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**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, Councilmembers Wilson, and Woodall

Absent: Councilmember Orr (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Community Development Director Caldwell, Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel, and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Finance Director Sanborn, Interim Police Chief Landry, Water Superintendent Jensen, and Wastewater Superintendent Kelly (excused)

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Proclamation Declaring September 17-23 as Constitution Week

Catherine Culver, from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Eel River Chapter, addressed the Council and explained that their organization is a non-profit, non-political service organization dedicated to patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.

She said that the proclamation talks about citizens having the responsibility to study the Constitution and Constitution Week focuses on taking some time to do that. She presented two books that she found helpful in her studies of the Constitution. The first was by a local author titled "*The U.S. Constitution Explained Clause by Clause for Every American Today*"; the other book was geared toward younger people "*OMG! WTF Does the Constitution Actually Say*" by a comedian. She said that she learned from this book that when the House of Representatives elects a Speaker of the House, they don't have to be a member of the House of Representatives which she was not aware of.

She thanked the City for its willingness to recognize this week as Constitution Week.

Mayor Garnes read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Culver.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes invited public comment on non-agenda matters.

Shannon Miranda from Miranda's Rescue addressed the Council and said that although it sometimes gets frustrating dealing with animals, the contract with the City is

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working very well. He explained that when animals come into the facility and they are not fixed, he charges the owner \$200.00 and if the animal comes back as a repeat offender, he charges \$400.00. He commended CSO Clark for doing an amazing job. He said that he used to tell the City "Hey you are paying me but not bringing me any animals." Now, he is getting two or three animals at a time. He thanked the City for all the hard work and said what everyone is doing is working great.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter thanked Shannon for his positive comments.

Alice Millington addressed the Council and announced that there would be a "Blessing of Animals" at Miranda's Rescue on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. She said that there is no fee to attend and invited everyone to come out and bring their pets to the event.

Danette Kellerman, Chairman for Recovery Humboldt and County Social Worker addressed the Council and said that she wanted to acknowledge the Rio Dell Police Department for the awesome job that they are doing. She commented that she had a police officer here go over and beyond to help a person that was having a mental health crisis and had just gotten out of custody. She said that he was in a treatment program and was kicked out and ended back up in Rio Dell. She added that sometimes we miss opportunities to help people and it is important to acknowledge the help and dedication of the Rio Dell Police Department. She said that she had a plaque made for the department but didn't have it with her to present.

She mentioned an annual event that takes place during the first week in September to unite and encourage people in recovery and to provide information on how to get other people into recovery and said that it is a free picnic for anyone that wants to attend.

She thanked the Council for allowing the officers do an excellent job.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Garnes asked if any council member, staff, or member of the public would like to remove any item from the consent calendar for a separate discussion. No items were removed.

A motion was made by Carter/Woodall to approve the consent calendar including the following items:

- 1) Minutes of the September 3, 2024 Regular meeting;
- 2) Authorizing the purchase of a Grundfos Dosing Pump for chlorination/disinfection of the Wastewater Effluent in the amount of \$10,960.91;
- 3) Approving a Total Compensation Study Cost Proposal from Gallagher (formerly Koff & Associates);

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- 4) Authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter to the Governor requesting a veto of SB 1037;
- 5) Authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter to the Governor requesting a veto of AB 2561;
- 6) Authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter to the Governor requesting a veto of AB 98; and
- 7) To receive and file the Check Register for August.

Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and said at the October 1, 2024 regular meeting, staff will be bringing forward a proposal to procure compost material in compliance with SB 1383, the mandatory organics recycling legislation that passed several years ago.

He announced that there was an Eel River Cleanup Event scheduled for Saturday, September 28th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. encouraging volunteers to participate. He said the event is being organized by the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA), Proper Wellness, and other local community members.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented on the Eel River Cleanup Event and said that this is a very important event and includes a combination of non-profit organizations, local businesses, and citizens with everybody coming together for a common cause which is very special.

Councilmember Wilson referred to the Public Records Request for information related to the cell tower lease agreement and asked the reason for the request.

City Manager Knopp explained that one of the lease agreements is up for renewal in 2026 and said that they are likely requesting information in preparation to perhaps negotiate a new contract.

Community Development Director Caldwell noted that there are three agreements in place and one is expiring in 2026 or 2027 and the other issue the City had with one of the other lessees is that they encroached outside their footprint of the lease area so the City had to negotiate a new lease agreement.

ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Introduction and first reading (by title only) of Ordinance No. 407-2024 Amending Chapter 13.20 "Water Wells" of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) to clarify the County Department of Environmental Health administers the City's water well permitting process

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Community Development Director Caldwell provided a staff report and said that staff was recently contacted by the Humboldt County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) in response to a water well permit application they received. He noted that the County DEH has administered the City's well permitting process for decades but the current regulations, Chapter 13.20 "Water Wells" does not clearly identify their responsibility.

He then reviewed other changes including definitions for "Agricultural Wells" and the "County" to mean the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Branch. Other recommended changes included language to require connection to the public water supply if the property is within 300 feet of an existing public water main, language regarding agricultural wells, requirements for backflow devices, and setback requirements for the construction of a well.

The proposed language says that no well can be located within 50 feet from the property line or within 500 feet from any existing well. He noted that there is a variance procedure that allows the County to have the power to grant variances to the 500-foot setback. He indicated that he would be reaching out to the County to verify the 500-foot setback as it seems a little large and before the second reading and adoption of the ordinance, he will come back to the Council with a recommendation from the County if it differs from this.

A public hearing was opened at 6:27 p.m. to receive public comment on the proposed ordinance. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Carter/Woodall to approve the introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 407-2024 (by title only) amending Chapter 13.20 "Water Wells" of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) to clarify that the County Department of Environmental Health administers the City's water well-permitting process and to continue the second reading and adoption of the ordinance to the October 1, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter reported on upcoming meetings and events and said that Rio Dell's first CERT team was sworn in on September 12th, said that she attended the Cal Cities Redwood Empire Division meeting on September 13th hosted by the City of Eureka, and announced that tomorrow's Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting was canceled.

She also reported that as of yesterday, spay and neuter vouchers are available at the Community Resource Center. Anyone interested in obtaining a voucher should contact Sarah at the Resource Center on Monday-Friday between 9 am and 3 p.m.

Councilmember Wilson reported on his attendance at the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) meeting and announced that PG&E received approval on its fourth rate increase for the year and that RCEA would also be increasing the rates for those enrolled in the Community Choice Aggregation Program.

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Councilmember Woodall announced that there would be a Beautification, Walkability and Pride Committee meeting at City Hall on Friday at 1:30 p.m. for anyone interested in attending.

Mayor Garnes announced that she also attended the Cal Cities Redwood Empire Division meeting in Eureka along with Mayor Pro Tem Carter and City Manager Knopp so there was a good showing of people from Rio Dell.

She also announced that she was appointed as an Alternate board member to LAFco and would be introduced to the board tomorrow.

She encouraged volunteers to show up on September 28th for the Eel River Cleanup.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. to the October 1, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Attest:

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Karen Dunham, City Clerk