



**OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Council Members: **Chair:** Grace Malloy, **Vice Chair:** Barbara Kennedy  
**Council Members:** Marilyn Miller, Joseph Westbury, Terry Wright

Also in attendance were Clint Garman from Supervisor LaVere's office, and Jamie Bennett from the City of Ojai Planning Commission.

1. **Call to Order of the Meeting:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kennedy at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Flag Salute:** Chair Kennedy led the flag salute.
3. **Roll Call:** Vice Chair Kennedy, Council members Miller, Westbury, and Wright were present. Chair Malloy was absent.
4. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Adopted 4 to 0, with Chair Malloy Absent.
5. **Public Comment for items not on the Agenda:**

Ron Solorzano from the Library advised that the Meiners Oaks Library would begin express hours on Saturday, with the library open earlier on days it is not normally open. Only a security guard would be present. A library patron will need to apply for an express card and issuing the card will require training in using the library with no library assistance. The library is also advertising for a homework center coordinator at the Ojai enrichment center. The Ojai Library will have career counselors available Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. VC Works Program staff will be available to assist residents on a drop-in basis. He also mentioned that the library will have a new website.

6. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes September 16, 2024:** Councilmember Wright moved and Westbury seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved 3-1-1, Vice Chair Kennedy abstained and Chair Malloy was absent.

7. **Approval of 2025 Calendar:** Staff member Garman presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2025 with meeting dates and holidays indicated. Councilmember Miller moved and Wright seconded a motion to approve the calendar. The motion passed 4-0.

8. **City of Ojai Planning Commission Update – October 16 and November 6, 2024:** Jamie Bennett gave a report to the Council on the following projects:

a. Construction of permanent housing for unhoused residents currently located on City Hall property:

The city received a grant to develop permanent housing. Realtors and other individuals were enlisted to suggest locations. The City yard, located at the terminus of South Signal Street, has been selected, with a proposed entrance off of South Montgomery. The proposal is to work with a non-profit developer to construct approximately 30 units. Lengthy discussion ensued about the number of units, the nature of the services that will be provided and the opposition to the site from neighbors in Persimmon Hill. The project will be considered by the Planning Commission at a future date.

b. The Topa Mountain Wine Tasting facility located on Ojai Avenue has been purchased by the Ojai Valley Inn and a project is in the development phase. The Planning Commission will tour the facility and receive a report on the Inn's plans for the property in the near future.

c. Hotel El Roblar (the former Oaks Hotel) is expected to open in the first quarter of 2025, with 51 rooms.

d. Discussion of the pickleball courts at Soule Park was held, with Mr. Bennett thanking the County for cooperation in building the courts there. Pickleball players using the courts are unhappy with having to pay the \$5 entrance fee every time they play. The County is investigating the possibility of issuing a yearly pass similar to that issued to users of the dog park.

9. **Councilmember Comments:**

- a. Councilmember Miller asked about completion of the Ojai Valley Trail. Staff responded that it is expected to be completed in 2025 for the portion from Ventura to Ojai Valley. Construction will occur in three phases.
- b. Vice Chair Kennedy announced that the OVPARC Car and Boutique will be held Saturday from 9-2 at the Women's Club; Food Share will distribute food at the Parks & Resource Center on the second Thursday of every month. She also expressed concern about the pop-ups along the highway, and asked about a task force to investigate food vendors that was to be established. She asked about a December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting regarding traffic between the city of Ojai and outside areas to be held at the Ojai Retreat at 5:30 p.m., 160 Besant Road. Attendance at the meeting was discussed.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chair Kennedy at 8:10 p.m.

11. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ojai View Community Center.