

City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.
Approved Action Minutes for City Council Meeting of October 18, 2023

Vice Mayor Leonard Lund called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Those present did the flag salute. Present were Council Members Jenny Fisk-Becker, Skip Jorgensen, and Phillip Ostler, along with City staff: City Manager Jay Parrish, Police Chief Ron Sligh and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Mayor Cady had an excused absence.

Report out of Closed Session: None.

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: Public Comments were made by two individuals.

Consent Calendar: There were three items on the Consent Calendar for approval. A member of the public requested that items B & C be pulled for questions.

MOTION: to approve Item “a” on the consent calendar. **(Jorgensen/Ostler) Unanimous**

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: A member of the public pulled Item “b” from the consent calendar. The public member questioned two checks. Staff informed the public member what these checks were for.

A member of the public pulled item “c” from the consent calendar. The public member questioned the cash balances sheet. Staff explained to the public member why the cash balances were listed as they were.

MOTION: to approve items “b” & “c” on the consent calendar. **(Jorgensen/Ostler) Unanimous**

Presentation: Paul Gregson gave an update on the City Sewer Project.

Public Hearing:

Unmet Transit Needs: City Manager explained to the council what the unmet transit needs hearings were and why they were needed. Parrish explained every year the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCOAG) is required by the California Transportation Development Act (TDA) to conduct a citizen participation process to identify unmet transit needs in the region. Parrish added that this process is done before TDA funding is allocated each year. Parrish also explained that there are three choices the City Manager Jay Parrish stated this was an annual review and includes public input to make comments on unmet transit needs. Parrish explained that this was a necessary step to administer the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding. Parrish explained these funds are primarily for transit needs but can be for streets and roads if it is determined that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet. Parrish added that all comments received will go through a committee that will recommend to the HCOAG board the unmet transit needs, and once determined, funds will be released. Vice Mayor Lund opened the Public Hearing. There were no

comments from the public. Vice Mayor Lund closed the public hearing. Lund asked for comments from the council. Councilman Jorgensen questioned what the funds are generally for in the past. City Manager Parrish stated that these funds are used for filling potholes and street and road maintenance. Councilman Jorgensen also stated the need for bicycle and pedestrian paths. Parrish stated we have also used the funds for sidewalks and crossings.

MOTION: to report to HCOAG the city has “no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet”. **(Ostler/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Business:

Resolution 2023-22 Accepting the Donation of Musical Instruments Structures and Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase the Structures: City Manager Parrish explained the musical instrument structures are a donation that the council could accept and would tie into the BBQ area and sidewalk at Firemen’s Park. A member of the public questioned the noise level. Councilman Ostler stated that he had been around similar ones, and they are a low frequency tone and are not loud. Councilman Lund also stated that he had heard them, and he did not feel they were too loud. Councilman Jorgensen questioned where the idea had come from. City Manager Parrish stated that staff had approached the idea previously. Councilman Lund stated that this had come up before but they did not have funding. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned how well these would hold up in the salt air. Parrish stated that these were commercial grade and built to last.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 2023-22 Accepting the Donation of Musical Instrument Structures and Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase the Structures. **(Ostler/Fisk-Becker) Unanimous**

Resolution 2023-20 Authorizing the City Manager to Move Forward with the Final Design, Bid Process, and Construction, as well as Execute a Construction Contract for the Street

Improvements for Berding Street: City Manager Parrish stated this has been a priority for several years from the streets and roads committee. Parrish explained that the intersections of Brown and Washington will be repaired and as an additive to the project staff is proposing too also repair Berding Street between Brown and Washington since the equipment will already be at the location. A member of the public questioned when the project would be started. Parrish stated that it is weather dependent but are hoping to start the process in Spring. Councilman Jorgensen questioned the use of COVID funds. Parrish stated that this project will be approximately 80% covered by the city’s current covid money. Jorgensen also brought up the possibility of the county imposing a tax for road repairs. Parrish explained that that tax would be for the repairs of county roads only and not city roads.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 2023-20 Authorizing the City Manager to Move Forward with the Final Design, Bid Process, and Construction, as well as Execute a Construction Contract for the Street Improvements for Berding Street. **(Ostler/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Resolution 2023-21 Authorizing the City Manager to Move Forward with the Bid Process and Construction, as well as Execute a Construction Contract for the Ball Field Light Project at

Firemen’s Park: City Manager Parrish explained that this replaces all the ball field lights with LED lights. Parrish added that the current ones in place are over 50yrs old and are in need of replacement. Councilman Lund mentioned appreciation for Donny Mobley replacing a pole that

had fallen over. Parrish added that this is part of the PerCapita Grant and is in conjunction with the other park improvements.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 2023-21 Authorizing the City Manager to Move Forward with the Bid Process and Construction, as well as Execute a Construction Contract for the Ball Field Light Project at Firemen's Park. **(Jorgensen/Ostler)** Unanimous

Correspondence: No Comments from Council or the Public.

Council Comments: Councilman Jorgensen thanked the Village Club and Garden club for their work around City Hall. City Manager Parrish stated that the City had a volunteer and staff clean up the trees.

Councilman Jorgensen questioned if the Chamber of Commerce had submitted their annual budget to the city. Parrish stated he had received the budget and would send to the council. Jorgensen also questioned if a report had been submitted by Mayor Cady regarding the City Manager evaluation. The other Councilmembers commented that they had received a report from Mayor Cady.

Reports:

City Managers Report: No Comments

Other Reports: Councilmember Jenny Fisk-Becker submitted a report to the council on her attendance at the League of California Cities Annual Conference. Fisk-Becker also thanked the Council for approving her attendance. Councilmembers thanked Fisk-Becker for attending.

Vice Mayor Lund thanked the staff, public, and fellow councilmembers, and Adjourned the Meeting at 7:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristene Hall
City Clerk