

## **Alturas City Council**

### **Regular Meeting**

City Hall Council Chambers

January 21, 2020 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Ray at 2:00 p.m. **Councilmembers present:** Bobby Ray, Cheryl Nelson, Jim Irvin, Loni Lewis and Mark Steffek. **Councilmembers absent:** None. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, Chief of Police Sid Cullins, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Director of Public Works Jason Diven, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, Fire Chief Keith Jacques and Fire Marshal Eric Hunter. **Public attending:** 5. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by invocation by Robert Fendler.

Under public forum James Walker addressed the City Council regarding sewer issues experienced at the end of December beginning of January. This issue was caused by the City's sewer line and he would like to be reimbursed for the cost of a plumber.

Mayor Ray inquired if Mr. Walker has contacted City Clerk Binning regarding the issues.

Mr. Walker has not, but provided City Clerk Binning at the meeting all the documentation. Ms. Binning will work with Mr. Walker to ensure all the necessary actions are taken.

Michelle Ray, representing the Modoc County Arts Council, requested the City Council's consideration of a donation of \$250.00 from the City's Community Projects Fund to help with the cost of the Community Concert. The Modoc County Arts Council would like to bring more arts to the residents in Modoc County, which includes an ongoing concert series. By doing so this will benefit local store owners and hotels. Mrs. Ray would also like in the future to partner with the City, this will help the Modoc County Arts Council apply for grants.

Mayor Ray abstains from this item.

Councilmember Nelson agrees this would be beneficial for the community, and recommends if they do apply for a grant the possibility of hosting concerts at the amphitheater.

Mrs. Ray agrees that it could be a possibility in the future. However, it needs some work done.

Councilmember Lewis reminds Council the Alturas FFA Chapter would like to donate their time to gain community hours.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek recalls that in the past they would have community concerts and as a bonus the band would attend an assembly at the schools. Mr. Steffek inquires if this will start happening again? Also, Mr. Steffek is concerned about the cost of the ticket. The ticket for this event will be around \$25.00 most families in Alturas may not be able to attend due to the cost, and if this will be a series is there any way to adjust this price to make it affordable?

Mrs. Ray replies that the Modoc County Arts Council would like for the bands to visit the schools in the future. Mrs. Ray assures Mr. Steffek that if the concert series continues it will become affordable. However, this time they have a well-known artist and the tickets are very reasonable.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to donate \$250.00 from City's Community Projects Fund to the Modoc County Arts Council to help with the cost of the Community Concert. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2020-1** adopting Rosenberg's Rules of Order as a guide for meeting procedures throughout the City. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Irvin to adopt **Resolution #2020-2** authorizing the Alturas Police Department to use Risk Management Accreditation Program (RMAP) funds to purchase new office furniture. Funds will not exceed \$3,500.00. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2020-3** approving the second amended budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 in the amount of \$5,275,347.00. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2020-4** declaring the Public Works 1965 Chevy DD C60 Fueling Truck as surplus property and authorizing disposal of said vehicle. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to approve the second reading and adoption of **Ordinance #521** repealing and replacing Chapter 15. "Nuisances" Article II. "Removal of Abandoned, Wrecked, etc. Vehicles". **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt the consent agenda as follows: a) Approve minutes of December 17, 2019 meeting; b) Approve minutes of December 19, 2019 special meeting; Councilmember Irvin abstains; c) Approve City warrants for December, 2019 in the amount of \$212,301.79; d) adopt **Resolution #2020-5** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$605.83; e) Approve ACH reconciliation report for December, 2019 in the amount of \$101,408.07. **ALL AYES.**

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

Fire Chief Jacques informs Council the new Air-Paks for the Alturas Fire Department are expected to arrive by the middle of February. When they arrive, the Alturas Fire Department will also receive a free training on how to operate the new Air-Paks. They have received a few fire calls for small flue fires. Also, the annual ladies night crab feed is scheduled February 8<sup>th</sup> and invitations have been sent.

Police Chief Cullins reports in 2019 the Alturas Police Department made a total of 277 arrests out of these arrests 93 were felonies. The prior year was 263 arrests. Chief Cullins thought they may see a reduction in 2019. However, that didn't happen and he is optimistic that in 2020 they will see a reduction. Especially with the new District Attorney Kylo actively working.

City Treasurer Long has recently submitted a USDA grant for the Alturas Fire Department to purchase new turnouts. Ms. Long will also have another USDA grant submitted by the end of the week for the Alturas Public Works to purchase a backhoe. The USDA grant for the backhoe is leftover funds from the 2018/2019 fiscal year for flood emergency program. Ms. Long has been advised of a couple grant opportunities for the Alturas Police Department for salaries, so Ms. Long will explore those opportunities. Ms. Long also received the Audit report. The Audit report did not have any recommendations or findings.

Public Works Director Diven has been working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the Capital Improvement Project. Due to recent staff changes the Environmental clearance was not completed in a timely manner, which will delay the project. Due to this, Mr. Diven was able to change the priorities of the project. One priority Mr. Diven believes is crucial is instrument flight equipment. This allows for medical flights to land in bad weather. Also, Mr. Diven needs to add 200ft to the 31 runway. Negotiations with Manteca property are continuing. Also, the sewer plant preliminary engineering report draft is completed, and has been submitted to the Regional Water Control Board. The initial cost estimate is 5.8 million dollars which is an inflated amount. However, the water board will pay up to 5.5 million dollars, if our rate study show that our sewer bills are 1.5% of the poverty level. Mr. Diven has also been working on the model water efficient landscape ordinance, and hopes to have it on the agenda in February. Mr. Diven is following up on prop 68 recreation per capita grant that is noncompetitive and seeing if any funding was allocated. Which is \$185, 000.00.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek inquired if that was official news, because the amount has decreased from the original amount that was anticipated.

Mr. Diven confirmed it was official news. Mr. Diven is expecting to have a resolution regarding Prop 68 on the February agenda. Mr. Diven also followed up the SB2 funds of \$125,000.00 and how they could be utilized. During this conversation he was made aware that there is an additional \$65,000.00 the City can earn. Mr. Diven is still working on the Prop 1 water grant. The preproposal has been submitted. Mr. Diven has been in contact with Sean Curtis regarding future plans with the mill site. The current tenant of the mill site has been removing their personal property.

City Attorney Hedlund recommends to continue to allow the tenant to remove their property and report back next meeting to see the progress. Mr. Hedlund also advises Mr. Diven to communicate with the tenant to know their time frame.

Councilmember Nelson is concerned the Goose Lake Railway plans to move bio fuel, and in doing so the bio fuel will be transported through Alturas. Mrs. Nelson is concerned that the tracks are not well maintained and that if the train tips it will be hazardous.

Public Works Director replies that the Goose Lake Railway have been in contact and are working on updating the railroad tracks and crossings.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek informs Council that he and Mayor Ray attended a meeting in the fall with a California Public Commission representative. Mr. Steffek asks if the California Public Commission would make the final inspection to make sure the railroad tracks meet all safety requirements.

Mayor Ray agrees that it is a concern and recommends to have a meeting with the Goose Lake Railway to understand their plan and process before consulting the California Public Commissions.

City Clerk Binning reminds Council and staff the 700 Forms will be due April 1, 2020, and please submit these to her before then. Ms. Binning also reminds Council March 3, 2020 is the election day, and that following Council Meeting the new Council will take their seats.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek informs Council the Library Advisory Board has a vacancy for the City representative. Mr. Steffek would also like to thank Ms. Binning and Ms. Long for organizing a great Christmas party that was held at the Niles. Mr. Steffek informs Council a (SCEDD) Superior California Economic Development District session has been scheduled. Jim Cavasso, Elizabeth Cavasso, and Mr. Steffek will meet with the Director of SCEDD Bob Nash to initiate a process of their long-term plan. After this session they will start setting up public meetings and workshops regarding the Modoc County portion of the plan.

Mayor Ray inquires if this could be potential for lending funds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek confirms that it is. Mr. Steffek also reminds Council the next LAFCO meeting will held at the City Council Chambers February 11<sup>th</sup>. The Per Capita Grant and Prop 68 Grant still have not announced if funds will be awarded. Mr. Steffek has been in contact with Mr. Hancock regarding the status of the pool, currently Mr. Hancock has been in negotiations with California Waters on the design and construction of the pool. The pool will continue to move forward and hopefully this spring construction will begin.

Mayor Ray advises Council to read an article regarding the Housing Element in the Western City Magazine. This article discusses the potential penalties, which one is to withhold transportation funds. Mr. Ray does not believe this will impact the City, but the City Council needs to be aware. Mr. Ray also informs Council at the Rotary meeting they were informed they were awarded a matching grant of \$4000.00. Which gives the Rotary a total of \$8000.00 to commit to the drinking fountain and landscape at the Skate Park. Also, a portion will go to the City for extending the water line to the fountain.

With no further business to come before Council, meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m. to return in regular session on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall.

Respectfully,

*Macey Binning*

Macey Binning  
City Clerk