

<p style="text-align: center;">City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A. Approved Action Minutes for City Council Special Meeting of April 25, 2023</p>
--

Mayor Cady called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Those present did the flag salute. Present were Council Members Leonard Lund, Jennifer Fisk-Becker, Phillip Ostler, and Skip Jorgensen, along with City staff: Police Chief Ron Sligh and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Business:

Discuss and Consider Drafting a Resolution of Inclusion: Mayor Cady stated that the Council would first speak on this item then the public comment would be taken and closed. The Council would then make a decision or recommendation. Councilman Ostler stated he did not think a resolution was needed. Ostler added that this is addressed in the Code of Ethics and stated that this is already in the hearts and minds of the Ferndale Citizens. Ostler also added that he did not feel this is City Council business. Ostler also stated that issuing a statement would essentially be the same thing and feels it's just not up to the City Council. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated that she believed in a meaningful statement from the council. Fisk-Becker discussed some of the letters that had been submitted. Fisk-Becker read a statement she had drafted: *Ferndale California strives to be a welcoming community to all people who live, work, and visit here. We as a community hope to prioritize kindness, inclusion, and respect, to all people in all aspects of our daily lives.* Fisk-Becker added that she had taken some of her statement from the Mayors statement given by Mayor Cady at the regular Council Meeting on April 19th. Councilman Lund stated that back 2021 when this same issue was raised, he opposed the Councils involvement. Lund added he still feels that way now. Lund added that this should not be a council decision and that it was a free speech issue. Councilman Jorgensen agreed that in the hearts and minds of the citizens in Ferndale there is an abundance of kindness. Jorgensen added that he sees three groups regarding this: Group one are those who opposed a drag show and feels that a statement or resolution would be a restriction on freedom of speech; group two are those who think a statement is not the business of town leadership; and group three are those who asks the council for a statement for acceptance of who they are and added that his request does not take "any skin off his nose" and shouldn't to anyone else either. Jorgensen added that in this situation a resolution would be the right thing to do. Mayor Cady stated he had read his statement at the Regular City Council Meeting on April 19th and still believes in what he said. Cady added that it is not the role of City Government to take one persons view over another's. Cady also stated that no matter where you go you will find people who like or dislike you. Cady also stated that we live in a community that is supportive and the community is always willing to help. Cady stated he does not believe a resolution for this is the role of the City Government.

Public Comment was taken. A majority of the public comments were in opposition to the Council issuing a statement or resolution.

MOTION: to take no action on an inclusion resolution (**Ostler/Lund**) 3-2 (Fisk-Becker/Jorgensen)

Councilman Jorgensen thanked everyone who contributed to the dialogue of this issue. Jorgensen added that we should all be accepting of everyone and of who they are.

Mayor Cady thanked the public for all their comments and concerns over the last several months. Cady added that we all abide by the Ferndale Code of Ethics as well as the Constitution of the United States and the Oath of Office that was taken by all.

Mayor Cady Adjourned the City Council Special Meeting at 4:29pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristene Hall
City Clerk