

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 5, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Garnes.

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

Absent: Councilmember Woodall (excused)

Others Present: Chief of Police Allen, Finance Director Sanborn, Wastewater Superintendent Kelly, Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel, and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Community Development Director Caldwell (excused)

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

Conference with Labor Negotiator – Kyle Knopp, City Manager – Rio Dell Employees Association, Rio Dell Peace Officers Association and all Contract Employees Pursuant to Gov't Code §54957

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION**

No public comment was received.

**RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION**

The Council recessed into closed session with City Manager Knopp and Finance Director Sanborn at 5:30 p.m.

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

The Council reconvened into open session at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Garnes announced that there was nothing to report out of 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 councilmember, staff or member of the public would like to

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remove any item from the consent calendar for a separate discussion. No items were removed.

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

- 1) Minutes of the February 20, 2024 regular meeting;
- 2) Resolution No. 1598-2024 Authorizing the Application for a Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant for a Housing Condition Survey

Motion carried 4-0.

**REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Knopp provided a staff update and reported that the City weathered the most recent storm system fairly well compared to other neighboring areas. There were no major long-term power outages, very few traffic incidents, and the wastewater system held up well with no reported Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO's).

Councilmember Wilson mentioned today's voting process and noted that there is no longer a voting precinct in Rio Dell. He asked staff to pursue getting a voting center in Rio Dell, or at least a voter drop-off box which would benefit both Rio Dell and Scotia residents.

City Manger Knopp agreed to reach out to the Registrar of Voters, Juan Cervantes at County Elections to get information.

**SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Authorize the City Manager to Develop and Issue Bid for 2024 Street Resurfacing Work

City Manager Knopp provided a rough project site map of both earthquake related repairs and non-earthquake related repairs. He explained that the bid for this work would be structured to include non-earthquake related repairs as additive items. He added that earthquake related repairs are eligible for CDAA funding at a 75-25 State-Local share with the future possibility of the State funding 100 percent of the earthquake related repairs.

He said that as the Council is aware, there are roads that sustained earthquake related damages. These were subdivided into two separate categories. He said that Federal Highway Authority streets which do not appear on the list, and would not be part of the bid, included Blue Slide, Belleview, Pacific and Monument Rd. These will be funded under a different funding source through the Federal government and will come back to the Council at a future date.

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He explained that in this year's budget, the Council appropriated \$100,000 for pavement repairs and there is an additional \$8,000 planned to be secured through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The remaining balance would come from the Streets funds.

He noted that one street in particular that was taken off the no pave list because of needed infrastructure repairs was Elm St. The damaged water lines as a result of the earthquake were repaired so that street is now eligible for paving.

He said in discussing it with the Streets Superintendent, staff is recommending adding some spot repairs to a few different locations; one is adjacent to Elm St. on Wildwood Ave., some improvements to some small sections on Center St. near the school, and some minor repairs on Rigby Ave.

City Manager Knopp explained that the idea is to put the project out to bid with primary work being the earthquake related repairs and non-related earthquake as additives. He said that this ties back to the Council's paving list to not pave streets that would need to be immediately dug up.

He noted that after the capital projects for the water system are completed in 2024, there should be an array of new streets that come off of that list and can be paved. He said that one of the big questions is financing of those projects with potential problems with the General Fund being able to cover those costs. He noted that there is still the pending work to Monument Road as a result of the 2017 storm damage and pending reimbursement from the Federal Government which could be extremely long. He said that there are other damage related issues that the General Fund might have to pick up.

Mayor Garnes referred to the damage of the Painter St. overpass as a result of the earthquake and asked for the status of that repair.

City Manager Knopp said that the project is lined up for a STIP grant and the City was awarded between \$700,000-\$800,000 for sidewalk expansion in that particular area along with a crosswalk across Painter St. with an ADA landing. The engineering portion of the project has been funded but there may be some right-of-way work that needs to be done and from there, construction could begin relatively soon.

Councilmember Wilson asked if any of the slurry seal projects would be covered under the earthquake reimbursement grants.

City Manager Knopp noted that slurry seal projects would not be covered under the earthquake related reimbursements but the City did get some crack sealing covered under FHA on sections of roads including Belleview, Pacific and Blue Slide Road.

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Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the proposed bid and associated work. No public comment was received.

Motion was made by Orr/Carter authorizing the City Manager to develop and issue the bid for the 2024 Street Resurfacing Work. Motion carried 4-0.

**ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Second Reading (by title only) and Adoption of Ordinance No. 404-2024 amending the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Establishing a Cannabis Cultivation Tax Guarantee

City Manager Knopp recommended the final reading and adoption of the ordinance be continued to the March 19, 2024 regular meeting as staff received some additional comments from the City Attorney which would need to be incorporated into the ordinance.

Motion was made by Carter/Wilson to continue consideration and possible adoption of the ordinance to the March 19, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

**COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported that she attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting and they formed a sub-committee within the Chamber to try and modernize processes and come up with creative ways to help businesses in which she is now a member.

She announced that the Community Resource Center is holding a volunteer fair on March 13, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. with volunteers from various organizations setting up tables in attempt to showcase what they do and try to recruit volunteers from our community. She said if anyone is willing to donate even an hour of their time a week to please come and listen to what they have to say.

She then reported that she is now on the Board of Directors for COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) and as they move forward she is very happy to be a voice for the community on that board.

She also attended a RREDC meeting on February 26, 2024 where the board received an update about efforts to open access to broadband.

She said that she also attended Blue Lake Rancheria's Disaster Preparedness Academy over the weekend which was very educational, and would be attending a Cal Cities Redwood Empire Division meeting in Willits on Friday.

Councilmember Orr said that he had nothing to report but wanted to congratulate the Monument Middle School. He said that they went to the JC Basketball and Cheer Competition in Crescent City and both teams placed.

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Councilmember Wilson announced that on the RCEA Board, there is a Citizens Advisory Committee and they are reaching out for a representative from Rio Dell to fill that vacancy. The committee gets together and talks about ideas to pass along to RCEA. He said if anyone is interested in serving, to contact him or the City Manager for an application. He noted that they meet quarterly.

Mayor Garnes reported that she would be attending an HTA meeting tomorrow and also attending the Cal Cities Redwood Empire Division meeting in Willits on Friday.

She reminded everyone of the March 19, 2024 virtual meeting with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) hearing related to AT&T's landline services, from 2-6 p.m. She said that the rural areas would be affected the most if landline services are eliminated.

She said that she also attended the Disaster Preparedness Academy at Blue Lake Rancheria and that it was very good. She thanked Humboldt Area Foundation for providing the grant for lunches for both days and thanked Blue Lake Rancheria for providing the training and disaster kits that contained approximately \$200 in emergency related merchandise.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Carter/Orr to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to the March 19, 2024 regular meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

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Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

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Karen Dunham, City Clerk