

**City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.**  
APPROVED Minutes for City Council Meeting of May 18, 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: A Proclamation was read by City Clerk Kristene Hall Declaring May as Older Americans Month.

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: Mary Ann Bansen of the Senior Resource Center thanked that council for the Older Americans Proclamation. Bansen stated that currently the Ferndale Senior Resource Agency (FSRA) assists 291 people and also is assisting 28 others in receiving home care which allow them to remain in their own homes instead of a skilled care facility.

Consent Calendar: There were four items on the Consent Calendar for approval. There were no questions or comments from the Council or Public.

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

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing:

Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-01 Approving the Military Equipment Use Policy: City Manager Jay Parrish stated Police Chief Ron Sligh and City Attorney Ryan Plotz went into detail last month on this Ordinance. There were no other comments from the Council or Public.

**MOTION:** to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2022-01 Military Equipment Use Policy, by title only. **(Avis/Lund) Unanimous**

Business:

Recommend to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to move the Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) into the Environmental Review Phase: City Manager Jay Parrish went over the work the committee has put into this plan. Parrish added that this was only to consider moving this into the Environmental Review process and is not to approve it in its entirety. Humboldt County CAP representative Michael Richardson was present and also explained to the council that this agenda item was to review the document and to point out any “fatal flaws” in the document or anything that would warrant the committee reviewing the document further. Richardson added that this is the time also that the document really starts to get public review and comments as well. Councilman Avis asked Richardson to explain “Industrial Point Source Pollution”.

Richardson explained it is emissions from stationary sources. Avis also questioned if the CAP document was a general document for all cities or if each city would have its own catered document. Richardson stated that each city would need to adopt the CAP and that document will include chapters that will have each city in it. Councilman Smith questioned the new “fish factory” and its impact on this report. Richardson stated that it would need to meet requirements for this. Councilman Lund stated that a lot of things will change from now until 2045, and also will need to deal with previous issues as well. Mayor Hindley questioned if the trees are being taken into account that eat up a lot of our emissions. Richardson stated that there are measures in the document and are hoping to get funding to put more research into the science necessary to get those figures put into the CAP. Hindley also questioned the document that proposes to do away with propane. Hindley stated that many people in rural areas rely on this especially when power goes out for multiple days. Richardson agreed and stated that this will be addressed when more public review and comments are received. Hindley added that the council is only voting to move the CAP to the environmental review phase and are not approving the document in its entirety. **MOTION:** to recommend to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to move the Climate Action Plan (CAP) into the Environmental Review Phase. (Avis/Ostler) **Unanimous**

Resolution 2022-06 Approving a Premium Pay Bonus for Essential City Employees using APRA Funds: Mayor Hindley stated that all of the city employees are essential and thanked them all for what they have done through Covid. Councilman Lund also thanked the city employees for their work. Councilman Avis stated that it was stressful time for workers and thanked all the employees. There was no comment for the public. **MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-06 Approving the Premium Pay Bonus for Essential City Employees. (Avis/Lund) **Unanimous**

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated that it seems Covid had diminished a little, however, it is unknown if a new variant may present that is more deadly and contagious. Parrish also stated there are now some medicines that may now be more effective in treatment. Parrish added that he thinks the dust is settling, but there are still hot spots and we still need to be aware. Councilman Smith went over Humboldt County numbers over the last six weeks that showed substantial case growth. Smith added that there had also been a few deaths over this period and they were people under 70. Smith added that he is concerned that the numbers are not concerning to most people and they are just going with it. Smith added it still needs to be taken seriously. Mayor Hindley stated there were two different resolutions for the council to review. One is to reconfirm the use of Zoom meetings; the other is to return to in person meetings. Councilman Avis questioned if the council chambers were able to accommodate social distancing. Parrish stated we had not looked into that but will start looking into options. Councilman Lund questioned hybrid style meetings and the brown act requirements for that. City Clerk Hall stated that if the council decides to return to in person, they would be bound by the Brown Act and would need to be present or would have to post a notice on where they will be teleconferencing from and allow public to attend at that spot. Hall also added that the hybrid will still allow the public to view and ask questions using the zoom platform. The council discussed which option would work best. City Manager Parrish stated that the council had made it through the last two and a half years of this and thanked them for their working through this and doing it with composure and grace. **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) **4-1-0 Hindley**

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: Mayor Hindley stated that the Ferndale Police Department is most underpaid police department in Humboldt/Del Norte/Mendocino area. Hindley added that it costs the city over \$20,000 in training because of the requirements. Hindley also added that once the officer is fully trained, they will get offers from other cities that will offer a bonus and substantial salary increase. Hindley stated it was time to look into a way to offer a competitive salary by increasing revenue in some way. Hindley stated this could possibly be considered by a small sales tax increase. Hindley added that Ferndale has the lowest sales tax in Humboldt County and it has not been raised many years. Parrish stated that he had looked into this and we would have to have it on the ballot in November. Council members agreed that a tax measure would be the best way. Staff will move forward on placing a tax measure on the ballot.

Reports:

City Managers Report: The Council stated it was a very good report. City Manager Parrish went over some of the grants.

Other Reports: None

Mayor Hindley Adjourned the Meeting at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall  
City Clerk