

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2025**

Mayor Garnes called the regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: (Closed Session) Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, Councilmembers Orr, Wilson, and Woodall, City Manager Knopp

Present: (Regular Meeting) Mayor Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Carter, Councilmembers Orr, Wilson, and Woodall

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Interim Police Chief Landry, Wastewater Superintendent Kelly, Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen, Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel, Senior Fiscal Assistant Townsend, and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Finance Director Sanborn and Community Development Director Caldwell (excused)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Public Employment – Title: Chief of Police – Gov’t Code §54957

The City Council recessed into a closed session at 5:00 p.m. with City Manager Knopp.

The Council reconvened into open session at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Garnes announced that there was nothing to report out of closed session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes invited public comment on non-agenda matters.

Michael Ward, 23 Center St. addressed the Council regarding parking and said that the City owns a 5-foot strip of land along Center St. by the Rio Dell Mobile Home Park and noted that paving that section and widening the street would help alleviate some of the parking problems in that area.

Alison Talbott, local government relations representative for PG&E addressed the Council and said that she was fortunate to have a positive working relationship with the City. She wanted everyone to know she was here to help and to reach out if needed.

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.

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

- 1) Minutes of the January 7, 2025 Regular Meeting;
- 2) Approve and Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with Wendt Construction for the Installation of a 2" Water Main on S. Cherry Lane;
- 3) Approve the Reappointment of Nick Angeloff, Larry Arsenault, and Patrick Knight to the Rio Dell Planning Commission for 3-year terms ending December 31, 2027 and;
- 4) Receive and File the Check Register for November.

Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and announced there would be a Nuisance Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall followed by a Traffic Committee meeting on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The public was invited and encouraged to attend.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter expressed thanks to city staff for everything they do.

Councilmember Woodall asked Interim Chief Landry how things were going in the Police Department.

Interim Chief Landry responded that they were looking forward to having a new Chief of Police on board and that she and Sergeant Beauchaine were working a lot of extra hours, and continuing with field training for Officer Rocha.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Discussion/Review of the Area Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and reviewed the process for the 5-year update of the Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County and the City last updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2020 with the anticipated submittal of the 2025 update before the end of May 2025. Once the hazard mitigation plan is adopted by all of the jurisdictional partners and approved by FEMA, the partnership will collectively and individually become eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project funding from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The grants can be used to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures before and after a major disaster declaration.

He reviewed the status of previous plan actions and a matrix on the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan including new or existing assets, objectives met, the lead and support agencies, estimated cost, sources of funding, and the timeline for implementation.

City Manager Knopp said that staff would continue to work with the county on the plan update and bring it back to the City Council for formal approval at a subsequent meeting.

He said that now is a good time if there are any other ideas that the Council or members of the public may have regarding the plan. He noted that one concept that has been brought up is to work with the Scotia Community Services District since they have the new Scotia School Gymnasium facility as a potential emergency assembly/shelter location.

The Council commented that in moving forward, the Scotia Gym is conceivably the best location for an emergency shelter and would like the City to pursue that option. She added that she will also prioritize the City's underground infrastructure, particularly water and sewer..

Mayor Garnes suggested that the Council continue discussion of the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan before its final adoption. The Council concurred.

ORDINANCES/SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Introduction and first reading (by title only) of Ordinance No. 410-2025 Amending Section 8.35.040 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Pertaining to Requirements for Commercial Edible Food Generators to Include Authority for the County of Humboldt Division of Environmental Health to Charge Fees for the Service

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and explained that SB 1383, the California Short-Lived Climate Pollution Bill aims to reduce methane emissions from the landfill and rescue 20% of edible food waste. The mandate requires that cities adopt an ordinance to implement SB 1383 requirements locally.

The mandate requires edible food generators to be inspected by the responsible jurisdiction, however, the City lacks the staff and expertise to conduct such inspections. Staff is proposing to engage in an MOU with the County of Humboldt Division of Environmental Health to conduct these inspections on behalf of the City and the County has agreed to offer these services.

He noted that edible food generators are defined as certain business types larger than 10,000 sq. ft. that handle food and are required to donate excess edible food fit for human consumption. There is only one edible food generator in the City that meets the current criteria which is the Rio Dell School District.

City Manager Knopp explained that the ordinance and future MOU with the County will allow them to conduct the inspections and charge a fee for those inspections.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter asked who pays the fee; the City or the school.

City Manager Knopp explained that the County would access the fee and collect it from the school district.

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Mayor Garnes opened a public hearing to receive public input on the proposed ordinance. There being no public comment, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Carter/Woodall to introduce and conduct the first reading (by title only) of *Ordinance No. 410-2025 Amending Section 8.35.040 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code (RDMC) Pertaining to Requirements for Commercial Edible Food Generators to Include Authority for the County of Humboldt Division of Environmental Health to Charge Fees for the Service* and to continue its second reading and adoption to the February 4, 2025 regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Wilson announced that he would be attending a Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) meeting on Thursday.

He commented that it was disheartening to see only two public members attending tonight's meeting and pointed out that the only time the public participates gets involved in council meetings is when there is a controversial matter on the agenda such as utility rate increases or truck parking regulations.

Councilmember Orr reported that he attended a Humboldt County Association of Government (HCAOG) meeting last week and that they are still in search of a new Executive Director but they seem to have a lot of strong candidates to consider.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter announced that she would be attending a Cal Cities Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Policy Committee meeting in Sacramento on Friday; and that the January 27th RREDC meeting was canceled due to another important event.

She said that Supervisor Natalie Arroyo did a lot of research on the local health care system and interviewed providers. She is putting on a forum titled *"The Health Care Provider Recruitment and Retention in Humboldt County"* on January 27th from 6-8 p.m. and people can attend online or in person. She said that anyone interested in attending in person should reach out to her for a ticket and thanked Supervisor Arroyo for digging into such a massive problem for Humboldt County.

She also reported on the recent blood drive co-sponsored by the Community Resource Center and said that 22 people showed up to donate blood compared to the usual 6-8 people who show up to donate at the various locations. She thanked the Community Resource Center and the Rio Dell Fire Department for barbecuing the hotdogs.

Councilmember Woodall reported that she went to the last Chamber of Commerce meeting but the meeting was canceled due to the lack of a quorum.

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Mayor Garnes announced that she would be attending the Cal Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee meeting in Sacramento on Friday and that she attended a Seismic Safety Committee meeting last Thursday with a focus on Rio Dell and the December 5th earthquake. She said they provided an animation of the quake and the bridge which was very disturbing.

Mayor Garnes thanked Nick Angeloff, Traci O'Connell, Shane Wilson, and the California Conservation Corp. (CCC) crew for coming out on Saturday to help take down the Christmas decorations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. to the February 4, 2025, regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk