

MINUTES
PARADISE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – 9:00 AM – October 22, 2019

1. OPENING

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America the Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Paradise was called to order in the Town Council Chambers located at 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Jones.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Bolin, Steve Crowder, Melissa Schuster, Mike Zuccolillo and Jody Jones, Mayor.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Town Clerk Dina Volenski, Town Manager Lauren Gill, Town Attorney Dwight Moore, Disaster Recovery Director Laura Page, Acting Community Development Director Susan Hartman, Senior Management Analyst Colette Curtis and Administrative Services Director Gina Will.

2. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION - ACTION CALENDAR

2a. Disaster Recovery Director Laura Page provided Council with information regarding the proposed Urgency Ordinance No. 587 establishing the requirements of a Mandatory Hazard Tree Removal Program. Ms. Page discussed what has been approved by FEMA to remove Hazardous Trees on Public Property threatening the public right of way.

Ryan Buras, Director of Recovery for California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) stated that the letter, sent by the Town on October 11, 2019, was received last week and a response generally takes two-three weeks. An assessment was being done to determine dangerous trees and there were trees already falling down. Mr. Buras stated that trees remain a priority; there are anticipated to be 150,000 trees for the FEMA approved program. CalOES will let 2 contracts, one being a monitoring contract with foresters evaluating the trees and the second with contractors removing the trees. He hopes to have contracts in place by December and will be working out of the DROC with a new team for the tree removal program.

Dena Wilson, CalOES, provided a brief overview of the Tree Removal process and explained that it is similar to the debris removal process; that once the Right of Entry (ROE) is received, a team will access the property, evaluate for a threat/hazard, identify and mark the tree, then the contractor will remove the tree where it will be taken to a staging area/laydown yard, then moved to a designated facility. There will then be a final site walk of the property to make sure all the hazardous trees have been removed. CalOES will work with Butte County and the Town of Paradise as partners to ensure that things run smoothly.

A representative from Caltrans provided a brief overview of how trees are identified and evaluated. Lisa shared that staying in compliance with Forest Practice Law requires a registered professional forester to identify that a tree is a threat to the public right of way. She said they look at burned trees as a spherical threat, double the height of the tree and if the tree falls in any direction, that's the threat zone.

Mayor Jones asked which Property owners must submit an ROE form, since this is only on public roads.

Dena Wilson stated that individuals that live on, or are adjacent to, a public road are the individuals required to complete the ROE or hire a private contractor to remove trees.

Mayor Jones asked about the wording on page 17, section 2.8, line 23 stating, "Any Town building permit application, including issued permits, in the Town with Hazard Trees shall be held in abeyance" Asked if this means we are going to stop people who have already started building houses, this will cost them a lot of money.

Attorney Moore stated that we can strike out that section on pg. 17 line 22 including issued permits.

Mayor Jones, suggested adding language, that if they have applied for a permit they will be a priority to have the trees removed.

Ryan Buras stated that if someone has a permit or applied for a permit they will be prioritized for tree removal. Also, if someone lives on their property in a travel trailer CALOES will work with Town Manager Gill to get the hazardous trees removed.

Vice Mayor Bolin asked if they are only looking at trees on properties that are hazardous or looking at trees that could hit another house or are adjacent to the property.

Dena Wilson stated that currently they are only looking at hazardous trees that will impact the public right of way (ROW).

Council Member Crowder stated that the building process cannot be held up, he understands the need to be safe, but wants the trees removed as quickly as possible.

Vice Mayor Bolin asked for clarification about the size of the tree.

Ryan Buras stated that if a tree has any possibility of hitting the road or sidewalk, the tree will be considered hazardous, with the trees being removed and only the stump remaining. Mr. Buras stated that the internal timeline to have the project completed is nine months.

Council Member Zuccolillo asked the timing and ability to get permits. He wanted clarification that a resident could obtain a building permit if they submitted an ROE,

Dena Wilson stated that would be a decision made by the Town Council and would not impact the tree removal eligibility process.

Ryan Buras stated that the program will start around December 15, trees will be marked and the removal process will begin after that.

Council Member Schuster stated that people can still apply for a permit, just have to show that they have entered the ROE program, the permit process can go forward, but a final can't happen until the trees are removed.

Council Members asked how quickly the County can get the ROE application to the government for removal, how this program is being coordinated with PGE, how are trees marked and how is the information getting out to the public so that everyone knows what that means.

Ryan Buras stated that he is in close coordination with PGE daily and is planning to put up a video to address the tree markings.

Council Member Zuccolillo asked about trees are on private roads that need to be removed and if the tree ROE is the same as debris removal where the home owners have to provide their insurance information

Ryan Buras stated that the CalFIRE estimate is 280,000 trees that will potentially fall in a public ROW, (windshield survey) and is confident that there are a lot of trees on private roads that will be addressed too and the tree ROE is the same process as debris.

After discussion and concurrence of the Town Attorney, Council made changes to Section 2.8, to read as follows:

Section 2.8. Town Development Permits. No application for a Town Development permit with Hazard Trees shall be considered complete until the applicant has entered into a Government Hazard Tree Removal Program or a Private Hazard Tree Removal Program. This section shall not apply to permits relating to power, sewer or other utilities for temporary dwellings.

Cathy Grams, Butte County, discussed ROE program and community outreach Ms. Grams stated they are ready to open three collection centers tomorrow for ROE forms which can be downloaded from the buttecountyrecovers.org Website and submitted by email. There are going to be the following community outreach meetings:

- November 4 – Chico Elks Lodge
- November 5 - Town of Paradise Update
- November 6 - Spring Valley School
- November 12 - Southside Community Center in Oroville,
- November 16 - Terry Ashe Recreation Center Resource Fair
- November 19 - at CMA Church in Paradise.

Ms. Grams stated that they will be able to reference the ROE with people that have building permits; they will be doing social media outreach, Facebook live, two mass mailings and staff at the processing center will be making calls to follow up with property owners. The deadline to submit forms is December 20, 2019. There will also be a map that will interface with citizens property allowing them to see if they are required to complete an ROE and that if FEMA approves tree removal on private property, the applications will then be opened up to the additional private properties.

1. Bruce Lawrence asked that there be good oversight on the trees cut to make sure that good trees are not cut down and what about properties in range of right of ways that could fall on a home, how is that going to be dealt with. Are we going to rely on foresters to oversee the cutting of trees?

Mayor Jones stated that the Town is applying for a grant to address trees on private property.

Dena Wilson stated that once a tree has been identified and marked a safety monitor will oversee the process to make sure the trees are removed safely and correctly.

2. Carrie Max heard that when trees are cut they will be taken to a staging area and asked if money is being made during the process. Asked what is the definition of a hazardous tree? Stated that it would be beneficial to sign an ROE to get validation if a tree is good or needs to be removed and asked if it was in place with the County?

Dena Wilson stated that there are a few ways the trees will be processed and that no money will be made during this process.

Council Member Zuccolillo asked what was going to be done to avoid log decks?

Ryan Buras stated that the County has 15 processing facility permits that will be used for the tree removal and there may be some logs that are stacked up.

Vice Mayor Bolin stated that there is not much value to the trees at this point because there are so many and that the trees can not be used to build a home.

Ryan Buras stated that there are a lot of trees, that this program is not cheap and will cost approximately \$1,500-\$2,500 per tree for removal and there is also the alternative program if someone believes there is a lot of value in their trees.

MOTION by Schuster, seconded by Crowder, adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 587, with corrections, an Urgency Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of

Paradise Establishing the Requirements of a Mandatory Hazard Tree Removal Program. Roll call vote was unanimous.

2b. Consider authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a license agreement with The Hope Plaza Memorial Committee, to use the Town-owned property located at 6148 Skyway for a Camp Fire Memorial - "Hope Plaza".

Town Manager Gill stated that the idea came from citizens in the community asking if the Town was going to do some kind of memorial. A group of citizens stepped forward to work on a memorial in the triangle in honor of the Camp Fire

1. Dana Gajda, presented to the Town Council the proposal of Hope Plaza at the August meeting. Ms. Gajda stated that no tax payer money will be involved in the design or construction of the Plaza, it will be funded by donations or in-kind contributions. She stated that parking has been considered an issue since it is in a highly visible area, she parked in the park and ride area and it took three minutes to walk to the site.
2. Chuck Rough commended the Council on their work and leadership over the past year. Mr. Rough has been working on endorsements for the project and stated that Charles Brooks has worked out an agreement with NVCF to set up a separate fund for the Hope Plaza project. The goal of the capital campaign is to work on final design, final engineering, construction and long-term maintenance fund for the plaza. There is no financial burden for the Town. NVCF has urged the group to apply for \$50,000 capacity grant and community grant to assist with funding for the project. Mr. Rough asked Town Council to consider approving the agreement.
3. Greg Melton, Architect, stated that the project is to inspire and pay respects, provides elements that allows people to reflect in their own way and that it is an opportunity to embrace the murals that were painted after the fire and help people understand what Paradise went through and that the design can be changed.
4. Kelley Connor, Paradise Citizens Alliance (PCA), also stated that there is no cost to citizens, privately funded, synergy to downtown area will inspire people, will be a benefit and shared the PCA group unanimously supported the project. The group also felt that it is important to move forward now and not wait.
5. Bill Hartley, 38-year resident of Paradise, thinks that this is an important issue, that it is paid for and maintained by people at no cost to the town, that the spirit and hope given to citizens to move forward is critical at this time and hopes the Town will move forward with the project.

Council Member Crowder stated that it is a great project, but has had comments from constituents about placement and parking. Understands need to get done now, if done in this location, thinks input is needed from residents if put at this location. Not against project, just not sure about this location.

Council Member Zuccolillo is also concerned with this location; likes the design, understand the need to do something to honor fallen citizens, would like public input, the Town hasn't looked at other locations, that this will be with us forever,

our 911 memorial to the Town, would like to see in a spot that the community agrees with.

Council Member Schuster sees as a special gift to the Town, it is a shovel ready project with a beautiful design for the space, encompasses ways to honor those who perished as well as heroes, gives space to reflect, not a park/gathering spot, it is an art piece and beautiful, important for Council to make statement to those considering moving to Paradise and being a part of the community recovery. She doesn't see the downside to allow the group, at their own expense, to beautify a space in town that has been an eyesore for many years, citizens have asked for this, need to come together and say yes.

Vice Mayor Bolin is excited about the project, this is the right place, has been nothing since gas station years ago, wonder how ended up with piece of property and believe that this is what it's for. Stated it is beautiful and this is a good place, the property is available, in center of Town and supports the project.

Mayor Jones also thinks this is a gift, that it is the right place, enhances the downtown, doesn't think you question a gift, if someone wants to do something somewhere else, that's fine, doesn't think there will be a question with parking, supports the project.

MOTION by Schuster, seconded by Bolin, to enter into a license agreement with The Hope Plaza Memorial Committee/Rebuild Paradise a 501(c)3 to use the Town-owned property located at 6148 Skyway for a Camp Fire Memorial – "Hope Plaza". Ayes of Bolin, Schuster and Mayor Jones. Noes of Crowder and Zuccolillo.

2c. **MOTION by Zuccolillo, seconded by Crowder**, authorized the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Support for Butte County's regional composting Organics Grant Proposal to CalRecycle. Roll call vote was unanimous.

2d. **MOTION by Zuccolillo, seconded by Schuster**, accepted a donation of \$49,976.20 from Direct Relief to fund an After-Action Report prepared by Constant Associates and authorize the Town Manager to take all actions to implement the After-Action Report. Roll call vote was unanimous.

3. CLOSED SESSION

At 10:35 a.m. Mayor Jones announced that the Town Council would adjourn to closed session for the following item:

3a. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1), the Town Council will hold a closed session with the Town Manager concerning the appointment of a Community Development Director.

At 10:48 a.m. Mayor Jones announced that the Town Council unanimously agreed to appoint Susan Hartman as the Community Development Director.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jones adjourned the Special Council meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Date Approved: January 1, 2020

By: _____/s/_____
Jody Jones, Mayor

Attest:

_____/s/_____
Dina Volenski, CMC, Town Clerk