

# Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 14, 2023

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

### Attendees:

Winchester-Homeland MAC: Andy Domenigoni, Chairman; James Horecka, Secretary; Thomas Laury; Jimmy Sheldrake. Absent: Kim Wortman.

Members of the Public.

**Call to Order:** Call to order by Andy Domenigoni at 6:44 PM, following the Winchester/Homeland Health & Safety Resource Forum. Flag Salute. Introductions.

### Approval of the Agenda:

Motion TL; seconded JS: Unanimous.

### Approval of the Minutes from August 10, 2023:

Motion JS; seconded TL: Unanimous.

### Staff Reports:

- A. Sheriff Department update; Deputy Holtkamp:
  - Stats: August: 374 calls, 5 arrests.
- B. California Highway Patrol; no representative present; no report.
- C. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34:
  - Station 34 is scheduled for expansion in the future.
- D. EMWD Updates; no representative present; no report.
- E. Code Enforcement; Matt Piper:
  - Stats: 55 new cases; 61 cases closed. They performed a few abatements.
  - Q: What can be done about roadside vendors? A: Code Enforcement has a Special Enforcement Team, which also goes out on the weekends. Some vendors operate within the law; others might not.
  - C: Another dumping spot noted: A pasture E of SH-79, S of Stowe. Also Leon off the Pkwy. Also off 9<sup>th</sup>, near Grand. A: They'll check out these locations. Reminder: You can report on-line! Easy.
  - Q: Do roadside vendors need permits? A: Yes. Roadside vending is allowed in public way (California law).
- F. Emergency Management Department; no representative present; no report.
- G. 36th District Assembly member Eduardo Garcia; no representative present; no report.
- H. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office; Amanda Fisher:
  - Two bills were signed. Seyarto was named Republican Caucus Chair.
  - Left flyers for the Veteran's Expo, slated for November. Military Veterans Salute slated for October.
- I. Valley Wide Park & Recreation District; represented by Craig Shultz:
  - Winchester Days: October 7<sup>th</sup>! (Also October 7<sup>th</sup>: Dog Days, in Menifee.
  - October 27<sup>th</sup>, Halloween event here at the Park in Winchester.
  - Autumn Elegance: November 4<sup>th</sup>. Left flyers.
- J. Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians; no representative present; no report.
- K. Winchester Land Use Committee update; Cindy Domenigoni:
  - Their first LUC meeting after their hiatus was: Sept 6, 3:00 PM, her office.
  - Submitted a summary report, on file.
- L. City of Menifee update; no representative present; no report.
- M. Other Departments and Public Agencies:
  - Linda Krupa, of Hemet spoke:
    - Hemet will be resurfacing some streets; thanks to the County.
    - Florida will be busy with construction, including ADA ramps and such; several miles' worth. Be cautious.
    - There are many new homes and businesses in the valley.

- The Hemet Police Department expects to add more cameras in town. Potential for faster response.
- Hemet received a \$100K grant from State Water Conservation, toward Turf Replacement.
- Hemet also received a \$12M grant for housing homeless in the San Jacinto River.
- On October 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Sidewalk Chalk Festival, at the Library.
- Upcoming: "Brew at the Bowl," October 27, 28 & 29.
- Lesley Huennekens, of the Department of Animal Services:
  - Stats: 923 calls, 34 of which were animal welfare. 33 citations. Impounded 65 animals.
  - The San Jacinto Valley Animal Campus will have a soft opening on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Grand opening Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Q: Does this shelter serve our area? A: Yes.
  - Opened thanks to \$3.4M provided by the County Supervisors. Location: 581 S. Grand Avenue, SJ.

### New Business:

- A. Andy Domenigoni introduced Third District County Supervisor Chuck Washington.
- On behalf of all Winchester residents, Andy thanked Supervisor Washington, and all involved, for our new "Welcome to Winchester" signs. This has been a long time in the making, but it finally happened. Huzzah!
  - Andy also expressed gratitude that the Shelter was once again going to be open to serve the public.
  - Gratitude was also expressed to Hemet for contracting with the County to provide Animal Services.
  - All held a moment of silence for WH-MAC Board Member Kim Wortman. He will be missed.
  - Supervisor Washington thanked our MAC Board for serving the public. He presented pins to each <photo>. He commended us on our dedication, as agents of our local citizens. "They're doing business right."
  - Supervisor Washington noted that he has served as Supervisor for 8-1/2 years. He expressed thanks to Robyn Brock (his Chief of Staff), along with others. Also County personnel, as public servants.
  - Before, eh was an airline pilot, for Delta. He strived always for 100% satisfaction. He noted that, in this job, that's something that you'll achieve!
  - Back in 2015, the County was spending money they didn't have: Deficit Spending. Now, with a budget of \$8.5B, up from \$6.5B last year, the Board is able to expand services. That includes \$2B for heightened staffing levels. Examples: Fire Station #34; with a 5-person HazMat Team, etc. Animal Services.
  - Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFD): Income generated stays in the community. There is presently one out in the desert. Another for the Highway 74 Corridor. Via an EIFD, a pot of money may be built, to construct infrastructure sooner rather than later, which can facilitate development.
  - Highway 79 Realignment: This is a VERY expensive project. \$1B+. He described the route, south to north.
  - TUMF fees: These are collected to mitigate impacts of development. Paid by developers. County collects 47%; the remainder goes to WRCOG. Supervisors met yesterday: Take \$10M out of \$20M, partner with RCTC, and start property acquisition for the Realignment of SH 79. Access to grants could triple that. Phasing: Start from the south, near Old Newport Road; extend up to Simpson. This may also help relieve traffic near Winchester School.
  - There were concerns expressed that the EIR may expire. Washington assured us that RCTC's studies are keeping the EIR alive.
  - Noted funding: \$90M for Habitat for Humanity; \$30K per residence.
  - Local grants were awarded in Winchester, to: Chris Burger, Hemet Fence, and the Ocotillo Restaurant.
  - The Supervisor also provided \$25K to support our Community Fair (Winchester Days).
  - Supervisor Washington introduced Juan Perez, who has served 22 years in the County; 30 years in the Valley. His involvement with SH-79 dates back decades. The current project covers 15 miles, at cost of ~\$100M/mile. One thing that sets this project apart is that this is nearly all over a new alignment; quite unusual. Phase it.
  - Planning: Truly a grass roots effort by our citizenry. A vision. Studies were done. Many comments were received. They are currently preparing a Nexus Traffic Study. The may be out for public review in the spring. They are striving for regional approaches to regional issues. Coordinating with surrounding cities, working together.
  - Supervisor Washington gave kudos to Valley Wide Parks & Rec for serving the community. There is a new Regional Sports Park under study; 34 acres. Funded via QUIMBY fees: \$7,400 per rooftop, to offset impacts, funding parks. This large park would likely be phased. They are celebrating completion of Clinton Keith Road; bonds funded that project; ~\$60M.
  - Supervisor Washington introduced John Hildebrand, Planning Director for the County. Hildebrand mentioned our Planning Sessions. Many responses came in, from citizens and cities. The General Plan Amendment is

- large, and also is a large target, including for litigation. They will bring this back in the first quarter next year, moving the process along. They are also looking into SH-79 Policy Areas.
- With regard to concerns expressed in a letter from Mr. Mungo: They will be happy to meet with him soon.
  - Mark Lancaster, Director, spoke:
  - Lancaster thanked Andy for our involvement in successfully completing the Winchester Signs.
  - Regarding concerns about SH-79 at Haddock Street: The crossing for children at Winchester School. Cal-Trans says that the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon is moving forward; expected completion in late summer, 2024.
  - Regarding the dirt shoulder: he suggested perhaps metal paddles to corral traffic, preventing passing on right.
  - C: James Horecka opined that paddles would worsen the problem. One of the root causes of issues at intersections near the school is the lack of dedicated left turn lanes; thus through-traffic passes left-turning vehicles on the right, traveling over the dirt shoulder: very risky! This afflicts three intersections related to school traffic: NB Winchester Rd at Haddock; NB Columbia St at Simpson Rd, & WB Simpson at Columbia.
  - C: Sheldrake urged Cal-Trans to 'speed it up.' This is a matter of Safety. A collaborative effort is warranted.
  - C: Horecka noted that the dynamic has changed. While this has been an issue for many decades, the risks of the intersections near the school are higher than ever. New development, hundreds of homes, etc.
  - Q, Andy D: Regarding the Road & Bridge Benefit District: Where's the money? What's the schedule? A: As development advances, money goes into the pot. The process will take time.
  - Q, Andy D: Regarding the EIR: The City comments are the big ones. Yet local property owners, their ox may be gored, in uncertainty alone. A: At this point, the County doesn't expect land use changes due to traffic.
  - Juan Perez stated that the County did receive comments from Temecula, Murrieta, Menifee, etc. They will be addressing concerns appropriately. It is a two-way discussion. "Traffic has no boundaries." He noted that the 79 Policy Area, 2003, set caps on growth. That was the old policy. Things have changed. There is a dire need for housing, state-wide. Value is seen in Smart Growth, transit-oriented development, rail transit, etc. The new plan would replace the old 70 Policy Area.
  - Q: What about Double Butte Park? A: Juan Perez said he will get with Parks to find out status.
  - Regarding the rail line: RCTC - \$15M to build a station on that line. There is the potential, in the future, for a Park & Ride serving our area, along this railroad.
  - Q: About SH-79 to Simpson? A: (CW) Well, we can't just do a portion and just stop. It must be tied in.
  - Q: What is the timeline for SH-79? A: Unknown.
  - C (AD): SH-79 is a real concern for our community. As you know, there is a Coalition formed to speed-up the process of completing this critical project. A: (CW) RCTC is one of the top agencies in the nation for developing transportation facilities.
  - C (CW) For the Winchester Community Plan, they facilitated a memorandum of understanding (MOU), in an effort to work together. It is the intent of the County to stand by our vision, and work out concerns. They did not expect the reaction they received from Temecula.
  - Q: Would it be possible for a local person to be on RCTC? A (CW): Well, those are elected positions, by state law. But any citizen can attend meetings. SH-79 is a joint project.
  - All thanked Supervisor Chuck Washington, John Hildebrand, Mark Lancaster & Juan Perez.

**Public Comments:**

- Q: Flood control; need gravel on certain roads; last help was a decade ago (appreciated). A (CW): They can probably help with gravel in certain locations.
- Q: What does WRCOG stand for? A: Western Riverside Council of Governments. 4 counties, 21 cities. They manage TUMF fees.

**Councilmember Reports and Comments:**

- None.

**Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Andy will ask Robyn Brock for suggestions.

**Adjourn Meeting:**

- The next WHMAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WHMAC adjourned at 8:47 PM. M:JS / S:TL