

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

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

ROLL CALL: Present: (Closed Session) Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, Councilmembers Wilson, and Woodall, City Manager Knopp, and City Attorney Gans

Absent: Councilmember Orr

Present: (Regular Meeting) Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, Councilmembers Orr, Wilson, and Woodall

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

Absent: Community Development Director Caldwell (Attended Remotely)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation – City Manager under Gov't Code §54957

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Garnes invited public comment regarding the closed session. No public comment was received.

The Council recessed into a closed session at 5:00 p.m. with City Manager Knopp and City Attorney Gans.

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 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 October 17, 2023 regular meeting;
- 2) Resolution No. 1592-2023 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Various Agreements with Caltrans;
- 3) Resolution No. 1593-2023 Amending the Master Fee Schedule to Incorporate the Police Departments Recently-Adopted Animal Control Fees and Parking Violation Fees;
- 4) Receive and File Update on the Status of the Regional Climate Action Plan and Approve the Recommended Modifications that will Result in a Qualified Climate Action Plan; and
- 5) Approve Employment Agreement for Wastewater Superintendent and Authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement.

Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and said that the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a one-page information sheet that includes loan and grant opportunities for victims of the 2022 Ferndale Earthquake and/or the 2022/23 Winter Storms to make vital repairs to their homes. He said that the flyer will go out to residents in the next City Newsletter and the County Emergency Services will also be distributing the flyer as well as the Disaster Case Managers. He added that this is a new piece of the disaster recovery framework and loans and/or grants will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the potential for reimbursement for repairs already completed.

Mayor Garnes said that she also provided copies of the flyer to Sarah at the Community Resource Center.

City Manager Knopp said that staff has also been working with GHD to collate a list of project study reports for future road projects including Second Ave. that will hopefully speed up the process of future grant applications for various funding sources, primarily through HCAOG. An agenda item will be coming to the Council for approval to move that forward.

He said that another thing important to note is that at the Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting on November 14, 2023, the committee will be reviewing and considering a Rental Housing Inspection Ordinance. The Nuisance Advisory Committee has been working on a rental housing inspection proposal over the past few months and the draft language has gone to the City Attorney for a cursory review and is scheduled to go to the Planning Commission for review on November 28, 2023. Depending on the interactions with

these committees, staff expects to have an informational presentation to the Council on December 5, 2023 with the draft ordinance for consideration for adoption sometime in January.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented that there was no staff update included in the packet for the Police Department and asked Chief Allen if he had anything to report.

Chief Allen noted that the department had been extremely busy with several violent crimes over the past couple of weeks, many of which are still being investigated. He agreed to put a written copy of the update in City Council mailboxes.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Authorize Staff to Rebid the Gateway Project

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said that in discussions with staff of the Clean California Grant Program, they expressed concern with the bid numbers as submitted, noting that they were a little high in certain categories. They thought it would be advisable to rebid the project with some minor modifications to the bid document to try and get more contractors to bid on the project since only one bid was received with the first bid process. He added that staff is looking at the timeline and working with Clean California in terms of adjusting timelines for the project.

He said that the City did receive a \$5,000 grant from PG&E but unfortunately did not receive the \$20,750 grant from Coast Central Credit Union as there were reportedly a record number of requests for charitable donations with limited funding.

He explained that the bid would remain largely the same with some minor modifications to the due dates for certain requirements in the bid package.

Councilmember Wilson asked if there was a deadline for completion of the project.

City Manager Knopp said that the project must be delivered by June 30, 2024 with the possibility of an extension.

Mayor Garnes pointed out that Coast Central Credit Union did award a grant to the Rio Dell Fire Department for playground equipment which was much appreciated.

Motion was made by Woodall/Carter to authorize staff to rebid the Gateway Project. Motion carried 5-0.

Authorize Staff to Issue an Amended Bid Related to the Rio Dell Dog Park

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said that this is another project where there is a very specific scope and available dollars to deliver the project. The project budget is just under \$200,000 and the original bids came back in the neighborhood of \$700,000. As such, staff worked with the Adhoc committee to strip back the project and focus on the bare bones, including removal of the half-court basketball court.

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He said that given the recent earthquake situation and the financial aspect being slightly murky, staff is recommending that the funding be focused on the dog park component of the project while still leaving space available for future implementation of the half-court basketball facility. This would include the dog park component, fencing, walkways, parking and more of a phased-in implementation of the total project. Depending on possible future grant opportunities or a change in the City's financial outlook, the half-court might be able to be added at a later date.

He said that at this point, the City has other projects in the que that may encounter some similar turbulence in terms of costs exceeding the original engineers estimates.

Councilmember Wilson asked if there was a way for the City to do parts of the project.

City Manager Knopp said that with this particular bid package, the City will have the ability to pick and choose the items that the contractor bids on. He said that there will be the need for some level of cement work but perhaps the parking lot paving could be eliminated. Once the bids are received, staff will look at what items could possibly be scaled back. He noted that staff will be doing the water connection for the project which will cut down on some of the costs as well as other potential items.

Motion was made by Carter/Orr to authorize the City Manager to issue an amended bid for the Dog Park Request for Proposal (RFP). Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported that she attended a RREDC meeting on October 23, 2023 where they heard from the Redwood Region RISE. She said that both she and Greg Foster spoke up for Rio Dell regarding infrastructure needs of the City.

She announced that there would be an Emergency Preparedness Faire this Saturday, November 11th from 1-3 p.m. at the Community Resource Center in an effort to help the community be more prepared during a disaster.

She also reported that she would be attending a Rio Dell School Board meeting this Thursday, November 9th and said that the Nuisance Advisory Committee was moved up to November 15th with the Beautification, Walkability and Pride Committee meeting on November 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Councilmember Woodall thanked everyone who helped put together the Trunk & Treat event at the Fire Hall and said that it was a wonderful community event. She expressed special thanks to the Public Works Department for all of their work over the past week.

She then commented on the damaged section of sidewalk coming off of the Painter St. overpass and asked if that is Caltrans or the City's responsibility to repair.

City Manager Knopp said that the repair is scheduled as part of the STIP funded sidewalk improvement plan and there will also be a crosswalk added at that intersection over to Ireland Ave.

Councilmember Woodall asked if there was a way to do a temporary fix to avoid someone from potentially falling.

City Manager Knopp said that staff would take a look at it to see what could be done.

Councilmember Wilson said that with the upcoming holidays, the RCEA regular meetings were moved to the third Thursdays in November and December.

Councilmember Orr reported that at last month's HCAOG meeting, the two main topics covered were both related to transit. He said that they are pushing use of the chip card and they are starting a trial on the dial-a-ride program similar to Uber or Lyft which is primarily for the elderly and needy now but they will be branching out to everyone.

Mayor Garnes reported on the last HTA meeting and said that there was an update on projects. She said that on October 1, 2023, the Micro Transit kicked into gear and there is a "Ride Humboldt" app that people can access to sign up for dial-a-ride which provides a more direct route to the various stops.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Woodall to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to the November 21, 2023 regular meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk