

**City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.**  
Approved Minutes for City Council Meeting of September 21, 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 Leonard Lund, Stephen Avis, Phillip Ostler, and Robin Smith, along with staff: City Manager Jay Parrish, Police Chief Ron Sligh, City Planners Michelle Nielsen and Vanessa Blodgett, City Clerk Kristene Hall and Finance/Deputy City Clerk Lauren Boop.

Report out of Closed Session: Mayor Hindley reported that the Council had a Closed Session regarding the performance evaluation of the City Manager. Hindley stated that the Closed session would be continued to Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: There were 2 modifications to the agenda. Item 13.e Review and Approve City Manager Contract Amendment was moved to a Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 7:00pm after the Closed Session. Item 13.c was postponed to the next Regular City Council Meeting to be held on October 19, 2022 at 7:00pm.

**MOTION**: to approve the modifications to the agenda. **(Avis/Ostler) Unanimous**

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: None

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

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

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: A presentation was given by the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce. The presentation went over events and activities, Chamber Funding and Budget, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), and Promoting Ferndale to tourists. The Council thanked the Chamber for all they do for Ferndale.

Public Hearing: None

Business:

Resolution 2022-19 Authorizing Application for Regional Early Action Planning Grants

Program (REAP): Mayor Hindley asked for any comments from the public or council. There were no comments or questions. City Planner Michelle Nielsen gave a brief summary of the grant. Nielsen stated the grant is non competitive and can be used to reimburse expenses incurred for the preparation of the 2022 Drainage Master Plan Update that exceeded the SB2 allocation. Nielsen added the grant was in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.

**MOTION**: to approve Resolution 2022-19 Authorizing the Application for Regional Early Action Planning Grants Program **(Ostler/Smith) Unanimous**

Land Use/SB2 Update and Approval of Resolution 2022-21 Amending the SB 2 Planning Grant Application: City Planner Michelle Nielsen gave a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the SB 2 Planning Grant Allocations. Nielsen explained that the proposed resolution would extend the contract and allow for the reallocation of the ADU preapproved plans to General Administration. Nielsen also reported on the Land Use Element update. Nielsen explained the next phase of the update would focus on public outreach and include landowner notices and community input on the Land Use/Zoning map options. Nielsen also included a timeline of these events. Nielsen also went over some potential Zoning Map updates and the Drainage Master Plan update that were covered under the SB 2 funding as well. Councilman Avis thanked staff and the planner for their work on this. **MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-21 Authorizing the Filing of an Amendment to the City of Ferndale's SB 2 Planning Grant Program Application. **(Lund/Ostler)**  
**Unanimous**

Review & Approve Musical Instrument Project: City Manager stated the City had been approached by donors that would like to fund the Musical Instruments in Fireman's Park that were proposed in the per capita grant but not chosen by the council as a project for funding. Parrish stated the instruments were large and well-made and would be placed on a trail by the children's playground. Parrish also added at this time, staff was looking for the council to approve the land placement of the instruments. Councilman Ostler questioned the cost of maintenance. Parrish stated the maintenance should not be extensive and added the pathway would be cement or wood chips. Councilman Lund stated he remembers this from the per capita grant discussion. Lund added it was a good project idea and though it didn't fit into the per capita grant he really likes the idea of the addition of these instruments and is all for it. Councilman Avis stated that he also remembers this from the per capita grant discussions and stated the council had denied this project and there were concerns on the noise. Councilman Ostler stated the placement of these instruments would be as far away as possible to citizens so noise shouldn't be a problem. Parrish also added these are a low pitch frequency not high pitched. A member of the public questioned the time frame of the land hold. **MOTION:** to approve the land hold for placement of the Musical Instruments for 1 year. **(Avis/Lund)**  
**Unanimous**

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated that it seems Covid had diminished a little, however, people are still getting COVID and it is still out there. Parrish added that it had been 2 ½ years now and people are ready to move on however, those with health conditions that still need to be extremely careful. Councilman Smith stated his continued concern on the virus. Smith stated that epidemiologists are still concerned about the virus and its continued variants. Smith stated the new variant, BA 4.6, could be the next surge. Smith also stated his concerns on long covid. A member of the public commented on getting the boosters and not getting the boosters and the level of sickness. Mayor Hindley stated that the City of Ferndale is the only city not during in person meetings in the Humboldt/Del Norte area. Hindley added that COVID is still out there but we can't continue to live in fear. City Clerk Kristene Hall went over the options of meeting in person or continuing on Zoom. Councilman Avis questioned the level of protection at City Hall chambers. Parrish stated that the city looked into putting plexiglass around the dais and being 6-ft apart, but thought we needed to be smarter than the virus and being close and in the same area was not realistic. Parrish stated that 10 ft apart would be more realistic and continue with the zoom for the public and some councilmembers can still

attend from home. Councilman Lund stated his JPA is meeting hybrid and some are at home and some are at the meeting. Lund stated that was a good way to do it. Both Councilman Smith and Avis stated there JPA's are hybrid meetings or just zoom. Two members of the public stated their agreement to continue for another month with the zoom option.

**MOTION:** to reconfirm the existence of the local emergency **(Smith/Avis) Unanimous**

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

Correspondence: Councilman Lund commented on the Letter of Denial received regarding the Dog Park and RV Campground at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds. City Manager Parrish expressed he was also disappointed they did not receive the grant, but added they did receive funds to raise the berm at the Treatment Plant. Councilman Smith thanked Parrish for his work on drainage and expressed the importance of it.

Council Comments: Councilman Avis thanked Mayor Hindley for his consideration during the Closed Session.

Reports:

City Managers Report: None

Other Reports: Councilman Smith commented on the Humboldt Waste Management. Smith stated the director had resigned and HWMA had hired internally for an interim position. Councilman Avis commented on RCEA and the concerns over PGE being at capacity for any new development in the Eel Valley and Southern Humboldt areas. City Manager Parrish commented on the importance of moving in the direction to be as self sufficient as possible.

Mayor Hindley Adjourned the Meeting at 9:06 pm

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall  
City Clerk