

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2023**

The study session/regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Carter.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Garnes, Pro Tem Carter, Councilmembers Orr, Wilson and Woodall

Absent: Mayor Garnes (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Finance Director Sanborn, Community Development Director Caldwell, Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen, Wastewater Superintendent Taylor Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel, and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Chief of Police Allen (excused)

STUDY SESSION – 5:00 P.M.

City Council Priority Setting Session for FY 2023-24

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and explained that annually, the City Council goes through the priority setting process to evaluate individual and collective priorities which helps to form the budget for the upcoming year. He explained the process and said that the end result is to narrow the list down to five (5) specific areas of focus. He said that the session is meant to be conversational between councilmembers and staff to discuss prior, current and future priorities.

City Manager Knopp provided a word of caution about the upcoming budget and said that the State's budget is in a deficit position and based on some initial observations and sales tax data, the City is 15-20% below the revenue targets with regard to sales tax revenue. He commented that the City has been very lucky over the past few years for the amount of revenue coming into the City to show slight increases from year to year. The City has also had a windfall in terms of the cannabis taxes over the past two years however; the City is entering into a different budgeting environment where the resources are potentially moving toward the downhill slope.

He said that is a factor that he wanted to make the Council aware of and at the same time in moving forward in the budget process, costs for day-to-day operations are continuing to escalate. This puts a lot of pressure between stagnant or declining revenues and increasing costs.

Bottom line is that resources are diminishing but the City has also made significant progress over the last few years on a number of items, particularly on streets which has consistently been on the Council's list of priorities. As evidenced by the current PCI Index released by HCAOG, it shows Rio Dell as having one of the highest PCI indexes in the County with significant improvement to the City's streets.

He continued with review of the Council's priorities for FY 2022-23 which included the following:

- Personnel Retention and Recruitment
- Measure J/U Extension
- Todd Property
- Economic Development Plan Implementation
- Infrastructure Development

In terms of personnel retention and recruitment, he noted that staff has made significant progress. Measure U/J was extended, however, there are some caveats with that regarding new legislation and statewide propositions that may invalidate that measure. With the Todd property, the City made an offer on the property which was not accepted but it appears that the property is still on the market in spite of Cal Fire's desire to acquire the property. With regard to economic development, one of the key success pieces of this is the two murals that were placed on buildings downtown. In this upcoming budget, money will be included to continue the mural program as part of the Façade Improvement Program.

As far as infrastructure development, there have been some setbacks as a result of the recent earthquakes but there are other components of the infrastructure improvements that are moving forward as a result of the earthquakes such as the \$12 million Water CIP that the State approved.

He noted that expansion of the cannabis industry has stalled out although as the Council is aware, there is a new cultivation facility that just came online at the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park (HRDBP).

River access is one priority that has been long on the list and progress will be made on that in terms of the Clean California Grant and Trails Project from Edwards Dr. to Davis St.

In summary, he said that the concerns are rising costs, decrease in revenue and still a lot of need in the community such as street improvements, and water and wastewater infrastructure with a lot of projects still in the que.

City Manager Knopp deferred to staff to highlight goals and priorities for their departments.

Finance Director Sanborn pointed out the list of projects and earthquake damage that occurred which was submitted to CalOES and making it a priority to get those executed in terms of getting the engineering and the initial reports done so there is a path in moving forward. He noted that it will be a long road to recovery on some of these projects but prioritizing staff's time and funding to tackle those big projects is definitely in the best interest of the City.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen identified staff training as a priority in his department. With new public works personnel coming on board, he said that he would like to concentrate on cross-training and certification of staff.

Wastewater Superintendent Taylor identified problems in the Wastewater department with regard to aging infrastructure, the collection system and ongoing I & I. He commented that earthquake reimbursements will hopefully help to identify some hidden issues and move projects forward. The Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) ran out of funding and staff is waiting for an extension for additional funding (\$200,000) to complete the engineering by GHD.

He said that the Wastewater Treatment Plant operationally is still fairly solid and that he thoroughly enjoys the Aeromod System but the Chlorine Contact Basin is damaged from the earthquake and it is on the CalOES list of priorities for reimbursement. With summer months approaching, it gives staff more opportunity to explore and dig around the sewer lines without experiencing flooding. Overall, as far as the Sewer department is concerned, he agreed with the need for more staff training.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen added that maintenance/replacement costs for equipment has gone up substantially so the budget needs to be adjusted accordingly.

Community Development Director Caldwell said as far as Planning and Building, he doesn't see anything out of the ordinary other than the additional workload related to the recent earthquakes. He estimated issuance of 120 building permits since December 22nd when the first earthquake hit, with an additional 100 permit expected. He noted that Liz from the County came up with a form letter to go out to owners of the yellow tagged structures reminding them to come and get permits for repairs or let staff know if work was done that did not require a permit so the repairs identified on the placard can be tracked.

As far as expenses, training expenses for the past couple years has been minor because of all the webinars offered as a result of COVID. He said that he actually prefers webinars since it is a better use of his time. The biggest expense last year was the cost of the 2022 Building Codes which was approximately \$1,500. He noted that there are a lot of new code changes which he has been getting up to speed with; the most difficult being the new Energy Code requirements.

With regard to Economic Development, he and the City Manager had a meeting last week with a local developer who approached them about billboard signage. Staff will be bringing billboard signage to the Council for consideration as a potential revenue source for the City.

He said that as the City Manager indicated, there were two businesses that took advantage of the Façade Improvement Program which were both murals. Another

person submitted an application who is the new owner of Mingo's and has shown interest in improving the building.

At the HRDBP, one of the property owners, Tony Frink did some sidewalk improvements that was a condition of the subdivision agreement. Hopefully something will come about at that site but a lot of that is dependent of PG&E's ability to provide power. Under PG&E plans, power is supposed to be available to all of those projects by the end of 2024 although staff hopes that will occur sooner than that. He said that Jesse Jeffries, Northwestern Flower Co. has another proposed project estimated at \$4-5 million next to Glenn White's property where he wants to do another indoor cultivation project of 20,000 sq. ft. which would result in another \$40,000 annually to the City in cannabis taxes. He said that unfortunately, the only part of the cannabis industry that is doing well is indoor cultivation.

He commented that it would be nice to get a GIS System. Staff reached out to the County and asked if they had the capacity to help the City and basically include Rio Dell on their GIS system. They currently have the entire county mapped including Rio Dell with the assessor parcel numbers but it doesn't currently include the zoning of the parcels which would be very helpful. There would be a link to click on that would tell the zoning of a parcel and the allowable uses.

He added that he continues to support the code enforcement efforts in the City and pointed out that we all wear multiple hats and try to help each other out as it often takes a team effort to get thing accomplished.

City Manager Knopp commented that with regard to GIS, there is potential for the City to access an internship through Cal Poly Humboldt to help upload some of the raw data. As such, staff will be looking at that as an option.

He pointed out some other big-ticket items coming up that staff expects to be dealing with this year, one of which is universal collection with SB 1383 implementation and changes with the Recology Franchise Agreement. The other item is the Monument Road slip out. He reported that he had good new in that the initial bids for the project did come back to the County and they are within the parameters for the City's exposure to be in the \$100,000 range. Initially the fear was that the City's share could be as high as \$500,000.

He said that the other item is labor negotiations with some contracts expiring at the end of the fiscal year. What was discussed with the Council a couple of years ago, was the idea of hiring a consultant to come in and clean up inconsistent language in the contracts and work with employees on job descriptions. He suggested moving forward with that to further refine and improve those agreements.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter opened the discussion to Council questions.

Councilmember Orr said that he was glad to hear about universal collection and asked how much universal waste management affects wastewater treatment and what ends up in the sewer.

Wastewater Superintendent Taylor commented that as of now, there is not a lot of talk about organic waste disposal in terms of what makes or doesn't make it to the trash and said his concern has to do with the amount of stuff that gets dumped down the drain. He noted that one of the fascinating things that is happening in the Bay area is anaerobic digestion although the City does not have the technology but it is a huge way of destroying volatiles in organic waste.

City Manager Knopp added that there has been some discussion about using wastewater treatment facilities as organic waste disposal sites but is probably not a good fit for Rio Dell. In theory, if there is a good disposal site set up, less organic waste would end up going into the sewer.

Councilmember Orr asked how much revenue was generated from building permit fees.

Community Development Director Caldwell reported that \$31,900 was received in 2022 and staff expects that amount to double or even triple in 2023 due to the earthquake repairs.

City Manager Knopp pointed out that the General Fund has been subsidizing the Building Fund for some time.

Councilmember Orr questioned the number of yellow and red tagged homes that are forgoing the permitting process.

Community Development Director Caldwell commented that is what instigated the need for the letter to reach out to those residents so that the list of damaged structures can be updated.

Councilmember Wilson asked how the list of \$25 million in damages presented to CalOES crosses over to the Water CIP grant and if that funding is figured into the CalOES reimbursement request.

Finance Director Sanborn noted that the Water CIP grant and earthquake damage list are two separate items and include their own list of projects.

City Manager Knopp explained that the City's obligation as far as the earthquake damage is to submit a list of all of the damages over the next 30 days. The estimated amount of damage is \$25-26 million although that number could go up or down. Under the California Disaster Assistance Act, the City is guaranteed 75% reimbursement however; there is still 25% that has to be covered so in theory, the City could be responsible for approximately \$6 million. Staff submitted a letter requesting the State

cover the remaining 25% however, what typically happens is that approval is done on a project-by-project basis. This means that the City won't know how much of that will be covered until the end of the projects as it is very unlikely they would frontload the project reimbursements. He said that the bottom line is that these fixes have to occur so we will deal with it as each project moves forward and hope for the best for full reimbursement.

City Manager Knopp explained that the cost for replacement of the Painter St. water tank damaged in the earthquake is \$1.6 million with only 75% guaranteed reimbursement by the State.

He further explained that with regard to paving projects, there are certain roads in the City that are on the Federal Highway System such as Belleview, Blue Slide, Pacific and Monument. Damages to those streets fall under a different formula for reimbursement.

Finance Director Sanborn noted that it actually falls under Caltrans formula which is reimbursement up to 90%. Staff is working through that process and has a webinar with them later this week to go over the process on how to take the next steps to access the damage and apply for reimbursement.

Mayor Garnes arrived at this time, 5:38 p.m.

City Manager Knopp noted that some of the other damages to streets such as Eeloa Ave. falls under the 75% reimbursement formula. He commented that the damages to the chlorine contact basin is estimated at \$6 million which is a rough estimate. He said that as Wastewater Superintendent Taylor pointed out, this may be the opportune time to potentially install a new UV disinfection system rather than repairing the contact basin which actually may be cheaper.

Councilmember Woodall asked if cross training in the public works department would occur in-house or if it would require staff to go away for training.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen noted that there are a lot of books available through Sacramento State for on-line training but some of the courses through RCAC require 2-day training in Redding, Santa Rosa or Sacramento.

Councilmember Woodall supported the idea of cross-training of staff and said that another priority for her would be to tie up loose ends as far as the earthquake damage so the City has a better financial picture related to those projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter provided a list of potential priorities which included the following:

- Underground Infrastructure/Public Works Projects
- Roads/Pursuing CDBG Funds
- Preparation for SB 1383
- PG&E Power Issue

- Code Enforcement
- Public Spaces i.e.: Dog Park, Memorial Park, Trails Project
- Long-term Plan for the Avenues.

She asked for an update on the proposed Enes Community Forest project.

Community Development Director Caldwell said that staff was ready to order an appraisal of the property but the project came to a standstill when the earthquake hit. Staff will revisit the project when time allows.

City Manager Knopp provided the background on the long-term plan for the avenues and noted that the Fire Department has discussed the issue with staff regarding the difficulty in getting fire apparatus up and down the streets in the avenues. At the very least, some parking would need to be restricted and pulled off of the corners so vehicles could make those turns. The overall idea is to convert some of the streets into one-way streets. To do that would take a lot of neighborhood involvement to come up with a solid plan as there is a lot of restricted space throughout the avenues and some of the houses are actually located within the right-of-way. The goal is to be mindful of the parking situation and access as well as comprehensive issues related to Second Ave. and how to approach that situation. He pointed out that Second Ave. is not the only street with needed improvements mentioning Elm St. and Ogle Ave. also in desperate need of attention.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter said that she and Councilmember Woodall would be happy to go door-to-door with income surveys for Second Ave. if needed.

City Manager Knopp commented that one of the concerns regarding the income survey was how long they are valid once completed and said that he believes that it is 5 years so that is something that could be done in hopes that grant funding can be obtained within that timeframe.

With regard to code enforcement, the City has allocated a lot of funding toward hiring a CSO and required training. As such, progress is being made although it is not adequate for the issues here. He noted that CDBG does offer a program for code enforcement and with our hopeful approval of CalHome dollars also through CDBG, it is possible that a new code enforcement regime could be brought into the City to augment the current program.

Community Development Director Caldwell commented that the avenues situation was a topic of conversation at the last Traffic Committee meeting and one of the things they talked about was possibly retaining a transportation company to do a traffic study although it would likely cost around \$20,000.

He also said that at the last Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting they talked about the implementation of a Rental Housing Inspection Program which did not go over very well in 2013 when the City Council brought up the idea. There were a lot of realtors,

property managers and property owners that convinced the Council that it was not the right thing to do.

He commented that on tomorrow's Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting they would be receiving the draft guidelines that were developed for a Rental Housing Inspection Program.

Councilmember Woodall provided a list of proposed priorities which included the following:

- Wastewater Infrastructure/Staff Training
- One Additional F/T Police Officer for 24 hr. Coverage
- Plan for Second Ave. Repairs
- Rental Housing Inspection Program

City Manager Knopp recommended the priority setting session be continued to the next regular meeting at such time the Council would go through the exercise of narrowing down the list to five specific priorities to focus on for the year.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the priority setting session. There were no public comments at this time. The Council adjourned for a recess at 6:00 p.m.

The council reconvened into open session at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on non-agenda items

Cal Fisher, 210 Belleview Ave. addressed the Council requesting an item be placed on the next agenda for consideration by the Council to waive building permit fees for all earthquake related repairs. He said that they attended two Town Hall meetings and were excited to hear about all the help people would be getting for disaster relief and because they were not actually displaced from the earthquake, they didn't get any help. He said that his wife has called the number provided at the Town Hall meetings (441-5000) numerous times and never received a call back. Several agencies were mentioned that would be providing assistance for disaster relief and he has seen assistance for low-income residents but nothing for middle-class residents.

He said that his wife researched cities and counties that have waived permit fees in disaster affected areas and presented the Council with information from Southern California jurisdictions, Nevada County and Butte County that waived building permit fees after disasters.

Cindy Fisher said that in listening to both of the Town Hall meetings, their take-away from that was that there were people on the ground ready to help by calling the disaster relief number at 441-5000. She said that they are not ready to help. She said that she called

the number weekly and was finally told that there are no programs ready. She said that she called to get a case manager assigned and they weren't able to provide that either. She indicated that she learned today that they cut their hours back.

Cal Fisher added that most people don't have earthquake insurance and getting even a little bit of relief would help. He asked again that an item be placed on the next agenda for Council consideration to waive building permit fees for those affected by the earthquake.

Ben Cahoon, 212 Belleview Ave. echoed the comments made by the Fisher's and said that they too are having trouble getting help and with all the added expenses and being even harder with building permit fees, it is like getting kicked in the gut. He said that it would bolster attitudes to talk about some kind of relief.

Cindy Fisher asked for the building permit fees to be retro-active if the Council approves the waiver.

Tom Norton, owner of Shotz Coffee at 541 Wildwood Ave. addressed the Council regarding the water line on Elm St. and said that he was informed a couple of days ago that the line won't be fixed until next year which he said is unacceptable. He pointed out that they are probably the one and only striving business in Rio Dell and every time the water gets shut off they have to close down unexpectedly and employees have to be sent home. He said that they also have an expensive filtration system and machines that are expensive and every time the water line breaks and the water is shut off, it clogs up the filters which becomes a safety issue. He requested the matter be placed on the agenda with an explanation on why the line cannot be repaired this year. He noted that both he and his wife have complained to Water Superintendent Jensen and now this is the next step.

Zach Shafer addressed the Council on behalf of the Rio Dell Fire Department and said that the Fire Department just received a grant for some new playground equipment and asked that an item be placed on the next agenda regarding potential support from the City to go toward the purchase of an additional piece of playground equipment.

Steve Saunders, 762 Rigby Ave., addressed the Council regarding the discussion that occurred at the March 21, 2023 meeting related to the waiver of sewer fees for customers whose residences were red-tagged by the earthquake. He said that when the statement was made that those customers would not have to pay their sewer bill, he asked if that meant that he would get his money back for the last two months charges so he could give that money to the person for utilities where he is currently staying. He said that he remembered the answer was "yes".

A couple days after the meeting he went to City Hall fully expecting to get a check for \$108.56. He submitted the form to the person at the front counter who replied that she would take care of it and credit the account. He argued that a credit on his account does not do him any good right now and doesn't give him money to pay for utilities where he is staying. He said that he was upset and confused and asked to speak to someone higher

up. At that point the Finance Director came out with the minutes from the meeting to show him what the direction was of the Council.

He commented that he is displaced from the earthquake and can't understand why the City did that to him. He added that he may not be back in his home until next year and asked the City Council to vote now authorizing staff to issue him a refund for the two months of sewer charges.

Fred Breckenridge addressed the Council and commended the police officers for the nice way they interact with the community and said that it is really hard to find that type of character quality in Humboldt County. He said that he can relate to displacement and the emotions that go along with it as Mr. Saunders expressed.

He said that he considers Rio Dell as a quality community to relocate to from McKinleyville. He said that he up a book today on qualities in leadership and some of the first ideas in leadership is to seek out opportunity and shop for ideas. As such, he said that he is trying to start a business which he would like to introduce to the community and is seeking advice on how he can contribute to the community in a positive way. He added that he can't say enough about how great the people at the highest level in the City react to citizens and would like the opportunity to network with some folks here and get the information he needs to take the next step in moving forward.

Steve Saunders asked for compassion from all the Council for those residents displaced from the earthquake.

The consensus of the Council was to place all of the requested items as presented on the next agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Garnes asked if any councilmember, staff or member of the public would like to remove any item from the consent calendar for separate discussion. No items were removed.

Motion was made by Carter/Woodall to approve the consent calendar including the following items:

- 1) Minutes of the March 21, 2023 regular meeting;
- 2) Authorizing the City Manager to sign and submit the NYLEX City of Rio Dell Service Level Agreement 2023;
- 3) Authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter urging California Legislature to address the State's Interconnection Crisis and Ensure Timely and Equitable Access to the Electrical Grid; and
- 4) Receive & File the Check Register for March

Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and pointed out some slight changes to the agenda format and said that this is the first rollout using the new agenda management program from Civic Plus. He said that this is still a work in progress so some of the numbering on the agenda itself had to be manually added.

He announced the date for the annual Spring Clean-Up as Saturday, May 13th from 9:00-1:00 at Eagle Prairie Elementary School.

He reported on a new round of Hazard Mitigation Grants opening up with potential for guaranteed matches for the City's portion of that. Under Federal law, any time a disaster occurs, a certain set-aside of the total cost of those disasters is allocated for hazardous mitigation in the form of grants for such things as the water tank replacement and water seismic work. In this case, the new round of grants also includes some climate and energy resiliency components to it so staff is currently working with Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) who did the initial study, to pursue a grant to add solar at the corporation yard.

Councilmember Wilson commented that going to a UV disinfection method for wastewater would increase energy costs.

City Manager Knopp explained that energy costs would go up although chemical costs would decrease dramatically. With solar at the corporation yard augmenting that, the costs could stay the same or even be lower.

Councilmember Woodall asked if staff would be promoting the annual Spring Clean-Up event and urged residents to go early to make sure they don't get turned away.

City Manager Knopp indicated that the City would be issuing a City Newsletter over the next couple of weeks and include that information.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the staff update. No comment was received.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/STUDY SESSIONS

Presentation and Update from City Engineer GHD and Possible Authorization for City Manager to Sign Three Scopes for Service Related to: (1) Rio Dell Neighborhood Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements, (2) Douglas Tank and Water System Improvements, (3) Eel River Crossing Pipeline Seismic Retrofit, Phase 1-A in a total amount of \$2,421,199

Rebecca Crow, City Engineer from GHD provided a power point presentation with an update on active projects in the City including transportation, drinking water, wastewater, earthquake engineering support, and future funding opportunities.

Active transportation projects included:

- 2018 Rio Dell Safe Routes to School Project
- 2022 Eel River Trail Project
- 2022 Pavement Condition Survey

Upcoming transportation projects included:

- 2021 Neighborhood Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements
- Citywide Street Improvements (Second Ave., Elm St. and Ogle Ave.). These projects would depend on funding availability from HCAOG or other sources.

Councilmember Wilson questioned the citywide street improvements and asked if that is just to determine what needs to be done to fix those streets.

Rebecca Crow said that it is for a preliminary design to be able to apply for funding to do the repairs.

The Water Distribution System Upgrade Project was made possible by 100% funded SWRCB Clean Water State Revolving Fund Grant in the amount of \$12,862,989. The project included the following:

- Replacement of the Douglas Tank with a new 500,000-gallon tank
- Replacement of high-priority water distribution system lines and valves
- Installation of fire hydrants where minimum hydrant spacing is not met

Councilmember Orr asked if this project slated to start in 2024 is holding up the repairs on Elm St. that is affecting the business that is having issues with the line.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen explained that the Elm St. road and water line repairs is on the list for repair but because of the earthquake and additional damage the hope was to fast-forward the project but it is still slated for next year.

Rebecca Crow added that they will be asking the SWRCB if there is a chance to move the project forward since most of the environmental work is done however, they aren't really receptive to the idea because it is not as cost efficient to separate a piece of the project.

Councilmember Orr commented that he would like to see a way to keep businesses regretting from moving to Rio Dell.

An unidentified person in the audience asked why replacement of water distribution system lines and valves was a high priority.

Rebecca Crow explained that the plan was done in close coordination with Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen taking into consideration the condition of the distribution system.

Sharon Wolfe, mentioned the installation of new sidewalks and asked if the homeowners in those areas would be getting an assessment.

Rebecca Crow said that the project is grant funded so there would be no assessment. She warned everyone that construction costs are increasing at a rapid pace so we need to be mindful of additives so that there is sufficient funding to finish the project

The second Water project was the Eel River Crossing Pipeline Retrofit Project which included the following:

- \$3,375,160 in Project Funds (75% Reimbursable)
- \$166,464 in Grant Management Budget (100% Reimbursable)
- Replacement of the 8" Yellowmine pipe located in the Southbound Highway 101 Bridge, which is the only connection to the Metropolitan Well Water System

Rebecca Crow explained that the Eel River Crossing Pipeline Retrofit Project grant from FEMA through CalOES requires a 25% City match however, FEMA/CalOES has since updated their program so GHD is working to submit a funding application to the SWRCB through the Safe Drinking Water Program that would cover the 25% city match. She said the way that FEMA disburses the funds is in phases of the project.

Wastewater projects included the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) and the Painter Street Line Upsizing.

Rebecca Crow said that they submitted an amendment to the State for additional funds related to the SSES to essentially take that project to its final design and get it better prepared for construction. They also asked for some additional funding for additional camera work for documenting earthquake damage.

She commented that they did leverage the SSES planning study information and put together a Clean Water State Revolving Fund construction application for replacement of the Painter St. line. The application is in the State Board's hands which is likely to be funded. The Board shuts down from April-June and doesn't issue any new agreements so hopefully in July or August the City will see some funding. She said that unfortunately the project won't be completed until 2024.

With regard to Earthquake Engineering Support, she noted that GHD is developing a scope of work to support the City in compiling data for damage reports which will eventually lead to project funding to address earthquake damages.

She said that there was damage to the Chlorine Contact Basin and they were working on putting the information in the damage assessment report so the City can get funding for those repairs. They are also looking at the Painter St. tank as well as including some of the water and sewer inter-crossings and sewer lift stations.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter asked if the Eel River Trail Project would be impacted by the damaged contact basin.

Rebecca Crow said that the goal is to put a little bridge over that area.

Future funding opportunities included the following:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding
- State Water Resources Control Board - Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Target areas for road rehabilitation
- Active Transportation Funding – Next cycle in 2025

Motion was made by Carter/Woodall to authorize the City Manager to execute scope(s) of service for (1) Rio Dell Neighborhood Pedestrian Connectivity Improvements, (2) Douglas Tank and Water System Improvements, and (3) Eel River Crossing Pipeline Seismic Retrofit Project, Phase 1A. Motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Approve Formation of Ad-Hoc Committees for Per Capita Grant (Dog Park) and Clean California Gateway Beautification Grant

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and explained that this item is related to two projects that need to go out to bid; the Dog Park and the Clean California Beautification Grant for Gateway Improvements. For both of the projects, there are some minor details to be worked out with an AdHoc Committee before it comes back to the council for final approval.

An illustration of the design improvements for the gateway project was reviewed. He said that the idea with the grant is to replant new trees in deeper soil. He noted that the current plan includes a lot of trees so the plan may need to be modified regarding the number of trees to fit with the budget. He noted that the plan is to submit the RFP as designed with a couple of exceptions to possibly reduce some of the costs. One would be the center median trees identified in pink with bushes. The other concept would be to include the type of existing trees on the south end of town to the list of the trees on the illustration. He explained that after the RFP is issued, the Council would then narrow down the selection of trees.

He commented that the design would begin on Wildwood Ave. at Belleview and extend south to Elko St., with Memorial Park revitalized and enhanced with the addition of exercise equipment.

Councilmember Orr asked how exercise equipment fit into the beautification of the gateway and why just one piece of equipment.

City Manager Knopp explained that the exercise equipment was one of the requests that was added and approved as part of the application. The idea is to try to create a healthier environment for the community. He said that the diagram presented is not necessarily what is exactly going to be installed and said that these pieces of equipment can be quite expensive.

Mayor Garnes commented that the intent was to have an area where community members could get together and exercise and improve the overall health of the community.

Next was review of the proposed Dog Park concept. City Manager Knopp said the proposed dog park would include two run areas, one for small dogs and one for larger dogs. The proposed park includes fencing, concrete walkways, turf/mesh/netting, reinforced concrete pads, a water fountain, a concrete half-court basketball court, and a parking area. The total grant amount is \$177,952.

Community Development Director Caldwell noted that the lot is slightly sloping so the project would also include a retaining wall. Also included would be a couple of picnic tables and benches. He said that the sidewalk constructed along Ireland Ave. is part of another city project so would not come out of the \$178,000 grant funding. He said that the goal is to get this project out to bid over the next month or so. Input from the AdHoc committee is needed on priorities so staff can get some solid numbers before the project goes out to bid.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment.

Steve Sauders questioned maintenance costs for the proposed dog park.

Community Development Director Caldwell explained that the existing lawn is already maintained by the City and as far as the basketball court, it is concrete so should have a 50-year life-span so there will be minimal maintenance.

Tommy Norton supported the idea of a dog park with the basketball court and said that kids are looking for something to do so the half-court basketball court is a great idea. He suggested the idea of acquiring donations for the picnic tables with the donor's names on the tables.

Jonathan Brodeur, asked about restrooms at the dog park.

Community Development Director Caldwell indicated that restrooms are not included in the plan with the limited amount of funding.

Jonathan Brodeur commented on the Trails Project and said that there are communities where you can walk along a trail and they have exercise stations every half mile or so and thought that would be a better use of exercise equipment rather than just having one piece of equipment at Memorial Park.

Consensus of the Council was to appoint Mayor Garnes and Mayor Pro Tem Carter to an AdHoc Committee for the Per Capita Grant (Dog Park) and Clean California Gateway Beautification Grant.

ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Approve Resolution No. 1597-2023 Authorizing the County of Humboldt to Administer the City CDBG and CalHome Project and Programs including the City Owner-Occupied and Rental Rehabilitation Programs

Community Development Director Caldwell provided a staff report and said that at the May 7, 2023 meeting, the Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County to administer the City CDBG Projects and Programs including the City Owner-Occupied and Rental-Rehabilitation Programs. The County recently requested the City formalize this authorization in the form of a resolution.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the proposed Resolution.

Steve Saunders asked for further clarification about the programs.

Community Development Director Caldwell explained that the CDBG Program is extremely onerous and requires a full-time staff person to administer the programs and keep up with all the changes in the program. To make the best use of time, the City partnered with the County to administer City's CDBG because they have the staff and resources to administer the programs.

Motion was made by Orr/Carter to adopt Resolution No. 1597-2023 Authorizing the County of Humboldt to administer the City CDBG and CalHome Project and Programs including the City Owner-Occupied and Rental Rehabilitation Programs. Motion carried 5-0.

Introduction and First Reading (by title only) of Ordinance No. 398-2023 Amending Chapter 10.05 "Use of Streets for Storage of Vehicles Prohibited", Section 10.05.530 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC)

Community Development Director Caldwell provided a staff report and said that the City's Community Services Officer (CSO) is tasked with enforcing the City's various regulations including parking regulations. One of the difficulties regarding the parking and storage of vehicles, including trailers, recreational vehicles and boats is the fact that many property owners that are given a 72-hour notice to remove the vehicle, simply move them a foot or two to avoid them being towed. The CSO recently discussed the problem with both the

Nuisance Advisory Committee and the Traffic Committee and suggested amendments to the regulations.

He reviewed the recommended amendments as identified in “blue” and said that the intent is to provide the Community Services Officer (CSO) and the community clear intent of the regulations. He noted that it was expanded not only to vehicles but to include trailers, recreational vehicles and boats. Basically, what it says is that the vehicle must be moved at least one block or 300 feet when the vehicle is left on the street in excess of 72 hours. If the vehicle is not moved, the City has the ability to remove the vehicle subject to the requirements of the California Vehicle Code.

Councilmember Wilson commented that this is great as people were taking advantage of the regulations by slightly moving the vehicles so this will be a big step toward enforcement.

Community Development Director Caldwell noted that this was taken to the Nuisance Advisory Committee and the Traffic Committee and they were in support of the amendments to the regulations.

Councilmember Orr asked if there is anything in the law that prevents a person from driving away for a few hours then returning to the same location.

Community Development Director Caldwell said that he would need to defer to the Chief of Police at the next meeting to answer that question.

Mayor Garnes opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed ordinance. There was no public comment received and the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Woodall/Orr to introduce and conduct first reading (by title only) of Ordinance No. 398-2023 Amending Chapter 10.05 “Use of Streets for Storage of Vehicles Prohibited”, Section 10.05.530 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC), and to continue second reading, consideration, approval and adoption of the proposed Ordinance to the meeting of May 2, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported that she attended a Redwood Region Economic Development Commission (RREDC) meeting on March 27th where they discussed the off-shore wind energy project which is moving along and announced that there would be a Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow at 3:00.

Councilmember Orr reported that he would be attending a Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) meeting on Thursday.

Councilmember Woodall reported that she attended a Fire Department Board of Directors meeting on Thursday and as usual, they had a lot of calls. She noted that there has been a

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lot of good things going on at the Community Resource Center such as the Senior Luncheon as well as other community activities. She also announced that the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) 3-day training would be held during the last week in April at the Fire Hall.

Mayor Garnes indicated that there are currently three spaces available for anyone interested in attending.

Councilmember Wilson reported that he attended a Humboldt Waste Management Authority (HWMA) meeting last week and had another meeting scheduled for next week on the budget, along with a Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) meeting on the same day. He reported that HWMA is working on upgrading the facility in preparation for SB 1383 implementation.

Mayor Garnes announced that she attended Disaster Training today in Blue Lank and would be continuing that training tomorrow learning how to deal with emotional issues for any disaster.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Woodall/Carter to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to the May 2, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk