

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.</b> Approved Action Minutes for City Council Meeting of January 15, 2023</p>
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Mayor Cady called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Those present did the flag salute. Present were Council Members Leonard Lund, Jennifer Fisk-Becker, Skip Jorgensen, and Phillip Ostler, along with City staff: City Manager Jay Parrish, City Attorney Ryan Plotz, Police Chief Ron Sligh, 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: Public Comments included Emergency Plan updates, Road Improvements, PGE Undergrounding, Public Restroom Improvements, and Anti-Hate and discriminatory concerns in Ferndale. Many public members expressed concerns on these issues.

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: Cynthia Cowell, Public Information Officer of the Small Business Administrations Disaster Recovery program gave a brief presentation on some of the disaster loans available due to the December 20, 2022 and January 1, 2023 earthquakes. The loans include Business Physical Disaster, Economic Injury, and Home Disaster. Cowell stated the application filing deadline for the physical damage is March 6, 2023; and the Economic Injury is October 4, 2023.

Public Hearing: None

Business:

Resolution 2023-04 Re-Establishing the Russ Park Advisory Committee and Repealing Resolution 2022-18: City Attorney Ryan Plotz presented the staff report on this agenda item. Plotz went over details on why the resolution needed to be updated. Plotz noted that this resolution would slightly expand the role of the Russ Park Committee. Plotz went over the proposed resolution with the council and explained each section. Plotz also stated the new resolution included language to support the Brown Act and compliance such as appointing designated officers of the committee. Mayor Cady opened up public comment. Several members of the public spoke in opposition of the resolution. City Attorney Plotz addressed some of the concerns of the public members and explained that the resolution was needed to fully establish the committee as a Brown Act Committee. Councilman Jorgensen questioned the chair of the committee on what the biggest issue was with the resolution. The chair stated he did not have the information in front of him at this time. Plotz also explained the importance of having the

City Manager oversee public funds being spent if items are purchased without City Council Approval. Plotz added that this is not only advised but required when it comes to expenditures of public funds. Plotz also explained that in the resolution, the Russ Park Committee directly reports to the Council quarterly, without City Manager control. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated the possibility of putting a councilmember on the Russ Park Committee to help oversee it. City Attorney Plotz stated that the council can definitely choose to do that if they wish.

**MOTION:** to table this agenda item until the February 15, 2023, City Council Meeting. **(Jorgensen/Ostler) Unanimous**

Resolution 2023-02 Authorizing the Application to HCOAG for the REAP funds: Mayor Cady asked for comments from the Public and Council. There were no public or council comments.

**MOTION:** to Approve Resolution 2023-02 Authorizing the Application to HCOAG for the REAP funds. **(Ostler/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2023-01 Amending Ordinance 2011-01 Section 6.01.1 Adopting the Required 2022 Title 24 Building Code Standards and Regulations, by title only: City Manager Parrish stated that this was required every three years when the Building Codes and Standards are updated. Parrish added that this requires the city to also purchase new code books which are also required. There were no Comments from the Council or Public.

**MOTION:** to Approve Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2023-01 Amending Ordinance 2011-01 Section 6.01.1 Adopting the Required 2022 Title 24 Building Code Standards and Regulations, by title only **(Ostler/Lund) Unanimous**

Resolution 2023-01 Approving the Annual Events and Parades Street Closures: Mayor Cady asked for comments from the public or Council. There were no comments. City Clerk Kristene Hall stated there was one adjustment to the resolution. Hall stated that the Kinetic Race was not allowed to come in until 1:00pm to allow time for the Memorial Day Parade to end.

**MOTION:** to Approve Resolution 2023-01 Approving the Annual Events and Parade Street Closures for 2023. **(Lund/Ostler) Unanimous**

Appoint and Approve Council Appointed Committees, Boards, and JPA's: Mayor Cady went over the JPA's list and stated there were still a few openings. Council Members discussed the list and filled the available seats. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned adding a member to the Russ Park Committee. The Council deliberated and agreed to possibly discuss at a later time.

**MOTION:** to Approve the Council Appointed Committees, Boards, and JPA's.

COVID 19 Update and Discussion: City Manager Parrish stated he would recommend continuing the emergency until the County of State rescinded. Parrish added that this would allow any financial assistance related to the emergency to continue. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned if the City had obtained any funds to date. City Manager stated that the city had received funds of approximately \$300,000. Councilman Jorgensen stated that though he voted to go back to regular in person meetings, if there is a spike in cases, he would vote to go back to virtual meetings. Councilman Lund questioned if there had been any mention of the State or County rescinding their State of Emergency. Parrish stated that there had been talk of February 20<sup>th</sup> but had not heard a final date as of yet.

**MOTION:** to reconfirm the existence of the local emergency. **(Jorgensen/Lund) Unanimous**

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: The Council commented on the work done on California Street. Councilman Jorgensen commented on the earthquakes and never knowing when an emergency will occur. Jorgensen added that this is a good time to review the city's emergency response handbook and possible study session to include some public concerns and input. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated that she had been looking into a lighted sign similar to what Caltrans uses, to help in an emergency. Councilman Jorgensen thanked Mayor Cady for doing a great job on overseeing tonight's meeting. Jorgensen suggested in the future if there is a large crowd that there be a sign up sheet to determine what the time limits should be for each speaker. Jorgensen also added that he would like to see negative comments that are just being thrown out by audience members towards staff be addressed.

Reports:

City Managers Report: City Manager reported that the Community Center had sustained ceiling damage in the earthquake. Parrish added that the city was submitting a claim to the state in hopes they will help with repairs. Lund questioned the solar arrays at the Wastewater and Police Dept. Parrish stated they were up and running but PGE is not paying any overage.

Other Reports: Chair Jim Stretch of the Russ Park Committee gave an update. Stretch stated they are working on a projects list for the council. Stretch also stated they are working on a Master Plan for the park.

Mayor Cady thanked the audience, staff, and fellow councilmembers and Adjourned the Meeting at 8:43 pm

Respectfully submitted

Kristene Hall  
City Clerk