

City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.
APPROVED Minutes for City Council Meeting of July 20, 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 Planner Krystle Heaney, and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Report out of Closed Session: None

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: Hall stated that the Resolution number for Item 13c was incorrect. The correct number is 2022-14.

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: None

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

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

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing: None

Business:

Discuss & Approve Per Capita Grant Budget and Projects: City Manager Jay Parrish went over the previous meetings held to discuss this grant and the various project previous councils have brought forward. Parrish also explained that the time for deciding on projects has reached the end and reports to the state are now coming due. Grant Consultant Rick Hill was present and also discussed different projects the council has previously discussed. Hill also explained the importance of moving forward on the decision of projects as the timeframe for the grant was dwindling. Hill also discussed the discussions at previous meetings and went over the projects included in the staff report. Councilman Avis referred to a letter he submitted to the council regarding more interpretive signage for Russ Park. Councilman Lund commented that he liked the ruralness of the park and did not want to see it urbanized with a lot of signage. Lund also questioned if there is a surplus of funds left, if they could be used for any inflation or CEQA costs. Hill stated the improvements will be estimated high so there is room for inflation or any problems that may come up with a specific project. Councilman Smith commented that he was in favor of additional interoperative signage for Russ Park. Smith also suggested the surplus money be split between the parks and used for signage at Russ Park and a canopy for the BBQ area at Fireman's Park. Councilman Ostler stated while he likes the idea of Councilman Avis's

signage, he wants to keep Russ Park rustic and limit signage or to keep the signs at the beginning of the park.

MOTION: to approve the Russ Park Project Improvements in the amount of \$50,600 (Parking Lot Gravel \$4000; Signage \$31,000; Project Coordinator \$6000; CEQA \$5000; and Contingency \$4600). **(Ostler/Lund) Unanimous**

MOTION: to approve the Fireman's Park Project Improvements in the amount of \$105,600 (BBQ Area \$40,000; Signage \$20,000; Ballpark Lights \$25,000; Project Coordinator \$6000; CEQA \$5000; and Contingency \$9600). **(Ostler/Avis) Unanimous**

Resolution 2022-13 Appointing a Member to the Ferndale Library Board: There were no comments from the Council or Public. **MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-13 Appointing Megan Gotcher to the Ferndale Library Board **(Lund/Ostler) Unanimous**

Resolution 2022-14 Adopting the Conflict of Interest Code With No Revisions: There were no comments from the council or public. **MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-14 Adopting the Conflict of Interest Code with no revisions. **(Avis/Ostler) Unanimous**

Discuss and Appoint Voting Delegate to the League of Cities Annual Conference in Long Beach: Mayor Hindley stated that this conference was held annually and is generally quite a distance to travel. Councilman Smith stated he was the League of Cities representative, but did not have interest in going at this time. Smith also added that a previous councilmember stated the importance of going to these meetings to represent Ferndale, even though it is a small community and the city's vote is minimal in such a large conference. A member of the public agreed that it is important for Ferndale to be represented and the conference could give the city more PR. Mayor Hindley asked the Council if anyone would like to attend at this time. No councilmember was able to attend. **NO MOTION**

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated that it seems Covid had diminished a little, however, cases are still high and people are still getting COVID. Parrish stated there is the new variant and it is still important to wear a mask, social distance, and avoid large gatherings. Councilman Smith stated his continued concerns on the new wave of the Omicron Variant. Smith added that the numbers in Humboldt County are staying high and consistent. Smith also added that the numbers are most likely higher than reported due to the amount of people using home test kits and not reporting. Smith stated the new BA5 omicron is the dominant variant now and spreads quickly. Smith also added the importance of mask wearing, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings especially indoors.

MOTION: to reconfirm the existence of the local emergency **(Avis/Smith) Unanimous**
The Council discussed the issue of returning to in-person meetings. City Clerk Kristene Hall went over the two options. The first being in-person/hybrid. The in person/hybrid would require all council to be present in the chambers and would allow the public to be able to zoom in. The second option would be to stay with the virtual meetings. This would allow any council that would want to be in the chambers to do so, and would allow councilmembers to zoom in under the modified brown act. It would also allow public to zoom in and continue the virtual meeting for the committee and commissions.

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

Correspondence: No Comments

Council Comments: Mayor Hindley stated that nomination papers are now available for the City Council Seats and Mayor Seat. Mayor Hindley stated that the nomination period is from July 18th to August 11th. City Clerk Hall added that the nomination period will extend to August 17th if an incumbent does not run.

Reports:

City Managers Report: No Comments

Other Reports: Councilman Smith gave an update on HWMA and the closing of the recycling center on Hawthorne Street August 1st. City Manager Parrish stated he would try to get more information and see if he could get a representative from HWMA to give a presentation.

Mayor Hindley Adjourned the Meeting at 8:37 pm

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall
City Clerk