

City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California USA

City Council Minutes for February 2, 2012

Mayor Jeffrey Farley called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:02p.m. Present were Councilmen Niels Lorenzen, Ken Mierzwa, and John Maxwell, along with staff City Manager Jay Parrish, Deputy City Clerk Brianna Smith, Chief Wastewater Operator Doug Culbert, Police Chief Bret Smith, and City Engineer Praj White. Councilmen Stuart Titus was absent. Those present pledged allegiance to the flag. The Deputy City Clerk called roll call. Modifications to the agenda: City Manager Parrish asked that the order of business items be switched from 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d to 11b, 11d, 11c, and 11a.

Ceremonial: City Manager Jay Parrish read the Lemonade Day Proclamation as well as the Engineer's Week Proclamation. Mayor Farley presented the Engineer's Week Proclamation to Praj White staff City Engineer.

Consent Calendar: MOTION: (Maxwell/Mierzwa) Accept Accounts Payable and Approve the minutes for January 5, 2012 meeting. Motion passed unanimously with an (uncounted) abstention from Lorenzen.

Presentations: Judy Warren gave a presentation on Earthquakes. She briefly discussed a few training programs offered to help citizens become better prepared for a disaster. Mrs. Warren went over the handouts that she brought with her; Living on Shaky Ground, Disaster Preparedness, and How to Survive a Tsunami. She stressed that planning and practicing for disasters ahead of time is a very good idea. Chief Wastewater Operator Doug Culbert gave a presentation on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He took us through a timeline of the 12 year journey of the WWTP and then showed a slide show of pictures of the Wastewater Treatment Plant as the project began to completion.

Approval of City Attorney: City Manager Jay Parrish introduced Russ Gans. Mr. Gans gave brief background on Mitchell, Brisso, Delaney & Vriese law firm. He also expressed his excitement and optimism to work with the City of Ferndale. MOTION:(Maxwell/Mierzwa) Approve contract for the City Attorney. Unanimous.

Approval of New Planning Commissioner: MOTION:(Farley/Maxwell) Appoint Uffe Christiansen to the Planning Commission and direct Deputy City Clerk to give him Oath of Office and provide him with materials, including ethics training course. Unanimous. Oath of Office will be given at the next regular Planning Commission meeting 2/22/2012.

Plastic Bag Ordinance: Councilmen John Maxwell gave background on HWMA's want for a Plastic Bag Ordinance. It's estimated that Californians pay about \$200 per household each year in state and local fees and taxes to fund our public works to clean up litter. Councilmen Maxwell explained that HWMA wants to consult with each member agency to determine the components of a plastic bag ban that the agency would be interested in. Bret Whitnell from HWMA discussed HWMA's struggle on whether to do a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or to pursue a CEQA Negative Declaration. Vanessa Vasquez of Humboldt Bay Keepers spoke to the Council and urged them to support the ban on plastic bags and what a negative impact that plastic bags have not only on the environment, but wildlife as well. Chuck Schager from ERD also spoke about the issue surrounding plastic bags and that there is a need to educate people on recycling properly.

Accept Resolution 2012-08 General Plan Housing Element Update: MOTION:(Mierzwa/Maxwell) Accept Resolution 2012-08 General Plan Housing Element Update. Unanimous

Council Reports: The issue of Council members not being able to talk with the public about the wind turbines was brought up. City Manager Jay Parrish explained that a few months ago the Council had directed the Mayor and City Manager not to meet with Shell Wind unless it was in a public setting. Was this a vote? It was explained that it was not a vote it was just discussed by Council. Concerns about transparency from the community were

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discussed and that discussions about the Shell Wind project should be talked about where public can participate. Council discussed having some form of guideline for staff to have the most communications with representatives from Shell Wind. It was explained that we all need to weigh in on this matter and we do not want the appearance of backroom deals because it's unfair to the community. City Manager Jay Parrish explained that negotiations would be inappropriate to make without direction from the Council, but getting updates and information would certainly help in getting the Council up to date quickly as possible, whereas right now he is removed from that possibility because he is not allowed to speak with them. Mayor Farley discussed that he would like to see directive so that at least the City Manager be allowed to talk with Shell Wind. Planning Commissioner Jorgen Von Frausing-Borch spoke about the perceived notion that staff and Council are making backroom deals. He agrees that City staff has a right to speak with Shell Wind to get updates. It was explained that if Council allows some conversations between staff and Shell Wind that it should be done carefully because we don't want the wrong perception sent out to the community and the people who are concerned with the motivations of Shell Wind. It was suggested that City Manager let the Council know beforehand that he's meeting with Shell and after the meeting give some kind of report to Council to let them know what took place.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Smith

Deputy City Clerk