

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 10, 2024

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Call to Order: Call to order by Andrea Mares at 6:33 PM.

Pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Roll Call:

Chairman Thomas Laury has resigned.

Present: Secretary James Horecka, Jimmy Sheldrake, Kathryn Holmes and Grant Becklund. Absent: Kate Alder.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda by JS; seconded by GB. Ayes: Unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes from September 12, 2024:

Motion to approve minutes by JS; seconded by KH. Ayes: Unanimous.

Election of Chair:

Horecka nominated Jimmy Sheldrake for Chairman. Becklund seconded. Vote called: Ayes unanimous.

Jimmy Sheldrake will now serve as Chairman. At our next meeting, an election for Vice-Chair will be held.

Staff Reports:

A. Riverside County Third District Supervisorial District; Andrea Mares:

- At the Board meeting October 8th, the Cooperative Agreement between Riverside County and RCTC for the SR-79 Segment 3 modified Project – Construction was approved. The State Route 79 Realignment Project would realign SR-79 from ~0.35 miles south of East Newport Road to Simpson Road. The County & RCTC have designated RCTC at the project's lead agency. The Cooperative Agreement establishes each party's roles and responsibilities for the project's design and construction. More info: Item 3.29, October 8th Board of Supervisor's meeting agenda at www.rivcocob.org.
- At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the County has successfully advocated for waste hauler franchise agreements that include a smaller bin option of senior citizens. Effective October 1st. There is also a 10% discount available for senior citizens who utilize these smaller 65-gallon bins in lieu of the 96-gal bins. Please make requests directly from the waste hauler. Visit: rivcoeh.org.
- The Winchester Community Plan will be going before the Board of Supervisors for approval on Tuesday, October 22nd, as the County Administrative Center in Riverside. All community members are welcome to participate in person, over the phone or by submitting comment in advance. Mares created a handy infographic with instructions for how to participate in this important hearing. Copies on the table in the back of the room.
- Q: Does Supervisor Washington appear at the MAC meetings? A: Yes, from time to time.

B. Riverside Sheriff's Office. No representative present; no report.

C. California Highway Patrol. No representative present; no report.

D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34. Kenith Moffitt, Hazmat Captain, reporting:

- Station 34 (Winch.), Sept: 78 calls. Oct to date: 78 calls. Station 54 (Homeland): Sept: 115. Oct to date: 48.
- There have been many fires of late. To stay up to date, get the fee app for Apple smartphones: "Watch Duty."
- Reminder: For emergencies, do NOT call the Station. Call 911.
- Coming up: The annual Toy Drive. Toys collected stay local.
- Q: How is recruiting going? A: Very low. Little interest, statewide. Recently hired 60 drivers; all to desert. Andrea Mares added that county is partnering to help address the shortage of applicants, with workforce development, community colleges, etc.
- The sheriff's office is seeking land for more stations. Calls are up; need to bump up staff, improve stations.

E. Emergency Management Department. Eric Cadden reporting:

- Be prepared for earthquakes: Several faults are near us.

- The county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was presented to the Board of Supervisors & approved. Members of the community are encouraged to review the EOP. Flyers in back.
 - CERT training coming up at various locations. Register at www.RivCoReady.org
 - August/September incidents included many fires of various sizes and types, and a small earthquake.
- F. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office. Amanda Fisher reporting:
- Fisher brought us up to date on various bills.
 - Coming up: Veteran's Expo, November 11th. Monteleone Meadows in Murrieta. 80+ vendors & more!
 - Office Christmas party, December 4th.
- G. Department of Animal Services. Sgt. Sean Fazio reporting:
- In December, the department will get a mobile evacuation shelter!
 - Stats: 09/01 thru 10/01: 74 calls (various reasons). 6 citations, 13 impounds.
 - See website for low-cost spay/neuter & chips. www.RCDAS.org
 - Also: Free service to spay/neuter feral cats. Free adoption of 'working cats' (help control rodents in barns).
 - Q: Good news about the trailer. Small animals, though; what about large? A: RCDAS partners with fairgrounds and others for evacuating and sheltering large animals. They are also looking for owners of large properties to volunteer to help as needed.
 - C: Citizen told of her struggle to get her four cats fixed: 4 months! R: New larger team; much improved!
- H. Code Enforcement. Ryan Lehotsky and new agent Vanessa Fernandez:
- In the past month in our area, Code Enforcement opened 29 cases and closed 18.
 - Street vendors: Local vendors who were in areas where vending is not allowed were cited or educated.
 - Q: Concern over vendors and related mess. R: Some vendors are permitted. There are certain areas they are not allowed to vend from, including state highways and heavy-traffic roads named as off-limits. CE takes a few steps: First is a warning, with education as to rules. Second is a citation. In some cases, confiscation. For applicable regulations, see website: www.RCTLMA/CE.
 - Dennis Acuna, of the Transportation Department, added that permits are required. Can't vend on Caltrans routes, nor Cajalco Road, Gilman Springs Road or Domenigoni Parkway. Food vendors must also have a permit from Environmental Health. Vendors must set up be a certain distance off the street, certain hours.
 - Andrea Mares added that they are working with CHP regarding vending along SH 79, an ongoing problem.
 - Q: What about yard sales? A: A permit is required to sell on private property. (Ed.: See Ordinance 593.)
- I. Eastern Municipal Water District. Alma Ramirez, Public Affairs Program Manager, & Phil Paule:
- Scheduled maintenance of on-line billing service coming up.
 - Cooler weather is on the horizon: Adjust your irrigation controls.
 - 74th anniversary of EMWD! "Tell us your story." See website.
 - Q: With all this growth, is there ample water to sustain growth? A: EMWD works with local AHJs to serve.
- J. Valley Wide Recreation & Park District. Robert Beyers, Recreation Supervisor, reporting:
- Winchester Days on October 5th was a big success! Thanks to all!
 - Enjoy the new air conditioning units on our Community Center building!
 - Trunk-or-Treat event on October 25th. Autumn Elegance fundraiser: November 2nd. Save the date.
 - CERT training coming in December.
 - C: Gregg Cowdery thanked all County Departments for their support of Winchester Days.
- K. City of Menifee. Doug Darnell reporting:
- The new Chevron Station on SH 74 at Palomar is now open
 - Menifee Valley Specific Plan, 530 acres: Mass grading is underway. 3 industrial buildings in plan check.
 - The Holland Overpass (I-215) is nearly complete. Dedication: October 22nd.
 - Q: What is the status on the RFP for annexation? A: The city did not get adequate response from first RFP. They resent the RFP out on Sept. 22nd, closing on Nov. 1st. They hope to receive more responses this time.
 - Q: How large are the industrial buildings? A: Largish. Contact Ryan Fowler, the Project Planner.
 - Q: What industries will occupy these industrial buildings? A: Speculative warehouses (see above for info).
- L. Winchester Homeland Town Association's Land Use Committee (LUC). Cindy Domenigoni reporting:
- They had a short LUC meeting Oct. 1st, with 6 members. A proponent of a small project had met with County Planning and was advised she doesn't have to meet with the LUC: 10 acre site split into small residential lots.
 - 1207 had its first hearing and was passed. EIR goes to next hearing on the 22nd.
 - Q (C.D., to A. Mares): How is the Development Page going on the new website? A: Working on it.
- M. Other Departments and Public Agencies: None.

New Business:

- A. Transportation Panel Presentation by County of Riverside Transportation Department, Caltrans District 8, and the Riverside County Transportation Commission.
- The representative from Caltrans experienced a flat tire en-route; unable to attend.
 - Panelists introduced themselves:
 - Dennis Alcuna, Director, County of Riverside Transportation Department. They cover county-maintained roads, including Simpson Rd., Domenigoni Pkwy, etc. We have many private roads they do not maintain.
 - For issues with county-maintained roads, call: 951-955-6899. There is also an App! See: RivCoMobile.
 - Ariel Alcon Tapia, Public Affairs Manager, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC). They provide & plan for regional transportation. Every city in the county has a representative in the RCTC, plus the five Supervisors. They work with state Measure A, and with Metrolink. Traffic Relief Plan. \$30 million in projects. The plan is unfunded: “aspirational.” See TrafficReliefPlan.org for info.
 - Dennis addressed several questions put forth in advance, plus those from the floor, briefly covered here:
 - Q: Request to pave Finch Street, east of SH 79. R: That’s a private dirt road, not maintained by County.
 - Q: Traffic flow, Columbia at Simpson: R: They prepared a concept to widen pavements on Simpson & also Columbia, which seems feasible. A stop sign does not meet warrants required (also would queue past SH 79).
 - Q: Traffic study for Olive west of SH 79: Once striping has been done, they’ll do the study and move ahead.
 - Q: Update on Leon Rd closure? A: Still closed, work in progress; another year?
 - Q: Can a person place barriers in a right of way? A: Do not do that. If they get complaints, they’ll respond.
 - Q (Andy D.), for RCTC: What is the status of the first segment of SH 79 realignment, Newport to Simpson? A: In design, using Measure A funds. They have money for the design, only. Timeline? Construction: 2030?
 - Q: Will Olive Avenue be improved all the way? A: No; only at the area under development. The developer will put down double chip seal surface down, then County will stripe the remainder.
 - At Leon, there is a proposal for an “Arizona Crossing.” There’s not enough funding for a bridge at this time.
 - Q: Why doesn’t the County condition schools to improve the streets and other infrastructure around the schools they build, which have negative impact on traffic, safety, etc.? A: County has no control over State.
 - Q: Who is responsible for improving aesthetics along SH 74? A: CalTrans. Typical there’s no funding, alas. Horecka added that there was a beautification effort years ago along SH 74: RDA funds. Alas, taken.
 - Q (A. Little): Can we get SH 79 off Winchester Road? A: This is best tabled until the Winchester Community Plan has been approved. Relinquishments of SHs are rare. If a city wants it, could happen; lengthy process.
 - Q (A. Little): What about the Active Mobility Trail? Could nexus fee help? A (RCTC): They’d have to look.
 - C (J. Sheldrake, to A. Fisher): We need money for ROADS, please, not the ‘bullet train.’
 - All thanked the presenters.

Public Comments:

- None.

Councilmember Reports and Comments:

- Horecka thanked Andrea Mares for including the WH-MAC Purpose at the bottom of the published Agenda.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- A couple of ideas were pitched.

Adjourn Meeting:

- The next WH-MAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2024, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WH-MAC adjourned at 8:27 PM.