

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

Report out of Closed Session: None

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: A Russ Park Committee Representative requested that the council consider holding a special meeting to reconsider adding a proposed vault restroom to the Per Capita Grant. The member also asked the special meeting to review the list the Russ Park Committee had came up with for the funding.

A member of the public stated that the Ferndale Community Center is turning 100 years old and added there would be a celebration taking place on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm and invited everyone to attend.

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/Smith) 4-1-0** (Avis lost connection)

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing:

Unmet Transit Needs: City Manager Jay Parrish stated this was an annual review and includes public input to make comments on unmet transit needs. Parrish stated that Steve Luther was present from Humboldt County Association of Government (HCOAG) and turned the discussion over to him. Luther explained that this was a necessary step to administer the Transportation Development Act fund. Luther explained these funds are primarily for transit needs but can be for streets and roads if it is determined that there are unmet transit needs that are unreasonable to meet. Luther explained that all comments received will go through a committee that will recommend to the HCOAG board on the unmet transit needs, and once determined, funds will be released. Mayor Hindley asked the public for comments. There were no comments from the public. Hindley asked for comments from the council. Councilman Lund questioned using the funds for streets and roads. Councilman Avis questioned if the city had questioned bicycle and pedestrian needs. Parrish stated we have used the funds for sidewalks and crossings.

**MOTION:** the city has unmet transit needs that are unreasonable to meet. (Avis/Ostler)  
**Unanimous**

Business:

Resolution 2022-20 Accepting Donation for Russ Park: Mayor Hindley asked for any comments from the public or council. City Clerk Kristene Hall stated the date on the resolution needed to be changed. Councilman Avis stated he appreciated the update on the resolution that included more detail.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-20 Accepting a Donation for Russ Park (Avis/Lund)  
**Unanimous**

Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PHLA) Grants Program and Adoption of 5-year Plan: City Planner Michelle Nielsen gave a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the PHLA Program. Nielsen explained that PHLA is a program that provides funding to local government for housing related projects that assists in housing needs in local communities. Nielsen explained that PHLA funds can be utilized for a range of direct assistance to eligible property and homeowners for eligible projects under the guidelines. Nielsen explained that the city would ultimately be the grantor on these funds. Nielsen stated that this is a 5yr program. Nielsen stated that the city's estimated allocation during the 5-yr period would be \$426,906. Nielsen gave options to the council which include adopting the draft 5-yr plan and approve the resolution for the city manager to file the PHLA application; or modify the draft plan with an intent to file the PHLA application. Nielsen added that either option would equal new commitments for the city. Nielsen added that the other options were to delegate the entirety of its allocation to another eligible city or to the county; or to not apply at this time. Parrish stated since the deadline had been extended to November 30, 2022, can the council come back next meeting and be provided with a little more detail. Parrish added the importance of housing for families in Ferndale. Councilman Avis agreed with Parrish. Councilman Avis questioned the status of housing element in relation to the grant application. Nielsen stated the housing element is compliant with the grant opportunity. Avis also questioned the administrative costs. Both Councilman Ostler and Councilman Lund agreed the importance of not leaving money on the table and trying to find ways to use it. Councilman Smith questioned Nielsen's recommendation of the four options given. Nielsen stated that the council should hold a special meeting to further discuss the commitments that will be needed before approval. Smith also questioned the ability to have someone at the special meeting or study session that is more versed in the commitments. Councilman Avis stated the importance of holding a special meeting to further discuss this. Nielsen went over the draft 5-yr PHLA plan. Nielsen added the two activities identified in the plan as 1. The rehabilitation of existing adu's and new adu development with priority given to the rehabilitation and 2. Accessibility modifications in low-income owner-occupied housing. Mayor Hindley suggested adopting the 5yr plan, but to hold off on adopting the resolution until after the special meeting.

**MOTION:** to approve the 5-yr Draft PHLA Plan. (Avis/Ostler) **Unanimous**

Adopt Resolution 2022-24 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement for LRSP Funding: There was no comments from the public or council.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-24 authorizing the city manager to execute an agreement for the LRSP funding. (Lund/Avis) **Unanimous**

Adopt Resolution 2022-23 Approving the 2022 Drainage Master Plan Update: Mayor Hindley stated the important part of this document is it lists the seven projects with cost estimates. Councilman Avis questioned what process the city could use to increase revenues for the projects or to match future grant funds. City Manager Parrish stated that the city had been going through the update for about 4 years. Parrish added that property owners pay about \$2 a month for drainage. Parrish stated that this is going to be the same process as with the sewer rate increase, Prop 218, and have study sessions and meetings that go over how much is needed and where the money is going to. Councilman Ostler stated this was a really good Drainage Plan for the city. **MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2022-23 Approving the Drainage Master Plan update. **(Ostler/Avis) Unanimous**

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated that it seems Covid will be here for awhile and we are trying to move on. Parrish also added that he recommends that we continue the zoom meetings at this point. Parrish also briefly explained AB2449 which modifies some Brown Act requirements. Councilman Smith went over some of the numbers and the concerns of holiday get togethers and the added concerns with winter flu season. Smith also explained that people reinfected with covid can sometimes get it worse. A member of the public stated concerns on the hybrid meetings and audio issues. Councilman Avis stated by staying with Zoom, some council may still meet at City Hall and sees this as the best option. City Clerk Hall went over the options and the upcoming AB2449.

**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/Avis) Unanimous**

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: Mayor Hindley thanked the Spirit of Ferndale for putting on a meet the candidates night. Hindley also thanked the candidates for this as well. Councilman Avis stated a special meeting to be held to discuss the PHLA grant and the Russ Park Committee Vault Restroom. Mayor Hindley instructed City Manager Parrish to schedule a special meeting for two items to include the PHLA grant and to reconsider the Vault Restroom for Russ Park on the Per Capita Grant.

Reports:

City Managers Report: None

Other Reports: None

Mayor Hindley Adjourned the Meeting at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall  
City Clerk