

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2025**

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Woodall (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Interim Police Chief Landry, Wastewater Superintendent Kelly, Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen, Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel, and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Finance Director Sanborn and Community Development Director Caldwell (excused)

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Approve Resolution No. 1627-2025 Accepting the Certification of Votes for the November 5, 2024 General Election

A motion was made by Carter/Orr to approve Resolution No. 1627-2025 accepting the certification of votes for the November 5, 2024 election. The motion carried 4-0.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Swearing in and Seating Newly Elected Councilmembers Amanda Carter and Frank Wilson

Mayor Garnes administered the Oath of Allegiance to the newly elected councilmembers Carter and Wilson to 4-year terms ending with the November 2028 General election.

Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

City Clerk Dunham provided a staff report and said that the next step after swearing in the new council members is to select the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem for the next two years.

She explained the process and noted that all council members are considered nominated unless a council member chooses to decline the nomination.

Councilmember Wilson commented that he didn't want to be Mayor and would like to see Mayor Pro Tem Carter remain in that position due to the current processes and events moving forward.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the matter.

Supervisor Bushnell congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Councilmember Wilson on their re-election to the City Council and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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Council members were provided ballots and were first asked to vote for their selection for Mayor. City Clerk Dunham read the tally of votes. Debra Garnes received 4 out of 4 votes and was selected to serve as Mayor for a 2-year term.

The same process was followed for the selection of Mayor Pro Tem. Amanda Carter received 4 out of 4 votes and was selected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a 2-year term.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes invited public comment on non-agenda matters. No public comment was received.

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 a separate discussion.

Mayor Garnes removed consent calendar item No. 5 –*Reject Bids for Dog Park Phase II Small Dog Run.*

City Clerk Dunham noted that a written public comment was received related to Consent Calendar Item 4. *Resolution No. 1628-2025 Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to Redwood Region Rising (RRRISE) for Feasibility and Technical Studies for a Regional Food Collaborative including a Meat Processing Facility at the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park.*

She read the public comment as presented by Sharon Wolff (submitted with these minutes as Attachment 1).

A motion was made by Carter/Orr to approve the consent calendar, including the following items:

- 1) Minutes of the December 3, 2024 Regular Meeting;
- 2) Authorize the Purchase of Two Rotary Joints, Split Rings, and Gaskets for the Repair of the Sludge Dryer in the Amount of \$14,309.98;
- 3) Report Out and Approve by (4/5 vote) on Emergency Road Repair Work Related to the December 5, 2024 Earthquake Under Public Contract Code PCC §22050;
- 4) Approve Resolution No. 1628-2025 Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to Redwood Region Rising (RRRISE) for Feasibility and Technical Studies for a Regional Food Collaborative including Meat Processing Facility at the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park; and
- 5) Receive and File the Check Register for November.

Motion carried 4-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Reject Bids for Dog Park Phase II Small Dog Run

Mayor Garnes said that she understood why staff recommended rejecting the bids for Phase II of the Dog Park since the bids were ridiculously high but she wished to clarify that there were comments from the public in support of a small dog run. She recommended staff continue to pursue additional grant funds but even if no additional grant funding is secured, to put the project back out to bid later rather than abandon the idea.

City Manager Knopp suggested the item be continued to the next meeting as the staff report was not worded exactly as he understood it would be. Council concurred.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and said that he and Mayor Garnes were scheduled to be in Sacramento today attending a meeting with CalFire and Senator McGuire however; the meeting was canceled.

He also reported that the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regulations now require all elected officials and Form 700 filers to file annual statements using their e-filing system. He said that the FPPC will levy penalties for any late filings urging the councilmembers to file their forms no later than April 1, 2025. Council members were encouraged to contact the City Clerk for assistance if needed.

Council members extended thanks to City staff for everything they do and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Approve Appointments of Members and Alternates to External Boards, Commissions, and Committees for 2025-2026

City Clerk Dunham provided a staff report requesting approval of the 2025-2026 appointments to boards, committees, and commissions. A list of the agencies and their respective meeting days and times were provided for the Council's review.

She noted that the *Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau* was removed from the list per the HCCVB Board's request. In addition, Mayor Pro Tem Carter requested the establishment of a new committee which is *Liaison to the Rio Dell School District*.

Council members agreed to continue with their current board assignments with the exception of the Traffic Committee. Mayor Garnes agreed to replace Councilmember Orr on that committee due to conflicts with the times of the meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Councilmember Woodall were appointed to serve as *Liaisons to the Rio Dell School District*.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported on upcoming meetings and events and said that she would be attending a Rio Dell School Board meeting on Thursday as the newly appointed liaison and said that Davis Street Park was scheduled to be on the agenda for further discussion.

She reported that the Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce meeting was rescheduled for this Friday (January 10th) at noon at the Town of Scotia offices.

She also reported that the Blood Bank and the Community Resource Center are partnering and holding a blood drive on January 14, 2025, at the empty parking lot next to the Community Resource Center from 10 am - 4 pm. Anyone donating blood will receive a free hot dog, chips, and water at the Community Resource Center.

Councilmember Wilson announced that he would be attending an HWMA meeting on Thursday and the new director of Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), formerly of HCAOG will be assuming that position and wished her well.

Mayor Garnes reported that this month's HTA meeting was canceled with the next meeting scheduled for February 1, 2025. She said she would be attending a Seismic Safety Committee meeting in Sacramento on Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Orr to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to the January 21, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk