

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Interim Police Chief Landry, Community Development Director Caldwell, Wastewater Superintendent Kelly and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Finance Director Sanborn and Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen (excused)

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. No items were removed.

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

- 1) Minutes of the November 5, 2024 Regular meeting;
- 2) Proposal for one-time extension and training for the Rio Dell Bio-Scrub by BCR Environmental for \$14,759.00;
- 3) Proposed American Rescue Plan (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLWSF) Program Funds Allocation;
- 4) Authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Regional Government Services Authority in coordination with the City Attorney for an amount not to exceed \$60,000; and
- 5) Receive and File the Check Register for October.

Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and provided a brief storm update. He said that the Eel River at Scotia was expected to rise to 42' with possible

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flooding in the low-lying areas of Ferndale. Likely local impacts would be related to power, internet, and traffic conditions due to downed trees.

He reported that the Wastewater Collection System camera inspections (CCTV) were completed with some immediate and easily correctable Inflow & Infiltration (I & I) sources identified.

Staff met with regulators from the State Water Resources Control Board related to the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and ongoing I & I concerns.

He announced that there would be a Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., followed by a Traffic Committee meeting on December 4, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

He then reported that at the request of CalTrans, staff is doing research regarding the S. Sequoia Ave./Grayland Heights bridge as part of the State's effort to evaluate local bridges for seismic safety. He said that it is not clear whether the bridge was dedicated to the City as part of the annexation and subdivision of Grayland Heights or if it is privately owned.

Councilmember Wilson asked if the City is responsible for the maintenance of the bridge.

City Manager Knopp indicated that ownership of the bridge is unclear and it could be privately owned however, if there were a catastrophic failure, those residents would likely turn to the City for a solution. He noted that staff is still researching the history of the bridge and if there was an official dedication of the bridge to the City, there would be a recorded Offer of Acceptance filed with the County.

Councilmember Wilson referred to the City's Solid Waste Agreement and said that the City's waiver on SB 1383 compliance would be slated to expire in 2025 and asked if the City received an extension.

City Manager Knopp said that staff met today with the Franchise holder (Recology Eel River) and the consultant working with the City on the new Franchise Agreement and was told that the agreement would expire on December 31, 2026. He explained that the goal is to come back to the Council in January or February 2025 and outline some of the City's options. One option would be to maintain the baseline services with some minor modifications or possibly move to Universal Collection although there would likely be a cost increase, possibly as much as 50% because of the cost of new equipment and supplies. He said that the first step is to gather information so the Council can make an informed decision.

Mayor Garnes asked staff if the foundation on the house at 4 Painter St. was a continuous perimeter foundation.

Community Development Director Caldwell explained that it is a continuous perimeter foundation and that the builder is actually installing a block foundation with #5 rebar instead of #4 rebar so it is actually being over-built. He indicated that they are doing a great job with the rebuild and was glad to see the house being repaired after the earthquake instead of being demolished.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Appointment of Two (2) Council Members (Carter and Woodall) to Serve on a Rio Dell School District/Davis St. Park Ad Hoc

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said that Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Councilmember Woodall have recently been attending Rio Dell School Board meetings where the topic of a new plan for Davis St. Park has gained attention. He noted that the Davis St. Park is currently owned by the School District who may be interested in the surplus or selling of the property for future development by the City as a more formal public park facility. The appointment of the Ad Hoc will formalize the City representatives to work with the District on the subject.

A motion was made by Orr/Carter to approve the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Councilmember Woodall to an Ad Hoc Committee on the subject of the Davis Street Park and Rio Dell School District. Motion carried 5-0.

Ratify the Selection of the Artist for the Eel River Trail Community Art Installation

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said that on Saturday, November 9th, and Tuesday, November 12th, community voting sessions were held at City Hall for the selection of the artist for the Eel River Trail community art installation. There was a total of 13 artist submissions with local area artist Blake Reagan being the overall pick from 38 total voters. Following closely behind Blake Reagan were artists Laci Dane and Kim Reid. He commented that Blake is known as a prolific mural artist locally and recently painted the owl mural on the corner of Monument Rd. and Wildwood Ave.

His vision for the art depicted native species including a Blue Herron with the Eel River Valley in the background with the Redwood Forest skyline and Marbled Murrelets tucked into a nearby redwood tree. The art would be focused on the river and the surrounding forest, being the habitat for many species. He would also work with the school kids with the art tiles on each side of the center art piece depicting a chosen animal on one side and native plants on the other side.

City Manager Knopp extended special thanks to Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Councilmember Woodall for volunteering to staff the vote submission sessions.

Mayor Garnes thanked the community for coming out to vote on the artist and to Councilmember Wilson and his wife for participating in the process.

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A motion was made by Woodall/Carter to ratify the selection of artist Blake Reagan for the community art installation. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Cancellation of the December 17, 2024 Regular Meeting

City Manager Knopp provided a brief staff report and said that more often than not, the second City Council meeting in December is canceled unless there is urgent business to come before the Council. He said at this time there is no urgent business pending however, should something urgent come up, a special meeting could be called.

A motion was made by Woodall/Carter to approve the cancellation of the December 17, 2024, regular City Council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Second Reading (by title only) and Adoption of Ordinance No. 409-2024 amending Section 17.30.360(4) of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Vacation Dwelling Unit Regulations appeal period to be consistent with Section 17.35.060 of the RDMC

Community Development Director Caldwell provided a staff report recommending approval of a minor text amendment to the Vacation Dwelling Unit Regulations appeal period to be consistent with Section 17.35.060 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code.

Mayor Garnes opened a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed text amendment. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Woodall/Carter to approve the second reading (by title only) and Adoption of Ordinance No. 409-2024 amending Section 17.30.360(4) of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Vacation Dwelling Unit Regulations appeal period to be consistent with Section 17.35.060 of the RDMC. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported on upcoming meetings and events and said that she would be attending a RREDC meeting in Arcata on Monday and announced that there would be a pet vaccine clinic held at the Rio Dell Fire Hall on Monday, November 25, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In addition to vaccines, there will be flea, tick and worm medicine available and micro-chipping for anyone interested in having their animal chipped.

She also extended special thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Resource Center, the Rio Dell Fire Department, California Conservation Corp (CCC), and any other volunteers for their participation in putting up the Christmas decorations.

She requested the Parks Community Survey results be placed on the next agenda. The Council concurred. She then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Councilmember Orr announced that this month's HCAOG meeting is a closed session via Zoom. He also extended thanks to the community for the Christmas decorations and said that it warmed the heart of their little exchange student who can hardly wait for Christmas.

Councilmember Wilson announced that he would be attending a RCEA meeting tomorrow and reported on the November 14th HWMA meeting where the board approved issuing an RFP to identify the requirements for having a processing facility in the county related to SB 1383 compliance.

Mayor Garnes and Councilmember Woodall also extended thanks to everyone that participated in putting up the Christmas decorations, noting that it was a great team effort.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Woodall to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. to the December 3, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk