

**CITY OF FERNDALE – HUMBOLDT COUNTY CALIFORNIA – U.S.A.
AGENDA - SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Location:	City Hall	Date:	February 25, 2020
	834 Main Street	Time:	3:15pm
	Ferndale CA 95536	Posted:	February 20, 2020

This City endeavors to be ADA compliant. Should you require assistance with written information or access to the facility, or a hearing amplification, please call 786-4224 24 hours prior to the meeting.

TO SPEAK ON ANY ISSUE, BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE MAYOR BEFORE PROCEEDING TO THE PODIUM, STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD (optional), AND DIRECT YOUR COMMENTS ONLY TO THE COUNCIL.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Mayor
2. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. ROLL CALL –City Clerk: Mayor Sweeney; Councilman Avis; Councilman Smith; Councilwoman Fisk-Becker; and Councilwoman Bullard.
4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION
 - a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (one case)
5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS
6. RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION
7. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION AND RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION
8. BUSINESS
 - a. Discuss and Consider Revising the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance relating to the location and height of fencing throughout the City of Ferndale and Possible Submission of Proposed Revisions to the Planning Commission for Consideration
 - b. Discuss Goals & Priorities
9. ADJOURN

**This notice is posted in compliance with Government Code §54956.
The next Regular Meeting of the Ferndale City Council will be held on
March 18, 2020 at City Hall at 7:00pm.**

Section 1

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Section 2

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Section 3

ROLL CALL

Section 4

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS FOR CLOSED SESSION

Section 5

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Section 6

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

Section 7

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION/RECONVENE

Section 8

BUSINESS

February 20, 2020

Mayor's Report on Progress in meeting 2019 City Goals & Priorities
September - December 2019

At the April 7, 2019 study session, council members requested that the city provide the council periodic progress reports specific to achieving council-established goals and priorities. As mayor, I volunteered to provide such a report. In April, I submitted a Mayor's progress report to the council for the first 4 months of this year followed by a report for the second 4 months issued in September 2019. This current report covers the succeeding 4 months from September through December 2019. While titled the mayor's report, the city manager and police chief played key roles in reviewing and listing actions in achieving the city's goals and priorities.

1. Continue to Improve City drainage and storm water runoff

a. Washington, Grant Street Drainage improvements.

The culvert under Schley Ave has been vacuumed and jetted and storm water was observed flowing adequately so far this winter. Preliminary engineering designs are in process by the city engineer with bids and construction expected to occur over the summer. Preliminary engineering cost estimate for the proposed improvements, including repaving the road, is \$87,000.

b. Arlington Street and 5th Street

The city will be applying for a Proposition 1 grant for the Arlington and 5th Street drainage improvement design and construction. The grant cycle is expected to be open soon.

c. Update 2004 Drainage Master Plan

SB2 Planning grant money has been allocated to prepare a portion of the 2004 Drainage Master Plan. Currently, the city planner (Planwest) has initiated the following work plan:

- i. Review of Drainage Master Plan, Designated Priority Development Areas, Safety Element
- ii. Site visits and calculation of flow capacities
- iii. Analysis of results in conjunction with other criteria from Safety Elements as applicable
- iv. Proposed infrastructure improvements and cost calculations to be developed in coordination with city engineer
- v. Prepare draft and final report

This work plan will be coordinated by the newly established Drainage Committee and include public meetings.

d. Drainage Committee Purpose and Role

Given the importance of stormwater drainage throughout the city, there was consensus that the community would benefit from a full-time drainage committee. In November 2019, the City Council approved Resolution 2019-21 formalizing the Drainage Committee. The city is currently in the process of soliciting applications to fill 7 seats on this committee. This committee will work with city staff to address drainage issues within the Francis Creek watershed including developing infrastructure in response to cumulative impacts from “build-out” development of our general plan.

e. Francis Creek Vegetation Removal Committee

The annual removal of vegetation within the channel of Francis Creek has been credited for avoiding any major flooding issues since this activity began 5 years ago. On 6 June 2019, City staff and Vegetation Removal Committee members conducted the annual Francis Creek debris removal assessment extending from Sousa’s southern property line, up-stream to the southern boundary area of Fireman’s Park.

2. Maintain & Improve City’s wastewater treatment plant & collection system

a. I & I (Inflow and Infiltration) priorities and plans to fix

Work has been completed on the \$498 thousand-dollar grant from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to examine the UV disinfection system at the WWTP, feasibility for composting of sewage sludge with green waste, address sewage lagoon system as well as I and I. A \$326 thousand-dollar grant from the State Department of Water Resources has been awarded to the City to install 1,400 feet of sewer pipe (replacing the sewer line along California Street) determined to be a major source of I and I construction to occur in 2020. A second-tier review of the approval process requested a more detailed discussion and budget which was submitted on September 6, 2019.

b. Sewage Lagoon

Earlier, a grant was being pursued to raise height of the berm around lagoon. This task was ended in favor of replacing the sewer pipe along California street which will reduce the amount of I and I reaching the treatment plant and lagoon.

c. UV Disinfection System

The UV Study has been completed. Currently, installation of a baffled channel within the disinfection system to further expose more water to UV is being modeled in cooperation with Regional Water Quality Control staff. The intent here is to reduce the UV dosing from meeting drinking water standards to lower levels that will meet the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs).

d. Composting

Currently, a feasibility study for composting sewage sludge at the WWTP site is being analyzed. The idea might include combining chipped wood waste with sewage sludge in a composting operation.

e. Funding Adequacy/Rate Study

A recently completed Fiscal Sustainability Plan (funded by California Proposition 1 grant) identifies wastewater treatment facility and collection system, remaining life expectancy, and replacement or maintenance costs for the next 20 years. A presentation of the findings of this study will be held in a study session sometime in October or November.

3. Maintain City's emergency response to disasters - floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and fires.

a. Emergency Response Plan

The City's Emergency Response Plan is updated every 5 years in coordination with County Office of Emergency Services. Since the PG&E power blackouts last fall, the Emergency Services Committee (Sweeney, Fisk-Becker) has been meeting monthly with School superintendent, Ferndale Police chief, Ferndale VFD chief and staff, City Manager, PW staff and Fair Association GM to review and discuss emergency response issues and protocol.

b. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The County's Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA. The Ferndale chapter of this Plan will soon come to the City Council for adoption. The LHMP differs from the Emergency Response Plan in that it identifies potential hazards and means for mitigating those hazards prior to an emergency or disaster situation occurring. LHMPs are a prerequisite for qualifying for FEMA assistance post disaster declarations.

c. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The County is currently reorganizing its CERT program and expects to be able to offer community training classes sometime in the spring 2020.

4. Maintain & Improve City Parks

a. Lot-line Adjustment

Negotiations continue on swapping parcels of land (lot-line adjustment) to relocate the Eugene Street access to Russ Park. The City Attorney has reviewed the deed restriction included in the title for the Russ Park property that refers to keeping the Park land in perpetuity. Currently, the city attorney is awaiting a review of his findings from the title company. This restriction could restrict trading for land of somewhat equal value as has been the strategy. There have been discussions about purchasing the land initially intended as the “swap” parcel. At 15 acres, appraised at \$2,000 per acre the amount would be approximately \$30,000. The City would seek grant funding from State Park grants to cover most costs for this purpose.

b. Firemen’s Bridge Nexus to Russ Park

Progress on installing the Firemen’s Bridge (aka PG & E bridge) remains on hold while the negotiations to bring a trailhead from Eugene Street within the City limits proceeds via the lot line adjustment discussed above. It is anticipated that once the parcel swap is completed the “connection” between Main Street, Firemen’s Park, and access to Russ Park via another pedestrian bridge adjacent to the restrooms will be further considered. Refer to the above narrative for more information.

5. Maintain & Improve City streets

a. Micro-sealing: Priority Roads

In May 2019, the County requested bids from contractors to set up a micro-sealing facility and implementation schedule for participating jurisdictions. Bids were opened in June with actual work expected to begin in July or August of 2019. The bids for the micro-sealing project came in higher than any of the cities and County were comfortable with. The project will go out to bid in early 2020. The City has inventoried and created a priority list of roads that would benefit from the micro-sealing application. The city engineer and city manager reviewed the potential for being involved in 2020 and, due to budget constraints, decided to not participate in the project this year.

b. Shaw and 4th Intersection Improvements

The city engineer has preliminary engineering drawings for improving the intersection at Shaw and 4th Street. The base project will involve replacing the existing concrete valley gutter on the west side with a new steel cross culvert across Shaw including ADA domes at the sidewalks. If finances allow, the concrete valley gutter on the east side of the intersection would be replaced with a new concrete valley gutter with new ADA curb drops at the two corners. These improvements will greatly reduced the “dip” at both sides of the 4th Street crossing allowing for smoother transition of vehicles across the intersection. A preliminary engineering cost estimate for this project is between \$40,000 and \$65,000. Changing the intersection to a four way stop to slow traffic down and dramatically reduce maintenance costs is also under consideration.

c. Fill in parking area on 5th Street Between Ocean and Shaw

At an unknown time in the past, portions of the 5th street travel way were paved with a 2-inch overlay. This project left the on-street parking areas unpaved and created a 2-inch lip or edge that has become a tripping hazard to people entering and exiting their parked cars or walking along the roadway. The city has looked at paving the parking areas to eliminate this hazard. An alternative would be to grind down the paving edge such that the tripping hazard would be reduced if not eliminated. The city engineer reviewed this situation but there have been no cost estimates or construction schedule determined.

d. PG & E Undergrounding

City staff have talked to three property owners along Francis Street regarding the easements that will be necessary to install 3 above ground transformers. Currently, the City is waiting for PG&E staff to be available to move the project forward.

e. Look at cost of paving intersection at Washington Street and Berding Street

This idea of preparing a cost estimate for paving the intersections of many streets in town came up in a study session last spring. Costs for paving the intersection of Washington Street and Berding Street could serve as a template for determining costs to pave other degraded intersections throughout the city as an alternative to re-paving entire roadways which remain costly with limited grant funding available. Currently, no cost

estimate has been prepared but is on a priority list to accomplish by the city engineer.

6. Ensure Public Safety

a. Police Department Training, Revenue, and Stability

According to Ferndale Police Chief Smith, the force remains at full-strength.

b. 3-hour Parking Signs

Caltrans has approved the wording of the 3-hour parking signs.

Subsequently, the Chief ordered new parking signs which have been received. Caltrans standards require the parking signs to be a minimum of 7 feet in height. On Main Street, this standard conflicts with the placement of the hanging flower containers which fall below the 7-foot standard.

Currently, the City is working with the Chamber of Commerce and DCI to raise the height of the light poles by 18-24 inches by placing them on pre-cast concrete bases. Once the light poles have been increased in height, the parking signs can be installed, and the Police Department will then be able to enforce the parking limit and issue warnings or citations to violators.

Section 6

ADJOURN