

Winchester-Homeland Municipal Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 13, 2025

Place: Winchester Community Center, 32655 Haddock Street, Winchester

Call to Order: Call to order by Andrea Mares at 6:36 PM.

Pledge of allegiance.

Councilmember Roll Call:

Present: Vice Chair Grant Becklund, Secretary James Horecka, and Kathryn Holmes. Quorum OK.

Absent: Chairman Jimmy Sheldrake & Kate Alder.

Meeting led by Andrea Mares.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda by KH; seconded by GB. Ayes: GB, JH, KH

Approval of the Minutes from November 14 2024:

Motion to approve minutes by GB; seconded by KH. Ayes: GB, JH, KH

Representative Reports:

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

- The January meeting was cancelled, due to the extended electrical power outage in Winchester.
- Caltrans is slated to present next month.
- The Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon signal light is scheduled to start construction at the end of the school year.
- Caltrans looked at the intersections we requested. At SR 74 & Finch, warrants were not met. At SR 74 & Melba, a study showed that warrants were not met for a traffic signal, but some other enhancements are in order, including stop signs on Melba.
- Caltrans expects to have repairs to the damaged pavement on I-215 done by fall of next year.
- At SR-74 & SR-79, Caltrans will repair & improve the pavement.
- Caltrans will be working on SR-79 between Newport Road and Clinton Keith, repairing pavement, shoulder work and safety upgrades.
- Q re Caltrans (A. Little): She noticed that Patterson Avenue, near the curves on SR-79, is noted as being 118-ft wide in the Circulation Element plan. Is there a conversation about possibly aligning the main route through town as Patterson Avenue, like a truck route / bypass, east of Winchester Road? A: Andrea will report back.
- Q (A. Domenigoni): Any update on the status of our Community Plan? A: No target time at this time.
- Q (A. Little): What is WRCOG's role in this? A: Andrea does not know.
- Q (A. Domenigoni): The City of Menifee is going out for a sphere of influence study. Is Supervisor Washington still supporting our area? A: Per Andrea, at this time, Supervisor Washington has no statement.
- Q: Safety/signal at Van Gaale Lane in French Valley? A: Traffic studies must be conducted. Response: They have; warrants appear to be met, response was that there's no funding available. A: Andrea looked this up, and reported back the following: The flashing beacons installed are temporary. A traffic signal is in design.

B. Riverside Sheriff's Office. Captain Lamb:

- Statistics: Winchester 336 calls; Homeland 246 calls. Mailboxes are being hit often.
- C: A citizen noticed a sheriff picking up mail a thief had dumped, but left the junk mail. R: That's not normal.
- Q: What happened at Winchester Road & Simpson a few days ago? A: A shooting; perp is in custody.

C. California Highway Patrol. No representative present.

D. Cal Fire Winchester Station #34. Chris Acevedo, Fire Captain:

- Data since Jan 1 to date: 245 calls; 136 medical, 24 traffic. Only 3 HazMat. Fire Station will be expanded.
- Q (AD): Some calls are false alarms; are callers back-charged? A: No. Taxes cover the system.

E. Senator Kelly Seyarto's Office. Amada Fisher:

- Ms Fisher introduced us to Angelica Austin, who will be taking over representation. She updated us on bills.
- Q (AD): SACS Reservoir; waiting for signature? A: Fisher did not know; she will look into this & report back.

- Q (AD): Is the Delta Smelt fish now extinct? A: Fisher will look into this.
- F. Assemblymember Bill Essayli's Office (63rd District). Andrew Bandak, Field Representative:
 - Essayli was just elected for his second term. He is a practicing attorney. Served as Assistant District Attorney for Riverside County. His focus is on public safety.
 - Working on AB 68, calling for armed school resources officer at every school.
 - Q: Where is your office? A: Off I-15, at Temescal Canyon Road.
- G. Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson (60th District). Gabriela 'Gabby' Mendez Ulloa, Field Representative:
 - Q: For a problem with SCE, can we contact you? A: Sure.
- H. Emergency Management Department. No representative present.
- I. Department of Animal Services. No representative present.
- J. Code Enforcement. Ryan Lehotsky, Code Enforcement Officer I:
 - Ryan noted that he serves mostly 'New Winchester.'
 - Stats, Jan 1 to date: 38 inspections, 31 new cases, 36 closed cases. Cases take a long time to process.
 - Types of cases: Excessive storage, illegal storage yards, living in trailers...
 - Q (AL): Recurring dumping, East Grand at Patterson? A: Snap a photo & report it. If that portion of road is County-maintained, Waste Management will pick it up. If the road is not County maintained, then the responsible party will be the property owner, up to the centerline of the ROW.
 - Code Enforcement operates Mon-Thurs. They also have a Special Enforcement Team (SET) on weekends.
 - Q: How are they enforcing parking of big rigs on public roads? A: Please telephone Code Enforcement.
- K. Eastern Municipal Water District. Alma Ramirez, Public Affairs:
 - Reminder: Adjust your irrigation controller when it rains!
 - Rebates are available for removing non-functional turf.
 - Upcoming hearing for Redistricting, Feb. 19, at EMWD HQ. Rebalance BoD. Adding Fallbrook & Rainbow.
 - EMWD is celebrating 75 years. There will be an Open House at EMWD HQ, April 5th, 9-12.
 - Q (AD): Why are parkways being irrigated? A: EMWD works with developers. Some water may be recycled.
 - The actual 'birthday' of EMWD is October 16th. Q: Is the 'History Book' ready? A: Not yet.
 - Q (AD): Isn't Rancho Water a wholesaler? A: No; EMWD sells water to Rancho Water District.
- L. Valley Wide Recreation & Park District. Craig Schultz, Public Information Officer:
 - Shultz noted that we have a lot of representatives in the Valley Wide area.
 - November elections: Two new Directors: Chris Carnes & Robert Douglas.
 - A couple of streets will be renamed, including Sam Geopp & Larry Minor.
 - There will be a dinner/auction fundraising event March 22nd, at the Gym in San Jacinto.
- M. City of Menifee. No representative present.
- N. City of Hemet. No representative present.
- O. Winchester Homeland Town Association's Land Use Committee (LUC). Cindy Domenigoni: No report.
 - Cindy noted that news regarding our area may be found at the County website; 'Planning News' tab.
 - Q (AL): Would like info on the Community Center overly.
- P. Other Departments and Public Agencies: None.

New Business:

- A. Presentation by Waste Management & Riverside County Department of Environmental Health, by Matthew Bortello (Recycling Education Representative) and Robert Frederick (Public Sector Manager):
 - Waste Management (WM) has upgraded the frequency of pickups of recycle bins, to weekly. They've also upgraded bulky item collection: Was two calls per year; now up to four calls per year, up to 4 items per call. They brought printed "helpful guide" flyers, which include information from the state, regarding landfills, etc.
 - They noted their organics program. They have flyers with tips, etc.
 - Q: How many bulky items per pickup? A: 4. However, up to 4 tires are considered just one whole pickup.
 - They noted that there will be a Community Cleanup in August; always popular.
 - Q: The Santa Ana winds blew down trees & branches; how to dispose? A: Call for bags, &/or schedule a bulky-item pickup. Bins are also available (for a fee).
 - Greg Reyes, REHS, Program Chief, Department of Environmental Health: The Department of Environmental Health also oversees waste haulers. If members of the community have concerns over issues, contact them.
 - Attendees thanked the presenters.

Public Comments:

- Q: What is the County doing about law enforcement capacity in the area? A: Many new houses have been built recently. Most of those had entitlements approved prior to 2008. Rapid growth. The Third District Supervisor has 500,000 constituents. Highway enforcement is handled by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Andrea Mares noted that she serves as the department liaison for the Public Safety Portfolio. (The citizen, who lives in one of the new housing tracts, has been trying to reach us since November. Editor: The MAC was dark in December; January canceled due to power outage.)
- Mares noted that Riverside County is the 4th largest in the state. Mares also explained that she reports information from our WH-MAC meetings to our Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington.
- Q: When will Supervisor Washington come to a MAC meeting? A: Andrea will report back next month. Supervisor Washington does attend as able. (Per Secretary JH: He last attended a WH-MAC meeting June 13, 2024.)
- C: We'd love to have a local library!
- C: Horecka offered some history on area libraries.

Councilmember Reports and Comments:

- Horecka noted that the 15th anniversary of our Municipal Advisory Council will be later this year. Secretary note: The Press Enterprise reported that the Winchester advisory council would be sworn-in on September 2nd, 2010, at a town hall meeting of the Winchester Homeowners Association. Our first meeting as the Winchester Municipal Advisory Council was held on October 14, 2010, at the Francis Domenigoni Community Center at Winchester-Domenigoni Park.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Caltrans will likely present.

Adjourn Meeting:

- The next WH-MAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2025, 6:30 PM, at the Community Center.
- The WH-MAC adjourned at 7:51 PM.