

**RIO DELL PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Angeloff called the special meeting of the Rio Dell Planning Commission to order at 4:38 p.m.

Present were Commissioners Angeloff, Arsenault, Knight, and Millington. Planning Commission Chair Angeloff attended remotely. Planning Commissioner Alternate Kemp was absent.

Others present were Community Development Director Caldwell and City Clerk Dunham.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approve Minutes of the August 23, 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Arsenault/Knight to approve the Consent Calendar including approval of minutes of the August 23, 2022 regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

SPECIAL MEETING MATTERS

Resolution No. PC-170-2023 Approving Minor Amendments to the Safety Element of the Rio Dell General Plan

Community Development Director Caldwell provided a staff report recommending approval of Resolution No. PC-170-2023 recommending that the City Council approve the amended Safety Element.

Community Development Director Caldwell said that the purpose for the proposed amendment to the Safety Element is to satisfy some requirements of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) as a result of the recent earthquake. The Safety Element is one of seven mandated elements of the General Plan. The purpose of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and other hazards.

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As the Commission is aware, on December 20, 2022, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake rocked the community followed by multiple aftershocks, with the largest being a magnitude 5.4 that occurred on January 1, 2023. These earthquakes resulted in over 250 structures “yellow tagged”, over 90 structures “red-tagged” and over 60 households displaced. The Safety Element is being amended to reflect the recent earthquakes causing more than \$30 million in damage and to incorporate the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) by reference and to include the Rio Dell element of the LHMP which is a requirement of CalOES.

Community Development Director Caldwell continued with review of the proposed amendments which were highlighted in yellow in the staff report, particularly the added language related to the current earthquake event.

He then reviewed the Plan Amendment Required Findings noting that the proposed amendments are deemed to be in the public interest, are consistent and compatible with the rest of the General Plan, and have been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

He said that it is important that this is approved and sent to OES as quickly as possible and thanked the Commissioners for agreeing to hold the special meeting.

He referred to the History narrative under Section 7.2.2 of the Safety Element and said that it was very well written and encouraged Commissioners to take a look at it.

Commissioner Angeloff called for public comment on the proposed Resolution. No public comment was received.

Motion was made by Millington/Arsenault to approve Resolution No. PC 170-2023 recommending the City Council approve amending the Safety Element to include a brief discussion on the December 20, 2022 and January 1, 2023 earthquakes and to incorporate the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) by reference and to include the Rio Dell Element of the LHMP in the Safety Element. Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS/UPDATES

Community Development Director Caldwell reported that staff has been extremely busy in response to the earthquakes and has issued a significant number of building permits.

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Much of the damages had to do with foundations and water heater damage. Only two structures have been removed from the “red tagged” list and approximately a dozen from the “yellow-tagged” list. Repairs are being made which is good with approximately 20 households still displaced and staying in hotels.

He said that the Community Resource Center and the Rio Dell Fire Department have been invaluable during this disaster and the community as a whole has been pretty amazing helping their neighbors and others in need. He said that it is sad that it takes an event like this to get people to know their neighbors.

He said that staff doesn’t anticipate having any items for the regular meeting on the February 28 agenda although he did have a couple of discussions with folks interested in making applications. One is a potential RV Park at the Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park. The big issue with that is onsite septic systems for RV parks can take up considerable space so they are working with Environmental Health to see if they can make it work. If it doesn’t, it sounds like they may propose a mini storage facility at that site. Another issue that staff identified with the RV Park is the expansion of the left-hand turn pocket going southbound and also acceleration and de-acceleration lanes going northbound.

Community Development Director Caldwell said he doesn’t see things slowing down for at least the next month or so and what became evident to staff during this disaster is that there is a shortage of local contractors.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Arsenault/Knight to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. to the February 28, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Nick Angeloff, Chair

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk