

**City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.**  
Approved Minutes for City Council Meeting of February 16, 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, and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Report out of Closed Session: None

Ceremonial: None.

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: A member of the public spoke of an issue regarding the Ferndale Children's Center and its proposed use of the Ferndale Community Center.

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. **(Avis/Lund) Unanimous**

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation:

Climate Action Plan (CAP): City Manager Jay Parrish explained the countywide process of the Climate Action Plan. Parrish explained by all cities and the county joining together, Ferndale was able to save a substantial amount of money to put this plan together. Parrish also stated that each city will have specific actions and goals. Parrish turned the presentation over to Michael Richardson. Richardson displayed a PowerPoint presentation that went over the CAP. Richardson explained the project goal was to have a regional CAP adopted by each jurisdiction to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) throughout the county. Richardson also provided a timeline that included a CAP adoption goal of August 2023. Richardson also discussed countywide GHG inventory taken in 2015 that showed the largest GHG was from transportation. Richardson also showed the emissions by each jurisdiction in which Ferndale was only 1% of this inventory. Richardson explained the county is trying to reach the state target goal of 40% below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Richardson went over GHG reduction strategies. Richardson explained the CAP planning steps which were: Develop GHG inventory; Reach out and Communicate; Set Goals and Actions; Obtain Resources; Take Action; and Track and Report. Councilman Avis questioned if there was a breakdown for just Ferndale similar to the countywide breakdown provided for 2015 and if the goal of 30% is countywide or just for each jurisdiction. Richardson stated that the cities and county are all in this together so it is a countywide goal. Avis also questioned updates to the CAP. Richardson stated that it will need updates as things change.

Ferndale Chamber of Commerce Update: Chamber President Thomas Stratton, Treasurer Paul Beatie, Secretary Kristie Fellows and Chamber Member Pat Willie did a PowerPoint

presentation for the council. Stratton reminded the council and community that the Chamber is made up of volunteers. Stratton discussed how the Chamber is promoting Ferndale which includes tracking the website (visitferndale.com) and the each if the individual pages on the website. Stratton also discussed the Chambers Facebook page stating that it has 4061 followers which was an increase of 13% over 2021. Stratton also discussed the Instagram account which was also up 15.6% during the last 3 months of 2021. Beatie discussed some of the articles and Interviews that promoted Ferndale recently. Chambers discussed the chamber memberships and stated the 21-22 goal had been met. Stratton discussed the success of the 2021 holiday season. Willie discussed the upcoming Concours' on Main scheduled for September 11, 2022. Stratton discussed the importance of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and how much it helps pay for services that all residents utilize. The Council thanked the Chamber for all it does and its presentation.

Public Hearing- None

Business:

Resolution 2022-02 Authorizing the City Manager to Submit Application for CalRecycle Grants: City Manager Jay Parrish discussed a grant that the city is currently looking into to assist with regulations under AB1383. The \$20,000 grant will assist with planning and requires a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for CalRecycle Grants. Councilman Avis asked Parrish to explain the requirements of Organic Waste and the difference in Green Waste. Parrish stated that there are many aspects of it, one being for stores would allow them to give the organics to someone that will hand them out to others. Parrish added that another aspect is what you have at home and at restaurants, transportation of the organics and how its handled safely. Parrish added that Green Waste is not the same thing and some cities mix Organics and Green Waste together, but it can be problematic because it breaks down differently.

Contract Renewal for City Auditor: City Manager Parrish explained to the council that the company the city has used for many years has done an excellent job. Parrish added that with our new finance person, it would be nice to continue with this auditing firm. Parrish also explained that the firm had mentioned in the past they may not be doing audits much longer but will continue for at least this year. Mayor Hindley added that the State has put certain requirements for CPA's to do audits and the requirements are very expensive to obtain which could be why they are getting out of the auditing side. **MOTION:** to Approve the Contract renewal of JJACP for the City Auditor. **(Avis/Lund) Unanimous**

Contract Renewal for City Attorney: City Manager Parrish explained that the city has been with Ryan Plotz and with the Mitchell Law Firm, LLP now for a quite few years and that the firm does a very good job. There were no questions or comments from the public or Council. **MOTION:** to approve the renewal of the City Attorney contract with The Mitchell Law Firm, LLP. **(Lund/Smith) Unanimous**

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated that though the numbers nationwide show they are going down, they are still high and concerning. Parrish added that he is hopeful the council will continue a little longer with keeping to Zoom meetings and City Hall open by appointment only to ensure another variant will not become dominant and future

outbreaks and closures. Parrish also added that being a rural community, the numbers seem to be higher and vaccination rates are not as high as they should be. Councilman Smith thanked Parrish for his report. Smith stated that Humboldt County is rated as a community with a high rate of community transmission. Smith went over current transmission rates and the increase in cases from just a month ago. Smith added that the numbers are much higher due to many people also doing home tests that are not being reported. Smith stated concerns on the long-term effects of COVID and what is still to come. Smith also recommended to everyone to get vaccinated. Councilman Avis sent out a plea to everyone to consider the impact on healthcare workers. Avis also sent out his appreciation for all the healthcare workers and their hard work they have put in the last couple years. Councilman Smith suggested the council do a proclamation for all the healthcare workers in the community thanking them for their countless hours and hard work. Mayor Hindley directed staff to devise a Proclamation for next month's City Council Meeting. **MOTION:** to reconfirm the existence of the local emergency and reconfirm the findings of Resolution 2021-21 to continue the use of virtual meetings. **(Smith/Ostler) Unanimous**

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: None

Reports:

City Managers Report: Councilman Lund expressed his appreciation for the thorough report and thanked Parrish for putting the instruction in for the council on how to get questions answered easily. Councilman Avis also thanked Parrish for the report and stated his appreciation for the "key milestones" section and also his "Covid" report. Avis also commended him on a few other topics of concern.

Other Reports: None

Mayor Hindley adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall  
City Clerk