

Alturas City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

October 16, 2018 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Ray at 2:00 p.m. **Councilmembers present:** Mark Steffek, Cheryl Nelson, Jim Irvin, and Loni Lewis. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, Director of Public Works Joe Picotte, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Police Chief Sid Cullins, and Fire Marshall Eric Hunter. **Public attending:** 5. All present joined together in an opening prayer by Robert Fendler followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Under the public forum Anna Marie Jones addressed Council with her concerns of wrongfully taken property in Cedarville, CA in 2011. Anna Marie Jones also addressed her concern of the local law enforcement and City Council blocking her communications. Ms. Jones also believes the local hotels are refusing to rent to her without good cause.

Councilmember Nelson asked Anna Marie Jones if she is currently in between houses; to understand her situation and to research any opportunity that can be provided.

Anna Marie Jones replied she currently has a place to stay.

Mayor Bobby Ray addressed Anna Marie Jones, wanting to help her, but currently the City Council has no jurisdiction on the items she brought to Council. Mayor Ray also assured Anna Marie the City Council and Alturas Police Department do not have the ability to block communications. As far as the local hotels, that would be a civil case and not done through City Council.

Modoc County Sheriff's Department representative Undersheriff William "Tex" Dowdy and Modoc OES Deputy Director Heather Hadwick presented a new program that is being implemented called "Alternative Work Program for Inmates". This new program would utilize certain inmates as a workforce, which would provide a work detail around the City and County. This would benefit the community. They will have two categories "in custody" and "out of custody". The out of custody will be misdemeanor convictions and people currently serving probation. This will also allow individuals to work off fines. With this program Modoc County Jail's capacity through the day will be reduced which would cut some cost for the County. This program would also provide inmates with the opportunity to learn trades they can use once released. Heather Hadwick has also applied/submitted for grant funding for "pocket parks", the County is currently researching where to provide these parks. The parks would also be maintained by the inmates and due to requirements of pocket parks there is little maintenance.

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt **Resolution #2018-35** approving the 2018/2019 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$4,769,798. With the amendment of moving line item 193 Layout Plan – FAA to Line item 4 Capital Projects. **ALL AYES**

Council discussed the Alturas City Code relating to all purchases over ten thousand must go to bid unless a finding is made. Due to unique circumstances and federal regulations vehicle purchases maybe an exception. City will still research competitive pricing, but may not put out to bid due to circumstances. If grant is awarded Council will make a determination if there is indeed a finding.

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to approve the 25% match in the amount of \$20,020.00 for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grant to purchase new police vehicles. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2018-36** approving the new rates for the sale of bulk water; with the amendment of repealing the one time set up fee of \$58.00 and changing the rate from \$20 per 100 Cubic Feet to \$25 per 100 Cubic Feet. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt the consent agenda as follows: a) Approve minutes for September 18, 2018 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for September 2018 in the amount of \$177,733.90; c) Adopt **Resolution #2018-37** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$152.58. **ALL AYES.**

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Fire Marshall Hunter reported he has been busy due to the smoke testing for the sewer system. He will also be attending a Risk Management training that is provided by Golden State Risk Management Agency. Fire Marshall Hunter has also been busy with the implement ladder truck and maintaining fire trucks.

Police Chief Cullins reports he went through the records management system and the Alturas Police Department has more arrests, but less case numbers. This shows officers have been more efficient. Also Chief of Police reports Officer Middleton has started on the force October 10th.

Director of Public Works Picotte reports they've finishing up smoke testing. The test was successful a few issues have been brought to light. Most problems were on private property; Picotte will research how to address the issues. Smoke testing will help with infiltration and planning future projects to improve the sewer system. Grocery Outlet has broken ground. Grocery Outlet team plan as of today is to put a "shell" of a building up by March of 2019. Hospital Project has started paving Nagle Street should be completed by this week. They also plan on paving Nagle and 8th Street where the pavement is deteriorating. Picotte attended an open house housing package in Redding, CA. This covered zoning and housing element. Picotte plans to meet with the State and start working on complying with housing element requirements. Potential grant funding is available.

Councilmember Nelson has been approached by several people asking why City Council Meeting are not held in the evenings. Mayor Ray replied meetings were once held in the evening and attendance was very low. Nelson has also been concerned about vacant houses being occupied by squatters.

Councilmember Irvin reminds Department Heads and Councilmembers October is the month for performance reviews and evaluations, so be prepared. Also reminds Councilmembers to establish next evaluation period.

City Clerk Binning reminds staff and councilmembers they are invited to the Strong Family Health Youth and Fitness Center grand opening November 1st at 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Binning also reminds everyone there will be an ethics training provided by Modoc LAFCO. The training will be November 9th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro-tem Steffek heard a group of volunteers have been getting together and cleaning up Main Street. Apparently, Jessica Burns, Patricia Cullins, Waste Management, and many more have done this two weekends in a row. He would like to recognize their hard work.

Councilmember Lewis is also concerned about vacant houses being occupied by squatters. Chief Cullins replied that the issues have been to contact absentee owners to confirm the house should be vacant. When they can confirm the Alturas Police Department can take action on trespassing. Mayor Ray also commented if a house currently does not have water service Environmental Health can be involved as well. Lewis would like to do an open house sometime in the future to gather concerns from the public.

Director of Public Works Picotte informed councilmembers a meeting will be held with mill representative Sean Curtis, City Council, Board of Supervisors and US Forest Service. This meeting will discuss goals to keep the mill running. Meeting will be held in the Modoc Planning Office October 19th, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

With no further business to come before Council, meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to return in regular session on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Macey Binning".

Macey Binning
City Clerk