

City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.

Approved Action Minutes for City Council Meeting of November 20, 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 Planners Vanessa Blodgett and Michelle Nielsen, and City Clerk Kristene Hall.

Report out of Closed Session: None

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: The Presentation for the Arlington Drainage Project has been pulled from the agenda.

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: An arborist presented to the Council regarding a tree on Main Street that he had been asked to look at by the City Manager. The arborist stated he would not recommend the requested excess pruning of the tree.

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

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

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing:

Unmet Transit Needs: City Planner Michelle Nielsen gave a PowerPoint presentation. Nielsen went over the meaning on an unmet transit need and what the process looks like in determining the findings. Nielsen also explained that jurisdictional areas within the county are encouraged to conduct a Public Hearing and this process ends on December 31. Nielsen stated information collected from the public hearings is then used by an advisory committee to determine findings and then forward these findings to the HCOAG board to consider and adopt. Nielsen went over the three choices for consideration: (1) No Unmet Transit Needs; (2) No Unmet Needs Reasonable to Meet; (3) Unmet Transit Needs including those reasonable to meet. Nielsen added that comments from the council or community can also be directed straight to HCOAG. Councilman Jorgensen questioned the Ferndale Senior Resource Center and the transportation provided by them for seniors. Jorgensen also questioned the use of funds for streets and roads if there were no unmet transit needs. Mayor Cady opened the Public Hearing. There were no questions or comments received. Mayor Cady closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: to determine there are no unmet transit needs, which are reasonable to meet. **(Ostler/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Resolution 2024-22 Certifying the Environmental Impact Report for the Land Use and Safety Elements; Adoption and Approval of Resolution 2024-23 and Resolution 2024-24 making required findings to Amend the Ferndale General Plan and Adopt the Ferndale General Plan Land Use Map, Land Use Element, and Safety Element updates: City Planner Vanessa Blodgett gave a PowerPoint presentation to the council. Blodgett stated that staff, Council, and Planning Commission had been working on these updates for quite sometime. Blodgett explained the

purpose of the Land Use Element and Safety Element updates; gave a summary of past meetings, public outreach, and public hearing noticing; and reviewed Land Use Element revisions made to the July 2023 version. Revisions were made to the Land Use Element draft for consistency with state law, consistency with draft EIR, and public comments received. Blodgett also explained the CEQA EIR process as well as the content and findings. Blodgett explained at the Public Hearing held at the Planning Commission meeting on November 6, 2024 the Planning Commission unanimously approved Resolutions 2024-20 and 2024-21 recommending the City Council make the required findings to adopt the Land Use, Land Use Map, and Safety Elements.

Councilman Jorgensen questioned affordable housing language. Blodgett stated that affordable housing details were addressed in the Housing Element. Councilman Jorgensen questioned the setback from Francis Creek. Blodgett stated the setback may be reduced by property owners obtaining a use permit which would be granted by the Planning Commission. Councilman Jorgensen questioned how properties were chosen as the higher density properties or changing the zoning for. Blodgett stated that these were redesigned to provide opportunities for a larger mix of housing. Blodgett added infill sites have services close, near schools, or downtown areas. Blodgett also stated that Zoning Ordinance amendments would need to be completed for Zoning to be compliant with the new Land Use Updates as well as State Law and Housing update compliances. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated she would like the Emergency Response Committee to review the Safety Element to recommend any comments or suggestions. Nielsen stated the plan can always be amended if needed.

Mayor Cady opened the Public Hearing.

A member of the public spoke in opposition to the Land Use Element updates and changes. There were no other public comments or concerns.

Mayor Cady closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: to approve Resolution 2024-22 Certifying the PEIR for the Land Use and Safety Element Updates and the General Land Use Map. **(Lund/Ostler) Unanimous**

MOTION: to approve Resolution 2024-23 Making the Required Findings to Amend the Ferndale General Plan and Adopt the Land Use Element Update and the Ferndale General Plan Land Use Map. **(Jorgensen/Lund) Unanimous**

MOTION: to approve Resolution 2024-24 Making the Required Findings to Amend the Ferndale General Plan and Adopt the Safety Element Update. **(Lund/Ostler) Unanimous**

Business:

Recology Franchise Extension Options Review: Recology General Manager Frank Nelson gave a PowerPoint presentation to the council. The PowerPoint went over HWMA, the current Franchise expiration date, the one-year extensions previously offered, and why Recology could not offer another one-year extension at this time. Nelson also went over SB1383 and Ferndale's need to move toward compliance which would take effect January 1, 2027. Nelson stated that Recology has provided two options for the city to discuss. Nelson explained option one would be a 30% increase for current customers and that this option would do little to help move Ferndale toward SB1383 compliance. Nelson explained option two was for Ferndale to pass an ordinance to create universal waste collection that would require properties that do not have collection service to subscribe to Recology services. Nelson stated that option two would increase rates by only 19% and would also start moving Ferndale into SB1383 compliance. Nelson added that this option would also provide customers with a new Recology wheeled tote as well as be eligible for bulky item pick up services.

Councilman Lund questioned if fees were going up when you haul your own garbage. Nelson stated that the rate had gone up. Lund also questioned if Recology had the appropriate trucks now for SB1383 compliance. Nelson stated they did now have compliant trucks. Councilman Ostler questioned vacant properties and vacation rentals having mandatory service. Nelson stated they would still have to subscribe, just as they do with water and other utilities. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated the importance of education and when the education would be available here.

Nelson stated it would likely be closer to January 2027 but does have some education resources they can send to the council.

Eric from HWMA was present and went over some of the SB1383 mandatory compliance regulations.

Nelson stated that this was informational only and would be an action item at the December meeting.

Update from City Engineer on Current City Improvement Projects: City Manager Jay Parrish went over the Engineers Report on the various projects currently in progress.

Approve Continued Discussions for Providing Contract Police Services to the Cities of Blue Lake and Trinidad: Police Chief Ron Sligh stated both he and City Manager Jay Parrish were approached by CIRA, the city's risk management authority with the prospect of providing contract services for the City of Blue Lake and Trinidad. Sligh stated that currently these cities are contracted with the Humboldt County Sheriffs Office. Sligh stated that it has been proposed that the FPD add three positions that could police these cities. Sligh added that all capital expenses for the added positions, as well as equipment, vehicles, uniforms etc., would be covered by the respective cities. Councilman Ostler questioned the cost savings for these cities. Councilman Jorgensen questioned that type of calls they get. Sligh stated the calls received are similar to Ferndale's. Councilman Ostler questioned the population of the cities. Sligh stated that between both, they are similar in size to Ferndale.

MOTION: to Approve Continued Discussions for Providing Contract Police Services to the Cities of Blue Lake and Trinidad. **(Ostler/Fisk-Becker) 4-1-0 (Lund)**

Resolution 2024-25 Appointing the City Manager as the Authorized Representative of the Ferndale Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Grant: City Manager Parrish stated that this is the project for raising the berm. This approval process is necessary for getting the final design and funding application requirements.

MOTION: to Approve Resolution 2024-25 Appointing the City Manager as the Authorized Representative of the Ferndale Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Grant **(Jorgensen/Lund) Unanimous**

Appoint City Manager to Serve on a Working Group to Establish a Subzone of the Humboldt County Flood Control District: City Manager Parrish stated that this working group will work with HCRCD to explore options of maintenance and establish a subzone of the Humboldt County Flood Control District. Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated her concerns of a mentioned parcel tax.

MOTION: to Appoint City Manager to Serve on a Working Group to Establish a Subzone of the Humboldt County Flood Control District **(Lund/Ostler) Unanimous**

Correspondence: No Comments

Council Comments: Councilman Jorgensen thanked City Manager Parrish for looking into the pruning of the tree.

Reports:

City Managers Report: Councilwoman Fisk-Becker stated she was happy to see that we are looking into gutter on the Community Center. Other council members questioned how managing the community center was going. Staff stated it was going well and have received many compliments.

Other Reports: None

Mayor Cady thanked the staff, public, and fellow councilmembers, and Adjourned the Meeting at 8:53 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristene Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristene Hall
City Clerk