

City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.
Approved Action Minutes for City Council Meeting of September 18, 2024

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 Jennifer Fisk-Becker, Skip Jorgensen, and Phillip Ostler, along with City staff: City Manager Jay Parrish, Police Chief Ron Sligh, City Planners Vanessa Blodgett and Michelle Nielsen, and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Report out of Closed Session: None

Ceremonial: A Proclamation was read by Vice-Mayor Lund to honor Constitution Week.

Modifications to the Agenda: None

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: There was one public comment regarding drainage on Francis Street.

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. **(Ostler/Fisk-Becker) Unanimous**

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing:

Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 2024-01, 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 and the outcome of the previous meetings in regards to this agenda item including the Planning Commission Public Hearing held on August 7, 2024, and the City Council Meetings held on both July 17, 2024 and August 21, 2024.

Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned a section of the Ordinance that had been deleted. City Planner Nielsen stated that the section wasn't deleted, that it was moved to a different section. Councilman Jorgensen questioned if the new updated Ordinance would have better guidelines to assist the Planning Commission. Nielsen stated that she thinks it does, and also includes building materials for the zoning. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned materials in the Design Review area. Nielsen explained that when you get within the Designated Historical Zone then you would be stricter on materials being used. Nielsen added that in the Design Review areas, you would be able to obtain the harmonious look by using more affordable and efficient materials that are not necessarily time period. Fisk-Becker also questioned the term harmonious as being interpretive and if it was normal to use this term in the ordinance. Nielsen stated it was very common term in Design Review Designations. City Clerk Hall stated that the city is hoping to develop more guidelines that will assist in the future development making some of the procedures for a Design Review Permit ministerial and assist with streamlining the process. Nielsen added that even within the Historic District, waivers are available to assist with the ability to use other materials. Vice-Mayor Lund opened the public hearing. There was no comments from the Public. Lund closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: to Approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2024-01, by title only, **(Jorgensen/Ostler) Unanimous**

Business:

Resolution 2024-19 Approving the City of Ferndale Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP): City Planners Michelle Nielsen and Vanessa Blodgett gave a PowerPoint presentation. Blodgett started the discussion. Blodgett stated the Local Road Safety Plan on 5E's of traffic, including Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Emergency Response, and Emerging Technologies and follows the Federal Highway Administrations Local Road Safety Plan development process. Blodgett added that the LRSP is a living document that is meant to be updated and ongoing. Blodgett also stated the development of Ferndale's LRSP included data to identify safety issues and feedback from the City Engineer, Police Department, Ferndale Fire Department, Ferndale Unified School District, and the Streets and Road Committee. Blodgett stated there was also a community survey done. Blodgett stated that going over the collision data, Ferndale is relatively safe for roadway users. City Planner Michelle Nielsen took over the discussion. Nielsen went over potential countermeasures involving engineering and non-engineering measures. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned the countermeasure involved for no u-turn on Main Street and the ability to get back down Main Street. The council discussed a possible roundabout located at Ocean and Main. Councilman Jorgensen questioned the best way or process on moving forward with ideas. Nielsen stated the best way would likely be to start with the Streets & Roads Committee. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated the need for the city to have a lighted sign that can be placed especially when bigger events are happening in tow, Councilman Lund stated the sidewalks are also a big issue. Councilman Ostler agrees but stated the streets in Ferndale are very narrow, so some options aren't feasible.

MOTION: to Adopt Resolution 2024-19 Approving the City of Ferndale Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP). **(Jorgensen/Ostler) Unanimous**

Accept Draft Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) as Project Description for EIR: City Planner Michelle Nielsen led the discussion. Nielsen gave a PowerPoint Presentation. Nielsen stated that the initial drafting of the RCAP began in 2019 with the purpose of drafting a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the community. Nielsen added a draft public review was conducted in 2022, however, the final analysis on the draft CAP showed the initial CAP included measures that were highly aspirational and not achievable which would not allow the CAP to achieve a qualified status. Nielsen explained the meaning of qualified CAP. Nielsen stated the draft was redone by Rincon, a qualified consultant, who revised the draft to be CEQA-qualified and completed an emissions inventory. Nielsen went on to explain the new proposed RCAP and went over the implementation measures. Nielsen stated the redrafting of the CAP has achieved the intended result of achieving the status of a qualified CAP including the evidence demonstrating how it will meet state targets for the GHG emissions reductions. Nielsen also explained that current status of the RCAP which included the 30-day period of public comments, and NOP comment period both ending at the end of September. Nielsen added the EIR preparation would begin in Spring 2025 with the county adoption in June of 2025.

Councilman Jorgensen commented that this is not popular with a lot of people and the need for education. Councilman Lund questioned if financial help was available to the city for assistance with the plan. City Manager Parrish stated in 2019 the county received a grant. Ferndale's portion was only \$1500 and received credit for Parrish's attendance at the meetings.

Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned the composting project and if this was part of this RCAP.

MOTION: to accept the draft RCAP subject to minor changes resulting from public comment, as the project description for the EIR. **(Ostler/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: Councilman Jorgensen stated that Berding Street Project was underway and questioned when it was projected to be completed. City Manager Parrish stated it was projected to be completed by September 25th. Jorgensen also questioned the raising of the berm and the Arlington Ave project. Parrish stated these are projected for next year. Jorgensen also commented on having the Francis Creek Drainage on the agenda. Councilman Lund stated he had attended the Bocce tournament at the Fireman's Park. Lund added that the building looked great. Councilman Ostler stated the trails at Russ Park were looking very nice.

Reports:

City Managers Report: Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned the time for the "Meet the Candidates Night". Staff stated it started at 6:00pm.

Other Reports: No Comments

Vice-Mayor Lund thanked the staff, public, and fellow councilmembers, and Adjourned the Meeting at 7:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kristene Hall
City Clerk