



RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL  
**REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.**  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026  
City Council Chambers  
675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM by Mayor Garnes.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present:

- Mayor Garnes
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter
- Council Member Woodall
- Council Member Orr
- Council Member Wilson

Staff Present:

- City Manager Kyle Knopp
- Finance Director Sanborn
- Chief of Police (represented by Sergeant Beauchaine for report)
- Wastewater Superintendent Moore
- Water Superintendent Jensen
- City Clerk Hill
- Community Development Director Kevin Caldwell (via Zoom)

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Garnes.

**D. CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

1. Swearing-In of Police Officer Alexander Lewallen (Item 2026/0407.01)

Mayor Garnes officiated the swearing-in ceremony for newly hired Police Officer Alexander Lewallen. Officer Lewallen took the oath to support and defend the U.S. and California Constitutions and to serve the City of Rio Dell with integrity, professionalism, and respect.

Mayor Garnes and Council members welcomed Officer Lewallen and thanked his family for their support. The ceremony concluded with applause and photos.

## **E. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Garnes opened the public presentations portion of the meeting, inviting comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Allison Talbot, local government relations representative for PG&E, addressed the Council. She highlighted April as Safe Digging Month and reminded residents to Call 811 Before You Dig, whether for small or large projects, to prevent accidents and protect underground utilities.

Ms. Talbot reported that repair costs from digging accidents average about \$3,500, and urged residents to use this free marking service at least two days before starting any project.

Council thanked Ms. Talbot for the update.

No other public comments were received.

## **F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Items on Consent:

1. Approve Minutes of the March 17, 2026 Regular Meeting – (Item 2026/0407.02)
2. Monument Road Slip-Out Repair History and Status – Final Invoice Receipt and Payment Direction (ARPA Fund) (Item 2026/0407.03)
3. Authorization of Resolution No. 1664-2026 – Tax Defaulted Property (Item 2026/0407.04)
4. Authorization of Resolution No. 1666-2026 – Approval of Axon Enterprise, Inc. 10-Year Technology Consolidation Agreement (Item 2026/0407.05)
5. Budget Adjustment – Police Vehicle Purchase and Outfitting (FY 2025–2026) (Item 2026/0407.06)
6. Receive and File – Check Register for March 2026 (Item 2026/0407.07)

Council Member Wilson pulled Item 4 for discussion.

**ACTION:** Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, seconded by Council Member Woodall, to approve Items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Motion carried 5–0.

## **G. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 4 Discussion – Resolution No. 1666-2026 (Axon Agreement):

Council Member Wilson asked whether the Axon body-worn camera agreement included periodic replacement and warranty coverage. Sergeant Beauchaine

confirmed replacements occur at 2.5, 5, 7.5, and 10 years at no extra cost and that the devices are covered under full warranty.

**ACTION:** Motion by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Carter, to approve Item 4.

Motion carried 5–0.

## **H. REPORTS / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **1. City Manager / Staff Update (Item 2026/0407.08)**

City Manager Knopp reported the following:

- The planned UC Davis Wastewater Research Tour was postponed due to illness; it will be rescheduled.
- He attended the SCORE JPA Board Meeting, where new wastewater training programs for city staff were announced.
- The Cal Poly Humboldt Environmental Engineering Program will visit the Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 8, from 3–4 PM, for an educational site tour led by Superintendent Marshall Moore.

Council and public had no questions.

## **I. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS / STUDY SESSION**

### **1. Informational Presentation – “Seismic Hazards: What’s Shaking in Rio Dell” by Dr. Wendy Bohon (Item 2026/0407.09)**

Dr. Wendy Bohon, Branch Chief of Seismic Hazards and Earthquake Engineering at the California Geological Survey (CGS), delivered a presentation on earthquake science, local faults, and resilience planning.

Topics included:

- Overview of California’s fault systems and Rio Dell’s position near the Little Salmon and Ferndale Fault Zones.
- Statewide risk illustrated on the “Shake and Bacon” seismic hazard map.
- Liquefaction, landslides, and tsunami threats in the Humboldt area.
- Recent Rio Dell earthquake events in December 2022 and January 2023, addressing reasons smaller quakes can produce stronger shaking locally.
- The Fernbridge Seismic Gate Project — a new automated safety closure system triggered by strong shaking.

- Earthquake readiness reminders: *Drop, Cover, and Hold On*.

### **Council and Public Discussion:**

- Mayor Garnes thanked Dr. Bohon and CGS for their expertise.
- Mayor Pro Tem Carter asked about tsunami evacuation plans; staff from CGS recommended partnering with the Redwood Coast Tsunami Workgroup and offered future training events.
- Council Member Wilson recounted differences in shaking during recent earthquakes; Dr. Bohon explained intensity depends on proximity and ground type rather than magnitude alone.
- Council Member Woodall asked about assistance programs for home retrofits. City Manager Knopp confirmed Rio Dell promotes the Earthquake Brace and Bolt program for residents and builds city projects to modern seismic codes.
- Community Development Director Caldwell (via Zoom) asked about the distinction between Alquist–Priolo Fault Zone designations; Dr. Bohon explained they apply only to faults active within the last 11,000 years that reach the surface.

Public comments were positive, thanking CGS for their outreach.

No formal action was required; presentation received and filed.

### **J. SPECIAL CALL ITEMS / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS / PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee – Memorial Park Tree Replacement (Item 2026/0407.10)

City Manager Knopp stated that the Council requested formation of an Ad Hoc committee at its March 17, 2026, meeting, to assist staff with selection of new trees at Memorial Park following planned removals for safety reasons.

Council Discussion:

Mayor Garnes confirmed that Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Council Member Woodall volunteered to serve.

Knopp noted the City is coordinating with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding nesting protections, which may require a pre-removal bird nesting survey in May.

By consensus of the council, it was agreed that Mayor Pro Tem Carter and Council Member Woodall would be members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Memorial Park Tree Replacement.

### **K. ORDINANCES / SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS / PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. First Reading – Ordinance No. 421-2026: Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Text Amendments (Item 2026/0407.11)

Community Development Director Kevin Caldwell presented the proposed amendment aligning Rio Dell’s ADU regulations with current California housing law.

Key changes include:

- Allowing up to 850 sq. ft. for one-bedroom units;
  - Allowing up to 1,000 sq. ft. for two-bedroom units.
- These adjustments ensure consistency with Government Code §65852.2.

Council confirmed the action was a routine state compliance requirement. No public comments were received.

**ACTION:** Motion by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 421-2026 and schedule the second reading and adoption for April 21, 2026.

Motion carried 5–0.

**L. COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Pro Tem Carter:

- Attended the RREDC meeting (March 30) and COAD board retreat (April 3).
- Reported on King Salmon flooding recovery and reiterated the importance of Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), formed after the Rio Dell earthquakes to support local emergency response.

Council Member Orr:

- No report.

Council Member Wilson:

- Reported that HWMA rejected a non-responsive bid for SB 1383 organic waste processing and will reissue it.
- Discussed a delay in local franchise implementation to October 2026 due to facility readiness.
- Shared remarks favoring improved earthquake alert systems over additional waste mandates.

Council Member Woodall:

- Reported from the Chamber of Commerce that *Fiesta del Río* will be held June 13–14, 2026 at the Fire Hall.
- Parade theme: "America's 250th Birthday – With a Western Flair."
- Announced the Community Garden Plant Sale on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at the garden on Butcher Street.

Mayor Garnes:

- Attended the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee meeting in Costa Mesa.
- Announced travel to Pasadena for the California Seismic Safety Commission meeting and tour of the Caltech Seismology Lab.
- Thanked Dr. Bohon and CGS staff for their educational presentation.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

ACTION: Motion by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carter, to adjourn.

Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:11 PM.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

APPROVED:

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Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jessica Hill, City Clerk