

**City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.**  
Approved Action Minutes for City Council Meeting of August 21, 2024

Mayor Randy 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, Police Chief Ron Sligh, City Planner Michelle Nielsen, and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Report out of Closed Session: None

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: A joint study session was held with the Planning Commission to discuss and review the Ferndale General Plan Land Use & Safety Element Updates Environmental Review.

Public Comment: There was no Public Comment

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

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

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing: None

Business:

Resolution 2024-18 Approving the Parcel Map for the Adams Minor Subdivision and the Acceptance of Easements: City Planner Michelle Nielsen explained that the Ferndale Subdivision Ordinance states that the Parcel Map upon execution by the City Engineer, City Surveyor and Planning Commission Chair along with the subdivision improvement agreement shall be placed on the Council agenda for approval. Nielsen added the applicants were able to complete the required subdivision improvements to the satisfaction of the City Engineer and other jurisdictional agencies therefore, a subdivision agreement was not required. Nielsen went over the timeline of the progression of the project. Nielsen added the Planning Commission at their April 3, 2024 approved the Adams Minor Subdivision conditional on the applicants offering of sidewalk and drainage easements. Nielsen added that in order to meet these conditions the council will need to accept the three easements being presented. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker question the maintenance of the current drainage ditch. City Manager Parrish stated that the ditch is currently maintained by the city. Councilman Jorgensen questions the width of the sidewalks.

**MOTION:** to Adopt Resolution 2024-18 and Accept the Offers of Dedication for Drainage and Sidewalk Easements. **(Ostler/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Report from Planning Commission for the Amendment of Section 6.05, Design Control Combining or D-Zone, of the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance: City Planner Michelle Nielsen went

over the staff report. Nielsen stated that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing on August 7, 2024 to consider the proposed amendment. Nielsen stated a motion was made to adopt the resolution but did not pass as the vote was 2 ayes and 2 noes. Nielsen added that a report was prepared for the council and was included in the council packet for review. Nielsen went over the recommendations from staff which is to move forward and have a public hearing and introduce the Ordinance change at the September City Council Meeting. Nielsen presented other alternatives for the council including going back to the Planning Commission or cancelling the request and keeping the ordinance as it is. Councilman Jorgensen stated he would like to see this move forward to a public hearing. Councilman Lund questioned if staff thought it would be beneficial at all to send it back to the Planning Commission. Nielsen stated that would be hard to answer depending on the perspective. Councilman Ostler questioned if the Design Review Committee had all members. City Clerk Hall stated that there was a full committee as of now, but Committee Member von Frausing-Borch had stated he was starting school and would no longer be able to attend meetings. Ostler also questioned a previous project. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned housing for families and for low income and ensuring that in the Design Review we are not imposing regulations that could be costly and ensuring that any regulations are cost effective. Councilman Ostler questioned the number of meetings the Design Review has had and the number of times a quorum was not met or if the meeting was started late due to quorum issues. City Clerk Hall stated there had been 6 meetings for 2024 in which two were cancelled due to no quorum and 1 started about 15 minutes late while staff tried to get a quorum together. Two members of the public spoke in favor of keeping the Design Review Committee. **MOTION:** to accept the Planning Commission Report and Direct Staff to Schedule and Notice a Public Hearing and First Reading of the Amendment to Section 6.05, Design Control Combining Zone. **(Jorgensen/Lund) 4-0-1** (Ostler Abstained)

Resolution 2024-17 Adopting a Conflict-of-Interest Code: City Manager Parrish stated that the Political Reform Act requires the city to review and update their conflict-of-interest code every two years. Parrish added that staff has looked over the code and there has been no substantial changes to the city's organizational structure so at this time no amendments are needed.

**MOTION:** to approve Resolution 2024-17 Adopting a Conflict-of-Interest Code.

**(Jorgensen/Lund) Unanimous**

Correspondence: Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated she had taken the survey. City Planner Nielsen went over the survey and the importance of taking it. Nielsen also went over the Humboldt Climate Action Plans 30-day Public Review. Nielsen added there would be a public meeting in Eureka on September 10, 2024, and encouraged anyone to attend. Nielsen added there will be a zoom option as well.

Council Comments: Councilman Jorgensen questioned if there were any street studies in Ferndale including bikes and pedestrians. Nielsen stated that the survey will assist with this, and that the city has a Streets and Roads safety plan that include bike and pedestrian study. Jorgensen also questioned the Streets and Roads Committee meeting and when they had met. Councilman Lund questioned the raising of the berm. City Manager Parrish stated they were about 65% but they are now deciding on what material to use, pilings or rocks, but have not decided. Parrish also added that we had to change the timeline of events. Lund also questioned if there was another bat problem at the Community Center. Parrish stated that there was a two-year lapse in the company coming out, but the city has notified the company, and they have already come out and started the removal process. Parrish added that in the future, they will be coming out semi-annually to ensure the bats stay gone. Lund also stated that Brown Street was starting to look good, and he was glad to see the work starting. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated she had picked up a brochure on the downtown businesses from 2002 and noted the now

empty buildings downtown. Fisk-Becker was hoping to figure out a way to get businesses into Ferndale and fill these places. Fisk Becker also noted many of the festivals that had occurred in the past that no longer take place.

Reports:

City Managers Report: Councilman Jorgensen stated that the report mentioned two drainage projects. City Manager Parrish stated there is only one project and one just contained some different information. Councilman Jorgensen also questioned who was in charge of Highway 211 and the sidewalks. Parrish stated that the city has standards, but the sidewalks are owned by Caltrans. Jorgensen stated that there was a tree that needed to be trimmed or taken out. Parrish stated that staff would look into trimming it. Jorgensen also questioned the Musical Instrument project. Parrish stated that the instruments are at the public works yard and are awaiting installation. Mayor Cady stated he was glad to see Berding Street getting fixed.

Other Reports: No Comments

Mayor Cady thanked the staff, public, and fellow councilmembers, and Adjourned the Meeting at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kristene Hall  
City Clerk