

MINUTES OF THE ORLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 5, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Paschall at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present via teleconference:

Councilmembers Billy Irvin, Dennis Hoffman, Salina Edwards, and Vice Mayor Bruce Roundy

Councilmembers present at Carnegie Center:

Mayor Jim Paschall

Councilmembers absent:

None

Staff present via teleconference:

Chief of Police Joe Vlach, Public Works Director Ed Vonasek, City Attorney Greg Einhorn, City Engineer Paul Rabo, Library Director Jody Meza, Fire Chief Justin Chaney and City Manager Pete Carr

Staff present at Carnegie Center:

City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager Janet Wackerman and Accounting Manager Rebecca Pendergrass

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Citizen Comments:

Byron Denton, 127 Tanner Way, stated rain should happen either Friday or Saturday. He also commented that the ballots are out, a ballot box is in front of City Hall and be sure to vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Warrant List (payable obligations).
- B. Approve City Council minutes for September 21, 2020.
- C. Receive and file Planning Commission minutes for August 20, 2020.
- D. Receive and file Library Commission minutes for July 20, 2020.
- E. Approve and adopt Resolution 2020-XX Authorizing the Police Chief to Sign a Bill of Sale of Retired Police Services Canine "Ruger."

Council member Irvin asked if there was a city policy for how a K-9 for the Police Department is retired from services. Police Chief Vlach stated there is no written policy but, in the past, the handler has first right of refusal, next any department member, then allied agencies and if no one is willing, the City releases their liability and offers the animal to the public. If no one is interested, the animal would be euthanized. Council member Irvin stated if the sale of the dog goes to the City Council for approval of sale, the City should have a written policy. Vice-Mayor Roundy suggested the Police Chief and City Manager place something on a future agenda regarding a written policy.

Action: Vice Mayor Roundy moved, seconded by Councilmember Edwards to approve consent calendar items A-D. The motion carried 5-0 by the following voice vote:
AYES: Vice Mayor Roundy, Council members Edwards, Hoffman, Irvin, and Mayor Paschall
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Verbal update on Covid-19's impact on the local economy, City operations and outreach options. Discussion/Action – Pete Carr, City Manager

Mr. Carr presented the current COVID-19 statistics for Glenn County to date. The County Board of Supervisors will be submitting a letter to the State asking COVID-19 reopening metrics to be better tailored for smaller counties. The Art Gallery held its first art showing with social distancing. The Country Pumpkins corn maze has been okayed by the County Public Health to operate. Parks and Recreation Commission met and approved the current restriction guidelines and plans for use of future grants. City Hall will continue “social distancing” , including being closed to the public until out of the purple tier. Planning Commission will have their next meeting in Carnegie Center and will provide a Zoom option.

Discussion was held on social distancing/gatherings. No other cities are using law or code enforcement with any success. The best the city can do is to not take any reservations for park or Carnegie Center use. Dr. Garrison suggested drafting a letter from the Mayor to be sent to homes where parties occur repeatedly. Mayor Paschall asked if there were any places that should be notified. Mr. Carr stated some Council members have reported addresses but no one else. Council member Edwards asked Chief Vlach if he has received any complaints. He stated the previous weekend his officers had three different noise complaints, but the trend has been down for noise complaints recently. However, in order to enforce the code, someone needs to

sign the complaint and often the complainant will not sign one. Chief Vlach added a neighbor would be more effective than the police officer in these instances.

Upon consensus of the City Council, an advisory letter from the Mayor will be created that can be sent to homes where parties occur repeatedly.

B. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Progress Review – Pete Carr, City Manager

Mr. Carr briefed City Council on financial experience for the end of 2019/2020 and the start of 2020/2021. The fiscal year began with a balanced budget and good fund balance, assisted by the \$350K bond settlement received. The water and sewer fund accounts are projected to have modest operational surpluses. The April, May, June sales tax receipts were off by 22% and 25% was predicted. Providing some offset to the shortfall is the CARES Act funding providing \$102K to the General fund for labor costs associated with public safety. Additionally, FY21 sales tax revenue was expected to be 7% below what it was on pace to achieve in FY20.

Staff recommends no budget reductions and that no additional capital purchases be authorized at this time. The open position in the police department will be filled.

Mr. Carr brought to the Council's attention the unfunded accrued liabilities (UAL) with CalPERS. The city has a total of \$7M as a "soft liability" on the books and is being amortized at CalPERS' discount rate of 7% on a 25-year schedule. The city is paying down the UAL annually. City staff is actively exploring the potential for a pension obligation bond (POB) to reduce the City's annual payments by essentially refinancing the UAL. Significant risks of POBs are recognized.

Upon the consensus of the City Council a workshop will be scheduled, to further discuss City's options on the UAL, for November or December.

Mr. Carr stated Staff will keep a close eye on the budget and report again to City Council in January.

C. Review and consider adoption of Resolution No. 2020-21 adjusting Capacity Fees, Main Replacement Charges and Meter and Lateral Installation Charges – Paul Rabo, City Engineer

Mr. Rabo reported a Consumer Price Index increase of 3.1% is proposed and this increase reflects the corresponding rise in related construction and material costs associated with the fees. These new fees will take effect sixty (60) days after adoption.

Mayor Paschall asked for public input on the matter.

Jeff Tolley asked if this had to do with water rates. Mr. Carr stated that would be discussed at the next agenda item. Mr. Denton stated this was charges to do connections and meters and added you don't want to get behind, so keep up to date on fees.

Action: Vice Mayor Roundy moved, seconded by Council member Edwards to adopt Resolution 2020-21 establishing main replacement charges, and meter and lateral installation charges. The motion carried 3-1 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Vice-Mayor Roundy, Council member Edwards, Hoffman, Irvin and Mayor Paschall
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

D. Review and consider adjustments to water and sewer rates – Paul Rabo, City Engineer

Mr. Rabo presented the recommended water and sewer rates, proposing a Consumer Price Index increase of 3.1%. Inside the city limits the fixed bi-monthly charge for water would be \$61.35 and for sewer, \$59.70. Anyone served outside the city limits would be \$122.70 for water and \$119.40 for sewer.

Mr. Denton stated the rate increases recommended are very small and keeps us on track for clean water and keeping the sewer operational.

Mr. Tolley stated that some water users are being double charged. Mr. Carr responded that by City code, all dwelling units will have a bill for services even when there are two dwelling units on one parcel. Mr. Tolley asked if there is one meter, can an owner split that service. Mr. Carr responded that the portion of the bill which just for usage, yes, but only one service gets the usage charge. There is a base fee that is applied to each service. The city encourages one meter for each dwelling or business.

Council member Edwards stated Orland Unified School District is looking at new fees. Mr. Carr stated those fees are relevant with impact fees but not with water and sewer rates.

Council member Hoffman stated the city has costs for producing water and delivering it to the public. Vice-Mayor Roundy added that gradual increments are easier to understand and affordable. Council member Irvin stated he had fought raises for the city employees and added, if you want to stop rate increases, stop giving out raises.

Action: Vice Mayor Roundy moved, seconded by Council member Hoffman to approve a 3.1% increase to water rates inside the city limits at \$61.35, \$122.70 outside the city limits and a 3.1% increase to sewer rates inside the city limits at \$59.70, \$119.40 outside the city limits starting January 25, 2021. The motion carried 4-1 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Vice-Mayor Roundy, Council member Hoffman, Irvin, and Mayor Paschall
NOES: Councilmember Edwards

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

E. Energy Efficiency and Solar Project Analysis – Pete Carr, City Manager

Mr. Carr reported on the effectiveness of the City’s investment in energy efficiency and solar power production. Positive cash flow is currently approximately \$18,000 per year. Costs and benefits of the project are borne mainly by the water and sewer enterprise funds, secondarily by the general fund. A more detailed report is available on the City’s website under Financial Information.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Vice-Mayor Roundy:

- Used the ballot box located in front of City Hall to submit his ballot.

Councilmember Hoffman:

- Nothing to report

Councilmember Edwards:

- Reported she also used the ballot box to submit her ballot.

Councilmember Irvin:

- Asked if the ballot box was chained down. Vice-Mayor Roundy reported it is.

Mayor Paschall had no reports at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Janet Wackerman, City Clerk

James Paschall Sr., Mayor

CLOSED SESSION

No additional items were received; no Closed Session was held.