

## **Alturas City Council**

### **Regular Meeting**

City Hall Council Chambers

April 16, 2019 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Ray at 2:00 p.m. **Councilmembers present:** Bobby Ray, Mark Steffek, Loni Lewis, and Cheryl Nelson. **Councilmembers absent:** Jim Irvin. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Police Chief Sid Cullins, Fire Chief Keith Jacques and Fire Marshall Eric Hunter. **Public attending:** 4. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under the public forum, Kevin Kramer presented an update on the hospital project. Mr. Kramer had visuals of the hospital layout and landscaping. The new building will be approximately 46,000 sqft. The main building will have the Hospital and Clinic, there will be a separate building that will host as the ambulance base, supplies warehouse, maintenance and shop. Same services will be offered. However, they may be able to expand in certain areas as the need arises.

Councilmember Lewis inquired if the skilled nursing facility will be moving to the new location.

Mr. Kramer responded that at first, the skilled nursing facility will not be located at new facility. However, they do plan on designing a skilled nursing facility on site in near future. Currently the hospital receives a higher reimbursement rate because the skilled nursing facility is 300 yards from hospital. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) granted the hospital a 5-year extension, which will give them time to design a new skilled nursing facility. The hospital rate for reimbursement is a little over a million, so they are obligated to build a new facility.

Brian Foster gave an update on the construction part of the hospital project. Due to weather they are a couple of weeks behind. They are currently active on site. They finished digging the foundation for the Clinic and transitioning to the hospital foundation currently. First foundation pour will be Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Foster plans on exterior and structures to be completed by late October, that way they can focus on interior during the winter.

Doreen Smith Powers proposed to Council to update Chapter 30 "Smoking" Section 30-16 "Reasonable smoking distance required".

At this time Council would not like to proceed with suggested changes.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis we accept the appointment of Elizabeth Cavasso, representative of the Modoc County Board of Supervisors, to serve on the City of Alturas Swimming Pool Committee. **ALL AYES.**

**Public Hearing:** The Alturas City Council will consider the first reading of an ordinance #519 repealing Article I of Chapter 20 "Refuse, Garbage and Weeds", and adding Article IV to Chapter 10 "Fire Protection and Weed Abatement" of the Alturas City Code. This matter will now be heard.

City Attorney Jeff Hedlund gave a background on the reasoning behind the changes. This a partnership between Public Works, the Alturas Fire Department, and the Alturas Police Department to improve current weed abatement process. The ordinance will now be place under Chapter 10 “Fire Protection and Weed Abatement”, weed abatement is more of a fire hazard. This ordinance will allow the Fire Department to take action. In this ordinance an administrative penalty will be applied and would take place at City level, not overwhelming the judicial system. This also shifts the responsibility of upkeep on private property to the homeowner or tenant, not to the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek had a few questions he would like to clarify before closing hearing.

- 1.) Mr. Steffek believes an action word maybe missing under Section 10-57. “Nuisance Declared” the first sentence “The City of Alturas Fire Chief or his or her designated representative that all weeds, as described, growing upon private or public property in the City and all fire hazards on such property are public nuisances and are subject to abatement by eradication and/or removal under the provisions of City of Alturas.”.

City Attorney Hedlund believes verbiage is correct for this sentence.

- 2.) Mr. Steffek believes the sentence under Sec. 10-62. “Abatement notice – Form - Posting – Service” 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, first sentence “The contents of written shall include the following:”.

City Attorney Hedlund agrees and suggests the following change be made “The contents of a written notice shall include the following:”.

- 3.) Mr. Steffek also had a question regarding Sec. 10-62. “Abatement notice – Form - Posting – Service”, item #5 “A statement referencing the right to appeal the Fire Chief’s determination.”.

City Attorney Hedlund clarified that it is the required contents of a subject matter in a written notice.

With no further comments, the hearing is closed at 2:35 p.m.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson approving the first reading of Ordinance #519 repealing Article I of Chapter 20 “Refuse, Garbage and Weeds”, and adding Article IV to Chapter 10 “Fire Protection and Weed Abatement”. With the amendment to page 4 Sec. 10-62. “Abatement notice – Form- Posting – Service”. Changing the second paragraph, first sentence from “The contents of written shall include the following:” to “The contents of a written notice shall include the following:”. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2019-14** authorizing the adoption of Caltrans’ Local Assistance Procedures Manual Chapter 10. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt the consent agenda as follows: a) Approve minutes of March 19, 2019 meeting, with the amendment to the following sentence: “The due date for the proposal will be August 5, 2019” and amend to “The due date for the proposal will be August 2, 2019” ; b) Approve minutes of April 11, 2019 special meeting.; c) Approve

City warrants for March, 2019 in the amount of \$108,761.55.; d) Adopt **Resolution #2019-15** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$760.82.; e) Approve ACH reconciliation report for March, 2019 in the amount of \$120,960.93. **ALL AYES.**

### **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:**

Fire Chief Jacques reported they recently sent 3 firemen to a training for Firefighter survival held at the Shasta College. They were able to bring back a long of new skills and knowledge. They will also be sending 4 firemen to another training at Susan River Fire District. The training is Crew boss training. This will allow the City Fire Department to assist with State and Federal fires. Mr. Jacques also reports that the Alturas Fire Department will be assisting in the Every 15 Minutes program which will be held April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Police Chief Cullins pulled the status for the past calendar year. The Police Department has decreased 20% in the number of cases. However, it has increased 50% for the number of arrests. Police Chief Cullins believes this is due to Officers working efficiently.

Councilmember Nelson wanted to address her concern on the baseball fields. April 13<sup>th</sup> was opening day and the field located by W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street and N. West C Street is extremely uneven.

Mayor Ray suggested to Councilmember Nelson to meet with Director of Public Works Picotte and resolve this issue.

City Clerk Binning reminds Council a special meeting will take place April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek has been busy with the community outreach meetings with the pool committee regarding the Prop 68 funding. Dee Funk and Karen Shimamoto have been organizing and arranging for these meeting, these meetings are to gather as much community input as they can on the new facilities. Mr. Steffek also lets Council know LAFCO will be having a meeting April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at this meeting the will be taking action on the budget. Mr. Steffek also plans on meeting with Bob Nash with Superior California Development.

Councilmember Lewis would like to follow up with water and sewer rate increase.

Mayor Ray responds that Director of Public Works has been working on this matter and we should see it coming to Council soon.

With no further business to come before Council, meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. to return in regular session on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall.

Respectfully,

*Macey Binning*

Macey Binning  
City Clerk