

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Garnes.

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

Absent: Councilmember Woodall (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Finance Director Sanborn, Wastewater Superintendent Taylor, Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen, Senior Fiscal Assistant Maciel, and City Clerk

Absent: Community Development Director Caldwell (attended remotely) and Chief of Police Allen

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Garnes invited public comment on non-agenda matters. No public comment was received.

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/Orr to approve the consent calendar including the following items:

- 1) Approve Minutes of the August 1, 2023 Regular Meeting;
- 2) Authorize Finance Director to sign and submit the City's Annual Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Claim for FY 2022-23;
- 3) Approve the transfer of City monies to the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF);
- 4) Adopt Resolution No. 1587-2023 Designating a Voting Delegate and Alternate for the League of California Cities 2023 Annual Conference;
- 5) Adopt Resolution 1588-2023 Adopting FY 2023-24 Master Fee Schedule rescinding Resolution No. 1362-2017;
- 6) Adopt Resolution No. 1589-2023 Approving Revised Billable Rates for staff time for FY 2023-24;
- 7) Approve purchase of two Sodium Hypochlorite Storage Tanks and Accessories; and
- 8) Receive and File the Check Register for July.

Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager/Staff Update

City Manager Knopp provided highlights of the staff update and said that this morning staff and Mayor Garnes met with Cal Fire, Department of General Services and Senator McGuire regarding the CalFire property. He said that it was a good meeting and some issues were cleared up regarding the availability of City water and sewer services. The previous report indicated that they would connect to a septic system and use well water which was erroneous information. He said that CalFire will not be responding to the City's request for shared use of the parcel until after they develop a plan for the development of the CalFire facility. He extended thanks to Senator McGuire for his involvement and participation in the meeting.

He also reminded everyone that beginning with the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 5, 2023, meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Authorize the City Manager to finalize and issue the Request for Proposals (RFP's) for the Gateway Landscape Improvements

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said that the City was awarded nearly \$200,000 for the Gateway Enhancement Project through the Clean California Grant Program. The two components of the project include a 3-piece outdoor exercise station, and landscaping including upgrade of the irrigation system and the installation of 123 trees. He noted that this item only covers the landscaping portion of the grant project; the exercise station will return to the Council at the next meeting for separate action to finalize that portion of the RFP.

He reviewed the Bid Schedule for the Gateway Landscaping and said that in working with the Gateway AdHoc Committee members (Mayor Garnes and Mayor Pro Tem Carter), the recommendation was to plant flowering Cherry trees in the median and along the sidewalk area. The plan will include 99 new trees although there were 123 trees identified in the original plan. The reason for the reduction is that there is one less median with the removal of the median in front of Root 101, and the committee recommended preserving some of the existing trees.

City Manager Knopp explained that replacing the median grass with turf is not allowed under the terms of the grant, and turf is extremely expensive so that is no longer an option for the project. He commented that installation of a new sprinkler system will be more water efficient. He said at the end of the medians, the idea is to have a cluster of trees which will need to be selected later.

Councilmember Wilson asked if the new landscaping will have any effect on the flag pole holes.

City Manager Knopp explained that it is his understanding that the design of the flag pole holders is flawed in that water gets in holes from the irrigation system and the wood flag poles get wet and expand, expressing the need for a modified design. Since this is not covered under the grant, the city will work with the Chamber of Commerce to come up with a solution for the flag poles.

Councilmember Orr asked if the 5 x 5-foot excavation for the trees is the entire median area.

City Manager Knopp explained that the width between the median and the curb is about 9 feet.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter indicated that the Chamber of Commerce has struggled with the flag poles as well as getting volunteers to help put the flags up and take them down. She said that apparently the flag poles don't fit properly in the holes which makes it difficult. She said as liaison to the Chamber, she would talk to the members and try to come up with a plan.

She added that regarding the median, she can't wait to see a tunnel of beautiful flowering trees through town.

Mayor Garnes called for public comment on the issue.

Jonathan Brodeur suggested drilling a ½-inch hole in the bottom of the flag pole holders to let the water drain.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter invited Jonathan to attend the next Chamber meeting.

Motion was made by Carter/Orr authorizing the City Manager to finalize and issue the Request for Proposals (RFP's) for the Gateway Landscape Improvements. Motion carried 4-0.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Carter commented on the success of this year's Wildwood Days events and said that the number kudos is beyond measure. There was a great community turnout and said the Fire Department did a great job with everything including the amazing fireworks show. She said that as she watched the fireworks show she felt so much pride in the City and felt grateful to live here.

She said that she attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting on August 4th with the topic of discussion being Wildwood Days, and said that she also attended a Beautification, Walkability and Pride Committee meeting on August 11th with a recap of the Community

Clean-Up Day. She thanked the Community Resource Center staff and volunteers for participating.

She said that she attended the Gateway AdHoc Committee meeting and announced that she would be attending a Cal Cities divisional meeting in Fortuna on Friday, August 18th.

Councilmember Orr reported that he would be attending an HCAOG meeting on Thursday and regarding Wildwood Days, he was unable to participate in the activities because he had soccer tournaments out of town. However; based on the number of cars parked in front of his house before and after, it must have been a good turnout. He said that he appreciated the clean-up efforts after the event as they did a fantastic job.

Councilmember Wilson said that he thought that this year's Wildwood Days was phenomenal and the event seemed well-organized.

He reported that he attended an HWMA meeting last week and hoped to have the new director come to a council meeting soon to talk about AB 1383 which he said is a mess and something the State or the local jurisdictions are not ready for.

Mayor Garnes also commented on the success of Wildwood Days and said that she presented the three young men with Certificates of Appreciation for volunteering after the earthquakes and they seemed very grateful. She pointed out that Supervisors Bohn and Bushnell were here from start to finish with Supervisor Bohn doing a great job as auctioneer at the Fireman's Barbeque on Sunday. She agreed that the fireworks were phenomenal, there was a great turnout and a fun weekend for the community.

She reported that she attended an HTA meeting for Councilmember Woodall where they discussed the Micro Transit System where anyone (not just dial-a-ride people) can find the schedule and jump on at any one of the stops.

She said that she will also be attending the Cal Cities meeting on Friday in Fortuna from 3:00- 5:00 with a reception following, and invited everyone to attend.

City Manager Knopp announced that there would be a free tire disposal drop off event at the school on Saturday, August 19th from 10:00-2:00 and reminded everyone that the tires must be off the rims.

Mayor Garnes reminded everyone that beginning with the next regular meeting on September 5, 2023, the regular meetings will begin at 6:00 rather than 6:30.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carter/Orr to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to the September 5, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Debra Garnes, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk