

**City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.**  
Approved Minutes for City Council Meeting of January 19, 2022

Mayor Hindley called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm via Zoom Video Conference. Those present did the flag salute. Present were Council Members Stephen Avis, Leonard Lund, Phillip Ostler, and Robin Smith, along with staff: City Manager Jay Parrish, Police Chief Ron Sligh, City Planners Vanessa Blodgett and Krystle Heaney, and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Report out of Closed Session: Mayor Hindley stated a closed session was held prior to the council meeting and no action was taken during that session.

Ceremonial: None.

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: Several members of the public spoke of an issue regarding the use of the Ferndale Community Center. Public Members spoke in favor of the Community Center being used by the Ferndale Children's Center for their after-school program. Mayor Hindley stated that the Ferndale Senior Resource Center had a proposed contract that was drawn up and given to the Children's Center Board. Public Members also spoke on their concerns of continuing the program. Public Members also stated that the contract drawn up was quite lengthy and somewhat unreasonable.

Another public member spoke on the Per Capita Grant and the projects proposed at Russ Park. The public member also spoke on some other grants that were available and the due dates coming up on those.

Consent Calendar: There were three items on the Consent Calendar for approval. There were no questions from the council or public.

**MOTION**: to approve the consent calendar. **(Lund/Avis) Unanimous**

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation:

Update on California Sewer Replacement Project: Paul Gregson gave an update on the California Sewer Replacement. Gregson stated that the city was awarded a \$326,000. grant to replace failing sewers on California St. Gregson stated that they are hoping for construction to possibly begin in September but stated concerns on rising costs and supply shortages. Gregson went over the project replacement details. Mayor Hindley questioned why we are waiting until September to begin. Gregson stated it is because the groundwater is so high on California Street. Gregson went over the Sewer Improvements Grant. Gregson stated he had met with the State Archeology experts and they plan on having a report in approximately 3 months. Gregson added that once this is done the state can start processing the grant. Gregson added that the \$5.6 million grant, to his knowledge, will be available for repairs. Councilman Avis questioned the writing of the grant. Gregson stated that there were a few people assisting in writing this grant.

Public Hearing- None

Business:

Land Use Element and SB2 Projects Update: City Planner Vanessa Blodgett gave a presentation on the SB2 grant funds and planning projects. Blodgett explained the SB2 grant provided funding for several planning documents including Land Use, CEQA Compliance for Land Use and other draft elements, Zoning Code Amendments, ADU Pre-Approved Plans, and Drainage Master Plan Update. Blodgett stated that the Safety Element was being updated and was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their January Meeting. Blodgett added that the Drainage Master Plan was also being updated and they are anticipating having a draft document in Spring time. Blodgett explained the Land Use Element and what it does for the city and the importance of updating it. Blodgett added that the Land Use Element has not been updated since 1986. Blodgett went over the current land uses and housing unit mixes. Blodgett stated that the goal of the city would be to offer a diversity of housing to accommodate all income levels. Smith questioned the designation of land for the multi family use. Blodgett prepared a map that went over some possible areas. Blodgett went over the progress on the Land Use update and the next steps. Blodgett also explained that over the next few months they will be reaching out for public input and public engagement. Councilman Avis questioned how the public will be made aware of these documents. Blodgett stated that these are public hearings and notices were sent to the newspaper and on the public boards. Avis suggested reaching out to the newspaper and making these notices more eye catching. Avis also questioned if there will be a separate zoning and land use map. Blodgett stated that they are currently discussing this. Councilman Smith stated concerns on the process and the importance of the Council being involved in the rezoning especially in the R-3 and R-4 districts. A member of the public stated his support of affordable housing. Councilman Avis stated that rezoning is always challenging but allows properties in the future to be redeveloped in more ways than they currently can. Avis added that this is done by the Zoning Regulations/Ordinance. Avis also stated that changes do not happen at once but over a long period of time.

Resolution 2022-01 Approving the Annual Events and Parades for 2022: Mayor Hindley asked for public and council comments. Mayor Hindley stated his concerns on the Kinetic Sculpture Race Event and the Memorial Parade conflicting. Hindley asked that staff contact the Kinetic Sculpture Race and ask them to change their finish time to 1:00pm to allow more time for the Memorial Day Parade to be finished. City Planner Krystle Heaney also stated that the Tour of the Unknown Coast was taking place this year on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. Staff will make the change. **MOTION:** to Approve Resolution 2020-01 approving the Annual Events and Parades for January – December 2022 with the proposed changes. **(Avis/Lund) Unanimous**

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated the number extremely high at this time and we have worked our way through several variants of the virus. Parrish added that we are still looking at a serious situation and the city should continue the local emergency. Parrish stated the importance of social distancing, mask wearing, and vaccination. Councilman Smith stated his concerns on the Eel River Valley vaccination and case rates. Smith stated that this variant is highly contagious and is just as deadly. Smith added the importance of taking this serious. **MOTION:** to reconfirm the existence of the local emergency and reconfirm the

findings of Resolution 2021-21 to continue the use of virtual meetings. **(Avis/Smith)**  
**Unanimous**

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: None

Reports:

City Managers Report: Councilman Avis asked Parrish for an update on the Prop 68 Recreation Grant and asked if a copy could be provided of the application. Parrish stated they were currently working to finish getting the grant submitted by tomorrow at noon. Avis asked how much the city would be asking for. Parrish stated the city was asking for 1.6 million. Avis also questioned the Per Capita Grant. Parrish stated there were a lot of items in that grant that were requested by a member of the public for Russ Park. Parrish added that any funds for this project that go over the requested amount would have to be out of city funds. City Planner Krystle Heaney also added that the city did get the grant submitted on time and the projects list included pretty much everything and also added they will continue to work on these grants and projects list.

Other Reports: Councilman Avis stated he was glad to see the Drainage Master Plan moving along.

Mayor Hindley adjourned the meeting at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall  
City Clerk