

**Alturas City Council**  
**Regular/Special Meeting**  
City Hall Council Chambers  
December 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20 dated March 12, 2020 and March 17, 2020, The Alturas City Council Mayor Mark Steffek called the regular special meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers and via teleconference. **Councilmembers present:** Mark Steffek, Kelly Crosby, Cheryl Nelson, Loni Lewis and Samantha Wood. **Councilmembers absent:** None. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, Chief of Police Sid Cullins, Director of Public Works Jason Diven, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, Fire Marshal Eric Hunter, Officer William Engel, and Officer Chis Harrison. **Public attending:** 11. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by invocation by Robert Fendler.

No comments were presented under public forum.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to approve the agenda as presented. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt the consent agenda as follows a) Approve minutes for November 17, 2020 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for November 2020 in the amount of \$112,326.76; c) Adopt **Resolution #2020-52** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$138.36; d) Approve ACH reconciliation report for November, 2020 in the amount of \$167,282.83. **ALL AYES.**

Brian Cox addressed the City Council regarding the decision of mask wearing during the November 17, 2020 City Council meeting. At the November 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting the Councilmembers voted to require masks during the City Council meeting. Brian Cox provided the City Councilmembers with information that opposed this decision. Mr. Cox is concerned not all the information was provided to the City Council and wanted to provide the City Council with more information. Mr. Cox also provided information of the legal liabilities the Council could encounter, the effectiveness of wearing the masks, and how court cases are already in process for violation of Constitutional Rights. Mr. Cox does not want to discourage others from wearing masks but believes it should not be enforced upon others. Mr. Cox is also concerned if COVID19 is a pandemic and easy to spread where are the biohazard bins to safely dispose of masks. Mr. Cox reminds the Council they took an oath to defend the Constitution, and would like to see decisions made that are best for our community and not to make decisions that are being thrust upon them to receive money. Especially when it hurts our community and small business owners.

Councilmember Wood adds that she would never mandate the constituents to wear a mask, and she was concerned on how this was added as an emergency item at the last meeting. She apologizes for not addressing this during the last meeting but does not think it was an emergency item. Mrs. Wood is still learning the proper procedures and hesitated to voice this.

Sean Curtis has been working with Glenn Zane. They believe they have an opportunity that could utilize our local forest production to be processed within the City instead of being exported to another area. Mr. Curtis introduced Glenn Zane to provide a presentation on his proposed project.

Glenn Zane presented to the City Council that he is interested in restarting and operating the Mill to produce dimensional lumber. Mr. Zane knows of other interested parties that would like to establish a pellet mill and solar array at the Mill Site. Mr. Zane is aware the City Council is in a current lease agreement. However, he has been in contact with Warner Mountain Lumber to negotiate the transfer.

City Attorney Hedlund advises Council that leases cannot be transferred. A new lease will need to be established and he is concerned about moving forward until the old lease has been resolved. Mr. Hedlund also advises Council to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to research terminating the old contract and establishing a new contract.

Mayor Steffek would like the committee to consist of the two Councilmembers that are currently assigned the Mill Site. Mr. Steffek would like the committee to discuss and resolve the Warner Mountain Lumber lease agreement, establish a new lease with Mr. Zane, and discuss how to move forward with the solar array project.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to consist of Councilmember Cheryl Nelson, Councilmember Loni Lewis, Director of Public Works Jason Diven and City Treasurer Dorothy Long to research moving forward with Mill Site projects. **ALL AYES.**

Steve Holdorff with Holdorff's Recycling is working on obtaining a recycling ID number from CalRecycling. Mr. Holdorff is transferring his business to a new site located at 504 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street Alturas, CA. Mr. Holdorff requests the City Council sign a support letter to help expedite the process.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to authorize the Mayor to sign a support letter to help expedite the process to obtain a recycling ID number for Holdorff's recycling, and to submit for review before signing. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2020-53** Approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Public Employees of California Local 792 Alturas Safety Unit and the City of Alturas. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to approve the temporary hangar lease agreement between the City of Alturas and Scott Mobley with an attachment of the detailed description and map of the hangar being leased. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to authorize the Director of Public Works to publicize the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Design & Engineering Services for Drinking Water System Improvements. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2020-54** approving the Non-Federal Reimbursable Agreement between the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration and the City of Alturas Municipal Airport contingent upon the City Treasurers review of the budget allowing \$70,000.00 to reimbursed at a later date. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2020-55** authorizing submittal of an application, acceptance of an allocation of funds, and execution of a grant agreement with the California Department of Transportation, for an Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Matching Grant. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2020-56** authorizing submittal of an application for a Federal Airport Improvement Plan (AIP) Assistance Grant. **ALL AYES.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilmember Wood reports that the Recycling Committee is trying to schedule a meeting between all committee members. Though, with the Holidays it has been challenging.

City Attorney Hedlund advises the City Council to be aware that the State could soon be enforcing fines for out of compliance recycling laws and encourages City Council to find a solution.

Mayor Steffek reports on the December 8, 2020 LAFCO meeting. After discussion the LAFCO Commissioners decided the best option to proceed with the Daphnedale Service District is through a Subsidiary District. A Subsidiary District is ideal and could be for a single purpose such as sewer services. The City would still provide services and the City Council would then become the board of the Subsidiary District. The rates would be consistent throughout the Subsidiary District which would include the City limits and the current Daphnedale Service District. A Subsidiary District can be formed by 5% of the voters in Daphnedale Service District or by a City Council Resolution. Mr. Benoit advised the Daphnedale voters to ask the City Council to create and pass the resolution that would satisfy both parties. Mr. Steffek would like this process to be coordinated with the new sewer rates when the City goes through the Prop 218 process.

City Attorney Hedlund expresses his concern with the unknown maintenance of the sewer structure within the Daphnedale Service District.

Mayor Steffek also reports that the Pool Committee will have their next meeting January 6, 2021 at 1:30 pm to review their grant proposal.

City Clerk Binning informed the Council she received a resignation letter from Planning Commissioner Lauppe. City Clerk Binning advertised a legal notice to recruit a new Commissioner. City Clerk Binning also informed the Council Mayor Steffek would like to reevaluate the planning stipends.

Councilmember Crosby reports that she will be attending her first Superior California Economic Development District (SCEDD) meeting December 17<sup>th</sup>. The November meeting was cancelled.

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

Director of Public Works Diven reports the City purchased and received a new backhoe through USDA grant funding. Mr. Diven recently had a meeting with Mr. Norby to discuss plans to enclose the batting area

so it can be utilized year-round. If this project continues it will be a Rotary project. Mr. Diven is still waiting to hear back from Golden State Risk Management on the hangar that was damaged by the wind storm.

Police Chief Cullins reports since the last meeting the Alturas Police Department has made 10 arrests. Out of the 10 arrests 4 were felonies. Compared to the numbers in 2019 the Alturas Police Department had 9 arrests and 2 were felonies. Chief Cullins has received a lot of concerns regarding cases increasing since COVID-19, he ran a report which showed that there isn't a variation between 2019 and 2020.

Councilmember Crosby would like to thank Sergeant Turner for assisting a medical call at Social Services. Sergeant Turner helped direct people and handled the situation with professionalism.

City Clerk Binning updated the Council on the progress of Paymentus. Ms. Binning need the Momsoftware to create a CIF file to populate billing information, so customers can view their bill online. Ms. Binning anticipates the launch date to be in January 2021. Ms. Binning sent the business renewal notices December 15<sup>th</sup>. There were 245 notices that were sent. December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Ms. Binning will be attending a City Clerk New Law & Election seminar. Ms. Binning also advised City Council they will need to invest in a system upgrade to comply with the American Disabilities Act. Especially if they are requiring the public to wear a mask during City Council meetings, they need a way to accommodate those who are unable to wear a mask and want to attend a meeting.

Councilmember Lewis would like to thank everyone for their expertise. Mrs. Lewis would also like to provide the Public Works Department and Alturas Police Department with lunch to say thank you. Council agrees and would like to also help provide lunch to the departments.

Councilmember Crosby announces she will be retiring from Social Services. Mrs. Crosby informs the Councilmembers that the hospital is short staffed on nurses and support staff.

Councilmember Wood would like to see a scheduled meeting in the near future for the Recycling Committee.

Mayor Steffek would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

With no further business to come before City Council. **MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m. and to return in regular session on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall. **SECONDED** by Councilmember Crosby. **ALL AYES.**

Respectfully,

*Macey Binning*

Macey Binning  
City Clerk