

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2025**

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 5:15 p.m.

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

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Chief of Police Phinney, Finance
Director Sanborn, Water/Roadways Superintendent
Jensen, City Clerk Dunham, and Senior Fiscal Assistant
Maciel

Absent: Community Development Director Caldwell (excused)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

**Conference with Labor Negotiator – Agency Negotiator: City Manager – Employee
Organizations: Rio Dell Employees Association, Rio Dell Police Officers Association
and all Contract Employees**

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

No members of the public were present to comment.

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Council recessed into closed session at 5:15 p.m. with City Manager Knopp.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

The Council reconvened into open session at 6:00 p.m.

ORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garnes announced that the City Council was in closed session to discuss the above-listed matters and had nothing to report from the closed session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Wilson/Carter made a motion to approve the consent calendar, including the following items:

- 1) Approve Minutes of the July 15, 2025, Regular Meeting;
- 2) Approve Minutes of the August 5, 2025, Regular Meeting;
- 3) Approve Resolution No. 1644-2025 Amending the City's Bidding Threshold for Public Works Projects by Enrolling in the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCCAA);
- 4) Authorize the Chief of Police to Execute Required Documentation Related to Acceptance of All Traffic Solutions "STS Gives Back" Award for a Shield 12 Radar Sign with TrafficCloud® Software;
- 5) Approve Resolution No. 1645-2022 Adopting an Amended Master Salary Schedule;
- 6) Authorize the City Manager to Execute Four (4) Scopes of Service with the City Engineer, GHD to Complete the Design and Issue Bids for Construction; and
- 7) Receive and File the Check Register for July.

The motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp highlighted the staff update and provided an update on the Hazard Mitigation Planning process, stating that staff have been working with the County of Humboldt to submit all necessary paperwork to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval of the Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan update. He reported that the County of Humboldt, the City of Rio Dell, and the McKinleyville Community Services District have been approved to proceed with local adoption of the plans. He noted that the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be coming to the City Council on a subsequent agenda for official adoption.

He then announced that the CalCities Redwood Empire Division will be meeting in Fortuna on August 22nd, with the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Rancho Cucamonga, Lynn Kennedy, speaking at the meeting. He encouraged Council members to attend.

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He said that he would be attending the Wildlife Conservation Board meeting virtually on August 28th for the potential award of a \$1.2 million grant for the ADA portion of the Eel River Trail.

City Manager Knopp then called for questions or comments from the Council on the staff update.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented that once again, there were zero animals transported to Miranda's Rescue and asked Finance Director Sanborn to elaborate on the Spay and Neuter Voucher Program.

Finance Director Sanborn explained that the City applied for two grants from the McLean Foundation: one for \$2,000 and the other for \$1,500 for the Spay and Neuter Program on a reimbursement basis. He noted that as of the end of July, the city hit that mark, which shows the success and popularity of the program.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter thanked Finance Director Sanborn for his assistance with the program.

Councilmember Wilson asked Chief Phinney about the two nuisance abatement cases on city-owned property.

Chief Phinney explained that generally, the cases involve garbage in parks, city sidewalks, or other city-owned property.

Councilmember Wilson asked City Manager Knopp for an update on the Monument Road slip-out project.

City Manager Knopp said that the project was complete, and staff is waiting for the County to send an invoice for the City's share of the cost. He said that originally, the City's cost was expected to be over \$500,000, but it is now expected to be significantly less.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation by Mahayla Broussard – Rio Dell Canvas – Enhancing Our Town's Identity Through Street Art

Mayor Pro Tem Carter introduced Mahayla Broussard, who was present to provide a presentation to the Council on a proposed plan for small art projects in Rio Dell. She said that she came to the Beautification, Walkability, and Pride Committee with the idea of doing small art projects around town and getting other youth interested in participating. The first project would be to paint the utility box in front of the apartment building at 30 Wildwood Ave., on the north side of the Rio Dell-Scotia bridge.

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Mahayla provided a presentation and began by stating that the City approved murals on buildings downtown, which look great, but missed the opportunity to allow young artists to do art projects on a smaller scale. She said the idea would be to give young artists in the community the chance to display their art, build credibility, and help build a bridge between the City Council and teens in the community. She said that she would like to see smaller local artists do projects such as art on utility boxes, mailboxes, small walls on community buildings, and even the cement walls on the bridges.

She provided examples of art to show the City Council what the utility box would look like.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter pointed out that the Community Resource Center would be funding the project along with other donations of art supplies so the City would not be incurring any costs. She asked Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen if he could see any potential problems with painting the utility box as proposed.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen supported the project and noted that the utility box had not been used since 2006.

Councilmember Woodall said that she was impressed with the written proposal Mahayla submitted to the Council.

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

Councilmember Wilson thanked Mahayla for the presentation and said that it was great to hear a presentation from a younger member of the community. He commented that she should think about running for City Council when she is old enough.

Carter/Woodall made a motion to approve the artist concept as proposed by Mahayla Broussard to paint the utility box located next to 30 Wildwood Ave., north of the Rio Dell-Scotia bridge. The motion carried 5-0.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Discussion on Adding a Public Garbage and Recycling Can Adjacent to 44/64 Davis St.
City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said that the City Council, at their meeting of August 5th, directed staff to return at this meeting with an agenda item to discuss the placement of garbage cans adjacent to the southeast corner of the Dollar General following reports of candy wrappers and trash being thrown on the ground in that area.

He explained that the City's solid waste franchise agreement with Recology Eel River spells out the number and placement of public cans. He stated that he had a conversation with the General Manager of Recology Eel River, who indicated that there

would be no problem in adding services to this location under the current franchise agreement. He also mentioned that Community Development Director Caldwell had a conversation with Dollar General, and they agreed to place a garbage can outside the store.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the subject.

Susanne Stadter-Campbell, 65 Davis St., addressed the Council and said that she spoke to an employee at Dollar General who informed her that they don't put garbage cans because they are a corporation and everything they do has to go through the corporate office. She suggested a garbage can be placed at the school crossing and the Dollar General, and said that there are half-moon cans that could be placed on chain link fences.

Carter/Wilson made a motion to approve the placement of a garbage can at the southeast corner of Dollar General and at the school crossing on Davis St. The motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported on upcoming meetings and events and said that she would be attending a RREDC meeting on August 25th, where they will be working on an update of their Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

She then announced that at the CalCities meeting in Fortuna on Friday, they will have a presentation on California wildfires and fire insurance. She said that the next Chamber of Commerce meeting was rescheduled for September 8th, at the Community Resource Center, a Blood Drive would be held at the Community Resource Center on August 27th from 11-5, August 31st is Overdose Awareness Day, so residents are invited to come to the community Resource Center and paint a rock in honor of someone who has passed from an overdose, and said that the Touch a Truck Event will be on Saturday, September 6th from 11-1 at the Rio Dell Fire Hall.

Councilmember Wilson said that he had no upcoming meetings to report on and thanked staff for contacting Dollar General about the garbage cans.

Councilmember Orr reported that he would be attending an HCAOG meeting on Thursday.

Councilmember Woodall announced that there would be a Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting here tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Carter/Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to the September 2, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

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Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk