the Council:

There is a community grass roots committee called CORE, which stands for Californians Organized to Rescue Education; CORE has no party affiliation, but was organized to communicate with representatives the need to address the state's education budget; they are upset about monies that will not be coming to the Las Virgenes Unified School District that were promised for the year; they are very concerned about the budget cuts for this very small but well run District; the District is holding a forum on April 2nd at 4:30 p.m. at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Building; the meeting is in conjunction with five other school districts; she would like to encourage everyone to come to the meeting, which will be both a forum and rally; they are hoping local representatives Senator Sheila Kuehl and Assemblymember Julia Brownley will be in attendance.

Mayor Siegel informed Ms. Wasserman that the Council, as item 10A on the agenda, would be considering adoption of a resolution to be sent to the Governor regarding education budget cuts.

PRESENTATIONS

A. **Consideration of Approval of Community Assistance Grant to Round Meadow Elementary School for Emergency Radios**

Council Member Weber recused himself at this time, as the radio vendor is a source of income to him.

Mayor Siegel stated that the Round Meadow School PFA was requesting a community assistance grant in the amount of $2312.22 for eight emergency radios for the school, and that the City often helps the school which has a large number of Hidden Hills students and parents. The Council Members, PFA Co-President Mathy Wasserman, Emergency Services Director Jim Doran, Public Safety Commissioner Martin Zane, and staff engaged in a discussion during which the following points were made and questions raised:

> Just like the City, the school has a disaster response team; these representatives would use the radios on campus to communicate during emergencies or evacuations; the campus is pretty open and has several separate buildings; last week a dog showing aggressive behavior was loose on campus, and the radios could have been used to make sure everyone was aware of the situation and that the youngsters were safely inside; it is possible that if students need to be evacuated and the busses are not readily available, all 600 students could be walked into Hidden Hills, all the way to the Community Center, which serves as the school's alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC); would the proposed radios be on the same frequency and be able to communicate with the City's radios via the repeater on Bonneville; exactly how many radios are needed at the school; the proposal is for eight radios, but perhaps ten or twelve would serve them better; the proposed radios have a shorter range than those recently purchased by the City; will the less expensive radios be adequate; it appears there might be additional longer range radios on sale, so for the same grant, more efficient radios could be purchased; maybe these radios could be purchased by the City, and then the slightly older City radios, which would probably be better than those proposed, be provided to the school; the school should have only one type of radio, and those radios should be able to communicate with the City radios.

As there were unanswered questions, the Council and everyone else agreed that it would be better to table this matter until more information could be obtained.

Council Member Weber rejoined the meeting at this time (7:48 p.m.).

B. **Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Connect-CTY for an Emergency Communication System**

Mayor Siegel stated that the proposed system, if approved, would replace the existing CAN system, and would be a variation on what the Community Association uses, but with a different company. He then asked the City Manager for a report, which she provided as follows:

> With the CAN system, the City paid an annual fee, shared with the other area cities, the Water District, and the School District, based on population; the use of this proposed system would not be done jointly, but it is still important for all the area cities to have the same system if at all possible, especially for ease of use by the Sheriff's Department when necessary; the cities of Calabasas and Malibu have already signed contracts with the NTI Group, Inc. for the Connect-CTY system; Agoura Hills and Westlake Village are reviewing proposals at this time, and will make decisions in the near future; Public Safety Commissioner Martin Zane attended a demonstration of this system, along with staff; the Public Safety Commission reviewed the Connect-CTY proposal, along with several others, and is recommending approval of the Connect-CTY system; it appears quite simple to use; there is a one-time set-up fee, and then an annual fee, allowing unlimited use of the system at no additional charge; the City has used COPS funds to pay for CAN, and can continue to use those same funds for this new system, which would be covered under the current budget; if the contract is signed by 3/31/08, the cost per household will be $2.00, otherwise it will be $2.50/household; those prices can be locked in for 1, 3, or 5 years, with an opt out every year.

Emergency Services Director Jim Doran informed the Council that he and the Malibu Emergency Services Director attended the International Association of Emergency Managers, at which they interviewed 12 – 15 different companies, and narrowed it down to two, from which they would both recommend Connect-CTY.

Mayor Siegel pointed out one concern with the Association's system, that he addressed with Chad Castruita, the Regional Director for Connect-CTY – when the Association sends a message, the residents get numerous notices (fax, email, phone, etc.); the Connect-CTY system has two levels of notification: 1) emergency notices which can be sent to six different choices

for each resident (email, cell phone, landline, etc.), and 2) non-emergency notices which can be programmed for only one primary number at the choice of the resident.

Mayor Siegel then asked Mr. Castruita to provide additional information on the system, which he did as follows:

> The company is seven years old, locally based in Sherman Oaks; the company has grown rapidly due to the demands of school districts and cities; they started with school districts, and now have spaces for education, counties/cities, government, and military; the system allows you to pick up the phone and record a message, either for mass notification or a targeted group; a radius call can be made, or a polygon can be drawn around a street or area; an outreach call (non-emergency) can be sent to just one primary number, or a priority call (emergency) can hit up to six points of contact for each resident (home or business phone, cell phone, satellite phone, text message, email, pager); the system is very easy to use and is web interfaced; it takes about five steps to initiate a call – record the message, select who to send it to, along with the date and time, and confirm; 2 million messages can be sent in one hour, which means everyone in Hidden Hills could be reached within about five minutes; any type of message can be sent, such as road closures, public hearings, etc.; they can also do surveys, whereby a question is asked with 1-6 response answers; they have 65 clients within California, and have just recently signed New York City and L.A. Unified School District (the second largest in the country); implementation can be done quickly, within about seven business days; the City should buy the E911 data for unlisted numbers, and his company will supply the published numbers; groups can then be set up; they will conduct hands-on on-site orientation and training, which takes approximately 90 minutes for key personnel; they will also help launch the system and bring awareness to the community.

Mayor Siegel had several questions, to which Mr. Castruita replied with the following comments:

> His company will import the land lines and the E911 data (which is all just phones); then they set up a community portal on the City's website; in the first message launch call, residents are directed to the website; there will be a Connect-CTY logo that they click on, and if they are a resident, they can add to or amend their information; they can put in a language preference, an email, text, or different numbers, and can also opt out of non-emergency related notices; if someone does not have a computer, notices can be placed in water bills or elsewhere; an account will be set up in each resident's name from day one when the data is imported; the resident can then type in his/her name, address, and phone to pull up the information which can then be deleted, amended, or added to by the

resident; everything is security password protected, and security based, so no one can change the information for another resident.

Both Mayor Siegel and Commissioner Zane asked how the system would know that it was the correct person inputting the information and the password originally. Mr. Castruita explained that if a resident was locked out by someone else using their name, that resident would notify the City, who would then contact the City's representative at Connect-CTY to create a new password for the locked out resident.

The City Manager asked what would happen to all the data if the City opted out of its agreement at some point. Mr. Castruita stated that the City would own the E911 numbers that they purchased, but the rest of the information and numbers are leased, so no one owns them; his company would just switch off the user names and passwords so the City would have no further access.

In response to Council Member Cohen, Mr. Castruita confirmed that none of the information or data they have is sold or provided to a third party, but remains confidential, or they would be out of business. Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the proposal from The NTI Group, Inc. to provide the Connect-CTY emergency communication system to Hidden Hills for five years at an annual cost of $1350.00 ($2.00 per household, 675 households), plus a one-time set-up fee (for orientation and implementation) of $1000, all to be paid from the City's COPS funds.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Regarding Roof Repairs

Building Official Greg Robinson reminded the Council that an ordinance was adopted at the last meeting regarding roof repairs, and that in that ordinance there was an appeal process for an

unreasonable hardship. He added that staff is proposing a resolution to establish a fee of $150 for anyone wishing to submit an application for such an appeal.

Mayor Siegel opened the public hearing, and hearing no comments, closed the hearing. Council Member Weber asked if it was reasonable to collect a fee from someone who would be claiming a hardship, especially if it were financial. The City Manager explained that the fee was quite minimal, especially compared to roof repair costs, and that without such a fee, everyone doing a roof repair over the allowed amount would be requesting an appeal. Council Member Weber agreed.

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt by title only Resolution No. 809 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS ESTABLISHING A FEE FOR AN UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP APPEAL FOR ROOF REPAIR.

CONSENT CALENDAR
A.   **City Council Minutes – February 25, 2008**
B.   **Demand List**

Upon MOTION of Council Member Cohen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve items A (with Council Member Weber abstaining on this item as he was not in attendance at the meeting) and B of the consent calendar as submitted.

Council Member Cohen left the meeting at this time (8:06 p.m.) as he had another commitment.

MATTERS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Update on Storm Water Quality Issues

Mayor Siegel provided an update on some of the issues related to environmental requirements, and the recent Notices of Violation served on twenty cities that contribute to the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. He reminded everyone that Hidden Hills drains mostly into the L.A. River Watershed, but also has a very small portion (.2 percent/approximately 125 acres) that drains into the Malibu Creek Watershed (this area has five homes on septic systems). Mayor Siegel stated that he would like the Council's blessing to approach Assemblymember Brownley and Senator Kuehl regarding the City's plight in having to contribute monetarily to both watersheds, even though the drainage to the Malibu Creek Watershed is miniscule, which is a hardship for such a small city and could affect the City's ability in the future to provide public safety for its residents. The Council had no problem with Mayor Siegel proceeding in that direction.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

A.   Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Regarding the State Budget

Council Member Weber was concerned with a statement in the proposed resolution that urged the Governor and Legislature to discuss all possibilities to solve the budget crisis "including new revenue sources" in order to protect our local schools. He asked that the resolution be amended to say "including alternative areas to cut expenses". Upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt, as amended, by title only Resolution No. 808 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO GOVERNOR SCHWARTZENEGGER'S PROPOSED 2008-2009 PUBLIC EDUCATION BUDGET.

B.   Consideration of Approval of Proposal from Bartel Associates, LLC for Actuarial Consulting Services

The following report was provided by City Manager Cherie Paglia:

> Some time ago, staff asked the Council to consider changing the CalPERS retirement system formula now in use by the City; Hidden Hills is one of the few remaining cities in the state that still uses the 2% @ 60 formula; at that time, the Council had numerous questions regarding how such a change would affect the budget and what alternatives were available; the City staff did not feel it had the expertise to adequately answer all the questions, so is asking the Council to hire a consultant well versed in these issues; the approved City budget includes $5000 for such a consultant; Bartel Associates comes very highly recommended by the City of Westlake Village; the President of the company, John Bartel, has provided a proposal for actuarial consulting services to review the City's current retirement contribution rates, what options the City has, what is most likely to happen to future rates, etc.; the time estimate of 16 hours includes a review of contract amendment cost analysis (for example Miscellaneous 2% @ 55, 2.5% @ 55, 2.7% @ 55, and 3% @ 60); there could be an additional two hours required depending on the number of meetings necessary; Mr. Bartel would present his findings at a Council meeting; she would recommend an approval of not-to-exceed $5000 for this consulting service.

Council Member Weber suggested that since the amount was already an approved item in this year's budget, that the Council move forward to investigate and obtain information regarding the retirement formula and what changes, if any, might be appropriate. Upon MOTION of Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, seconded by Council Member Weber and unanimously carried on roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the expenditure of not-to-exceed $5000 to Bartel Associates, LLC to provide actuarial consulting services to the City in relation to CalPERS issues.

C.   Vesting Tentative Map 63567 (Ashley) - Update

City Engineer Dirk Lovett informed the Council that staff was still in the process of reviewing the final draft EIR, which is basically the draft EIR, plus the comments to the draft EIR, and then the responses to those comments. Hopefully the review will be done by the end of the week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, upon MOTION of Council Member Weber, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fisher and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn the regular meeting of March 10, 2008 at 8:20 p.m.

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Stuart E. Siegel, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cherie L. Paglia, City Manager/City Clerk