

MINUTES
PARADISE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – 3:30 PM – February 24, 2015

1. OPENING

The Special Meeting of the Paradise Town Council was called to order by Mayor Greg Bolin at 3:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chamber located at 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve “Woody” Culleton, Jody Jones, Scott Lotter, John J. Rawlings and Greg Bolin, Mayor.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Clerk Joanna Gutierrez, Town Manager Lauren Gill, Town Attorney, Dwight Moore, Finance Director Gina Will, Community Development Director Craig Baker, Public Works Director/Town Engineer Marc Mattox, Public Works Manager Mike Houdek, Human Resources Manager Crystal Peters, IT Manager Josh Marquis, Police Chief Gabriela Tazzari-Dineen, Police Lieutenant Steve Rowe, Police Lieutenant Al Billington, Unit Chief Greg McFadden, Division Chief David Hawks, and Battalion Chief Curtis Lawrie.

2. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION - ACTION CALENDAR

Town Manager Gill reported to Council regarding the purpose of this special meeting which is for the Council to provide general direction to the staff for their priorities for the 2015/2016 fiscal year, taking into consideration the revenue that is anticipated as a result of the passage of Measure C, the retail sales tax measure that will become effective on April 1, 2015.

Manager Gill stated that she is requesting general guidelines and general direction from the Council today, and that more specific budget detail will be brought forward at a later meeting. Manager Gill displayed a power point that outlined the budget timeline and process, noted the involvement of the Citizen Oversight Committee and emphasized the need to remain vigilant with regard to expenditures and cautious with regard to expectations relating to Measure C revenue. Manager Gill reviewed steps taken by the community, Town Council and staff to weather the “perfect financial storm,” and that two years of general fund deficit spending has been cured, the general fund is no longer subsidizing other funds, and after five years of decrease, the local economy is starting to improve. However, the Town could only meet its short term objective of maintaining a balanced general fund budget by cutting \$450,000 of training, asset maintenance/replacement and other vital operation expenses, and informed Council that the Town’s fixed expenses (personnel, utilities, debt) are at 90% of its total costs, which is not sustainable. Although the Town is rebuilding an unassigned cash reserve, there is not enough money being set aside to pay future growing obligations. Manager Gill discussed the future challenges to achieve a balanced budget over the next few years. The voters approved ballot Measure C, a six-year ½ percent retail sales tax to preserve current services, but the majority of other fund revenues are still constrained

and expenses are projected to grow without constraint, including an additional required CalPERS contribution in an amount of \$330,000 per year in accordance with the new GASB 68 requirement in 2015/2016.

Fire Division Chief David Hawks, Police Chief Gabriela Tazzari-Dineen, Community Development Director Craig Baker and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Marc Mattox each gave an overview of the current and future needs of their departments, including discussion relating to the goals each hopes to achieve in the next five to ten-year time period.

The Town Council discussed their individual goals and overall desire to restore necessary services and established the following general priorities for the upcoming fiscal year:

- Restore and upgrade Police and Fire department equipment
 - Police patrol vehicles & police officer video microphones
 - CalFIRE standard breathing apparatus (24) and municipal fire engine
- Leverage Measure C Revenue
 - Materials-only projects & current staff for small public works projects
 - Set aside funds to maintain an adequate cash reserve so that Measure C can last beyond its six year term (e.g. equipment replacement, eliminate short-term borrowing money to pay bills).
- Provide facility maintenance on existing buildings
- Upgrade existing technology to streamline processes and provide e-commerce options to the community such as online permits and licensing
- Develop plans to relocate Fire Station 82 to the Pentz Rd location for improved response times
 - Use CalFIRE “Shovel-Ready” fire station plan
- Set aside matching funds for grant(s) for plans for commercial sewer project
 - Maintain economic viability of Downtown Paradise. Septic systems are predicted to fail within ten years which would effectively destroy the economic viability of many downtown businesses. (340-40-14)

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bolin adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: March 10, 2015

By: _____/s/_____
Greg Bolin, Mayor

_____/s/_____
Joanna Gutierrez, CMC, Town Clerk