

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 9, 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 January 12, 2023:

Motion AD; seconded KW: Unanimous.

Staff Reports:

- A. Supervisor Chuck Washington's Office; Andrea Mares:
- Mares announced that Robyn Brock has been elevated to Chief of Staff for Supervisor Washington.
 - There are two new staff members, also. Andrea Mares will be our local representative.
 - Mares updated us on current affairs, including ARPA.
 - Re proposed signal, Winchester Rd at Haddock St: Cal Trans stated that a signal is not warranted at this time, adding that a signal would have a negative impact on operational integrity.
 - The Business Revitalization Program is still accepting applications. None to date from our community.
 - Riverside County will be honoring five citizens with "Women of the Year" award. Need candidates.
 - The Quarterly Meeting with select WHMAC board members and Supervisor Washington was Jan. 17th.
 - Q: Business Revitalization, scope? A: For small businesses. Commercial improvements, incl facades. Must be within the unincorporated County area (not in a city). See website for details.
 - Q: If a business went out of business, could funds from this program be used to restart? A: No.
 - Q: Status of our Signs? A: Moving through the process.
- B. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:
- Stats: December: 375 calls, 5 arrests. January: 333 calls, 1 arrest. Crime: The usual.
- C. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34; Shane Reichardt (Senior Public Relations Specialist)
- Representing the County of Riverside Emergency Management Department.
 - Reichardt reminded us of the recent major earthquake in Turkey. Similar is projected here someday. He urged all to follow preparedness guidelines.
 - Reichardt reminded us that parking around the super-bloom of poppies is restricted; follow laws for safety.
 - Local Hazard Mitigation Plans are updated every few years. Take a survey: RivCoReady.org/LHMP.
 - Fire Season is ahead. Sign up for notifications, alerting, etc. If you register with the system, wireless emergency notifications can be targeted.
 - C: Gregg Cowdery stated that the 1899 & 1918 earthquakes leveled San Jacinto.
 - Q: Will Emergency Response Team training classes come again? A: Yes. A 3-day class, April 28, 29 & 30.
- D. EMWD Updates; Alma Ramirez, Public Affairs Officer:
- Ramirez brought copies of the EMWD newsletter, with current events, etc.
 - Grateful for rain, but the majority of California is still in a drought. Still a challenge to capture & store H2O.
 - EMWD will be at our WHMAC next month: General Manager Joe Mouawad and Phil Paule.
- E. Code Enforcement; Matt Piper (out of the San Jacinto office):
- Status, December through end of January: 63 open cases, 47 closed cases, 76 inspections, 2 vehicles towed.
 - Still working with Riverside County Sheriff HOT (regarding homeless).
 - Q: Andy D inquired about the major problem of illegal vendors along State Hwy 79, north of Haddock. Growing worse and worse. On private property & ROW. A: Be sure 602 Notices are filed: No Trespassing. Also: Code Enforcement has a special enforcement team focusing on illegal vendors and such.

- Q: Winchester Inn; now covered with graffiti! A: CE will be issuing a Notice of Violation soon.
- F. 36th District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia: Representative not present; no report.
- G. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; represented by Amanda Fisher:
 - The Senator has a new office, off Jefferson Ave near Murrieta City Hall.
 - On February 25th, "Coffee with Kelly." Informal outreach.
 - Mentioned proposed bills, including public safety, etc.
- H. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
 - Menifee Little League are starting.
 - New LED lighting fixtures are scheduled to be installed here at our park; be advised (construction).
 - Gala event slated for March 17-18. CERT training, here, April 28-30 (a 3-day long program).
 - Greg Worthington, Senior Park & Landscape Inspector, will be at our MAC soon, to tell of area parks.
- I. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians:
 - No representative present; no report.
- J. Winchester Land Use Committee update; represented by Cindy Domenigoni:
 - Cindy gave the Board a written report of the LUC. Several LUC meetings have been held.
 - On January 17, the LUC reviewed Villages North. 162 acres, 527 DU, near NE corner Stetson & SH 79. This project had been approved in 2018; not back, due to realignment of SH 79 route. Was slated to go to the WTA on Feb 2, but postponed due to an illness. Proponent will try for March.
 - On February 7, the LUC heard proposals from the new owners of the Winchester Inn, consisting of a CUP for a cannabis operation in the facility, which would be kept similar in look, but modernized to meet code. However, County regulations require 1,000 ft minimum between cannabis dispensaries, and there's one just south.
- K. City of Hemet update; Linda Krupa:
 - Krupa noted various new things happening in Hemet. Example: A new fire training station at Station 4, done.
 - Working with the County on dirt bikes causing disturbances, out on Newport Road East.
 - Noted that large warehouses are discovering valley. A new million-sf warehouse in Hemet, e.g. Challenges.
 - Quoted: "We will never build our way out of traffic congestion in our valley." She discussed the realignment of SH 79 and her concerns. She feels RCTC should look at the possibility of downgrading SH 79 from a state highway to a regional highway; an at-grade arterial. Also look into public transit.
 - Regarding the topic of annexation of our area, Krupa stated: "I don't want to do a land grab."
 - Q: What is the status of the Hemet United application? A: Unknown.
 - Q: Various questions regarding SH 79, relative to downgrading....
 - Hemet will be swearing-in a new City Manager on February 22 (a local fellow).
- L. City of Menifee update; represented by Doug Darnell, Senior Planner:
 - Mr. Darnell advised us that the City Council will hold a Strategic Visioning Workshop, February 15th.
 - Darnell advised us that construction will start soon on the Holland Avenue Overpass.
 - Darnell noted projects proceeding, incl: Legado Specific Plan; Banner Park; Rockport Ranch; Sumac Ridge.
 - Q: When will the theater be completed/open? A: He does not know status.
- M. Other Departments and Public Agencies:
 - Mares reported back to us with fresh answers:

New Business:

- A. Discuss Winchester Monument Signage:
 - Andrea Mares brought us up to date: The project has been funded, with UCI funds. Goes before the Board of Supervisors on February 28th.
 - She asked us for input as to where the signs are to be placed. We recall 5 or 6 locations were proposed; will look into history.
 - There was a comment that these signs do not include Homeland; that being because they are limit signs for Winchester. There's actually a Homeland sign on SH 74 now!

Public Comments:

- Tom Michna commented that California Ave at around Stowe Rd has many potholes on the Hemet side.

Councilmember Reports and Comments:

- Andy Domenigoni stated that the Quarterly Meeting of the WHMAC with Third District County Supervisor Chuck Washington was held on Jan. 17th. Discussions included:
- Winchester Monument Signs.
- Status of our General Plan Amendment.
- Traffic impact concerns.
- The Road & Bridge Benefit District.
- Homeless.
- Cannabis Dispensaries.
- Illegal vendors in town.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- EMWD will be scheduled soon.

Adjourn Meeting:

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 7:52 PM. M:KW / S:JS