

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2025**

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilmember Orr (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Chief of Police Phinney, City Clerk Dunham, and Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel

Absent: Finance Director Sanborn, Community Development Director Caldwell and Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen (excused)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Title: Chief of Police

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 5:00 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.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Proclamation Acknowledging and Thanking Julie Woodall for her Past and Continued Efforts in Beautifying the City

Mayor Garnes read and presented the Proclamation to Councilmember Woodall, thanking her for her past and continued efforts in beautifying the City with the display of beautiful Petunias throughout town.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes invited public comment on non-agenda matters. There was no public comment 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 a separate discussion. No items were removed.

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

- 1) Minutes of the July 1, 2025, Regular Meeting;
- 2) Approve the Placement of a Public Hearing for the Cost Recovery for the Abatement of 530 Third Ave..
- 3) Approve the List of Delinquent Sewer Accounts for Submission to the Humboldt County Auditor-Controller for Placement of Liens on the County Tax Rolls;
- 4) Authorize the Finance Director to Sign and Submit the City's Annual Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Claim to the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG);
- 5) Approve Resolution Nos. 1642-2025 and 1643-2025 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application for the Acquisition of the Davis Street Park from the Rio Dell School District and a Grant Application for Phase III of the Rio Dell Dog Park, including the Proposed Construction of a Half-Court Basketball Court, Picnic Tables, Bike Racks, Landscaping, and Fencing;
- 6) Adopt Ordinance No. 415-2025 Amending Chapter 17, "Zoning" of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) to Update the City's Density Bonus Ordinance to Reflect Changes Made in State Law, Establish Accommodations Request, and Single-Room Occupancy Regulations, and Amend the Town Center (TC) and Residential Multi-Family (RM) Designations to Allow Single Room Occupancy Units; and
- 7) Receive and File the Check Register for June

The motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp reported on recent meetings and activities and said that the City's Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Recology Eel River expires in December 2026. The City has been working with its regional partners to align the timelines on the update of the franchise agreements, with the target date of July 1, 2026, for the implementation, including SB 1383 compliance. As such, staff will be recommending this date for Rio Dell's franchise agreement, six months earlier than the current sunset date. The idea is to come up with standardized language to make the agreements easier to interpret as a whole for each of the jurisdictions. He noted that staff will be looking at issues specific to Rio Dell, noting that there will be unique differences between each of the jurisdictions. Specific issues, including but not limited to, are universal collection, bulky item pickup, the continuation of the annual cleanup event, and the recycling bins. The City Council will receive a presentation on the matter in late August or early September.

He reported that street sweeping was scheduled for Friday, July 25th, and urged residents to park off of Wildwood Avenue and Davis Street on that day.

He then reported that PG&E is moving forward with a utility undergrounding project on Wildwood Avenue between Berkeley and Side Street and said that Rio Dell's Rule 20A funding of approximately \$500,000 has been reallocated to the Rio Dell project, totaling the project to approximately \$2.6 million, which, according to PG&E, is enough to cover the project. He commented that the City's involvement in the project is expected to be minimal, but there may be some additional costs the City may want to consider covering for some of the customer utility boxes.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented that there were more animals than usual transported to Miranda's, which is unfortunate, but some were related to extenuating circumstances.

Councilmember Woodall asked Chief Phinney if there were speed limits for the fast scooters that kids are riding around town. She said that she was listening to a nurse from the emergency room at the hospital who said they were receiving a lot of calls related to accidents on scooters.

Chief Phinney explained that helmet laws apply to scooters as with bicycles, and as far as speed limits, they must obey the posted speed limit signs. He noted that he has seen two main types of standing scooters; one is an adult type that tops out at 25-30 mph, and the kid type razor scooters that top out at around 10 mph.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATION

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported on recent meetings and events and said that on July 25th, *Critters Without Litters* will be at the Fire Hall offering pet wellness exams, including general exams, micro-chips, nail trims, and a multitude of vaccines. She noted that it is a low-cost clinic, but anyone interested in attending would need to make an appointment.

She then provided a brief update on the spay and neuter program and said that from October 2024 to now, they have issued 55 vouchers, 24 of which have been redeemed, billed, and reimbursed by the City. The program has helped spay and neuter 13 dogs and 11 cats. She noted that Rio Dell is the only City in the County that has implemented this type of program, as well as most of the State and Country.

Councilmember Woodall thanked Mayor Pro Tem Carter for everything she does for the animals in the City.

She asked if there would be a Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow. Chief Phinney replied that there would not be a meeting.

Councilmember Wilson reported that he attended an HWMA meeting and would be attending an RCEA meeting next week.

Mayor Garnes reported on her attendance at the HTA Strategic Planning Retreat in Eureka last Friday and said that HTA has a lot of things going on, such as developing new routes connecting to Redding and Sacramento. She noted that the hydrogen buses will be coming online, which is great news.

She said that she would be attending a Seismic Safety Commission meeting in Sacramento on Thursday and proudly announced that Rio Dell was featured in the Western Cities Magazine, talking about the Eel River Trail, which is a great article and something for Rio Dell to be proud of.

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

At 6:19 p.m., Mayor Garnes announced that the Council would be recessing back into closed session to continue the discussion of the above-listed closed session matters.

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:39 p.m. Mayor Garnes announced that there was nothing to report from the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Woodall to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. to the August 5, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk