

City of Ferndale, Humboldt County, California, U.S.A.
APPROVED Action Minutes for City Council Meeting of March 19, 2025

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

Report out of Closed Session: Vice Mayor Lund stated there was a Closed Session held prior to tonight's regular meeting. Lund reported there was no action taken.

Ceremonial: None

Modifications to the Agenda: None.

Report out of Study Session: None

Public Comment: None

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/Jorgensen) Unanimous**

Call Items Removed from Consent Calendar: None

Presentation: None

Public Hearing: None

Business:

2024 General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report: City Planner Michelle Nielsen provided a PowerPoint giving the Council and the public an overview of the General Plan annual progress report. Nielsen explained that government code mandates that all cities and counties submit an annual report on progress in its implementation to their legislative bodies, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, and Housing and Community Development (HCD). Nielsen added this reporting is due by April 1 of each year. Nielsen went over the updated elements. Nielsen explained the city has made good progress towards meeting its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) and the progress the city has made. Nielsen also went over the timeline for adoption for both the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP).

Councilman Jorgensen questioned building permit totals, bike and pedestrian improvements, and planned developments.

MOTION: to Accept the General Plan Annual Progress Report for filing and submit to the State.. **(Jorgensen/Ostler) Unanimous**

Overview of 2025 Zoning Ordinance Amendments: City Planner Michelle Nielsen provided a PowerPoint and gave the Council and Public an overview of proposed zoning ordinance amendments. Nielsen explained that California law requires the city's zoning map and ordinance be consistent with the General Plan, especially its Land Use and Housing elements. Nielsen added that the city's adopted Land Use Element includes changes that are not currently reflected in the Ferndale zoning map or ordinance. Nielsen added that a review of the implementation programs in the adopted housing element also shows there are updates to the zoning regulations

that have yet to be completed as well. Nielsen stated that these zoning updates will be advanced in three groups and are scheduled to be completed by March 2026. Nielsen provided a summary of each group. Nielsen explained that Group A will start at the Planning Commission with an overview and discussion on April 2, 2025.

Councilwoman Fisk-Becker questioned the Single Room Occupancy zoning and the responsibility of applying for grants for infrastructure improvements.

Vice Mayor Lund mentioned the Planning Commission kick off meeting of the zoning amendments on April 2, 2025.

Overview of Staff Discussions with Blue Lake and Trinidad regarding Police Services: Police Chief Ron Sligh stated that he and the City Manager had met several times over the last couple months with the City of Blue Lake and City of Trinidad to discuss the possibility of providing police services. Sligh stated both he and the city manager were interested to find a mutually beneficial solution to the cities policing needs. Sligh added at this time, he and the city manager did not feel this was a good benefit for the city with the added responsibility and also feels the distance could be problematic.

A member of the public stated he was glad that the city has decided not to provide this service. Vice Mayor Lund stated he was glad that the city had tried to assist even if it did not work out.

Correspondence: None

Council Comments: Councilman Jorgensen questioned the number of vacation rentals that were currently doing business in Ferndale. Jorgensen also thanked staff for providing the tax information requested at the last meeting. Jorgensen also questioned when the streets and roads committee was meeting.

Reports:

City Managers Report: None

Other Reports: None

Vice Mayor thanked the staff, public, and fellow councilmembers, and Adjourned the Meeting at 6:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Kristene Hall
City Clerk