

Alturas City Council
Regular/Special Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
January 19, 2021 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, and Loni Lewis. Councilmember Samantha Wood joined the meeting at 2:11 pm. **Councilmembers absent:** None. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Chief of Police Sid Cullins, Director of Public Works Jason Diven, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, and Fire Chief Keith Jacques. **Public attending:** 2. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under public forum Brian Cox requests the City Council to reconsider revoking their mask mandate during City Council meeting. Mr. Cox warns the City Council of COVID statistics are being inflated. This fraudulent activity is even occurring in this community with the reported COVID deaths. The people that have passed from COVID have been elderly and did not show symptoms. Mr. Cox reiterates that you should not mandate mask wearing on citizens it should be a personal choice.

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

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt the consent agenda as follows a) Approve minutes for December 15, 2020 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for December 2020 in the amount of \$381,406.20; c) Adopt **Resolution #2021-1** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$444.99; d) Approve ACH reconciliation report for December, 2020 in the amount of \$139,330.30.. **ALL AYES.**

Fire Chief Jacques informs the City Council that the Alturas Fire Department is in need of purchasing a new fire engine this will cost approximately \$460,000.00. Currently their class A pumper fire engine is failing. City Treasurer Long applied for an Assistance Firefighter Grant (AFG). Unfortunately to receive that grant will take 3 years due to the high demand to replace old engines. City Treasurer Long also reached out to USDA to find grant opportunities. She did find one that would be for \$50,000.00. Mr. Jacques plans on using Local Agency Investment Funds (LAIF) for the remaining amount. This new engine will be a class A pumper and will be on the front line and will help keep their class 3 rating for their Insurance Services Office (ISO).

Councilmember Nelson asks how much would the Alturas Fire Department receive for selling the old fire engine.

Mr. Jacques responded that he does not expect much. The old fire engine is about to lose the motor, which is very costly and a safety issue. However, he does plan to surplus the old engine once they have a new engine. The Alturas Fire Department purchased their last fire engine in 1985. Which is the engine they are replacing.

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to authorize the Alturas Fire Department to submit a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new fire truck. **ALL AYES.**

Public Hearing: The Alturas City Council opened the public hearing at 2:20 to consider Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CDBG-CV1) application for \$66,337 to purchase a trailer mounted vacuum and repair the digester at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

No comments were presented to the Council.

With no further comments, the hearing is closed at 2:23 p.m.

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt **Resolution #2021-2** approving an application for funding and the execution of a grant agreement and any amendments thereto from the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program-Coronavirus Response Round 1 (CDBG-CV1). **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2021-3** approving the second amended budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 in the amount of \$6,099,543.00. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to appoint Duanna Knighton as a Planning Commissioner to fill an unexpired vacancy. Term to expire March of 2024. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2021-4** approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Alturas and Modoc Medical Center for implementing disaster preparedness plans and strategies. Expiring December 31, 2025. **ALL AYES.**

Mayor Steffek who serves on the Modoc County LAFCO Board recommends the City Council ask Modoc County LAFCO to proceed with dissolution of the Daphnedale Services District and form a Subsidiary Sewer District. Mr. Steffek recommends resolution from the City to start this process. Mr. Steffek informs the Council the other option is for Modoc County LAFCO to start the process but Modoc LAFCO would need to update the Sphere of Influence and Service Review. This would cost the City, but would be minimal.

City Attorney Hedlund advises the City Council it is ideal for the City to create the Subsidiary District rather than Modoc County. If Modoc County creates the Subsidiary District this increases the number who can oppose when rate structure occurs.

Mayor Steffek asks Daphnedale Board Member Steve Riley if he thought the District would be in agreement of the dissolution and Subsidiary District.

Mr. Riley is not positive.

City Clerk Binning reminds Council that Mr. Benoit suggested Daphnedale Service District request the City to draft a resolution for a Subsidiary Service District.

City Attorney Hedlund recommends two options the Board of Daphnedale Service District to request Modoc LAFCO to create the dissolution resolution and form the Subsidiary Service District or the City initiate the process. If Daphnedale's Board is willing to then the process would be more ideal. Both options fall under the 25% threshold.

Mayor Steffek asks when is the next Daphnedale Board meeting.

Mr. Riley says at this time they haven't created there meeting schedule.

The City Council would like the Daphnedale Service District to recommend to Modoc County LAFCO if they are in favor of moving forward with the dissolution and Subsidiary District. At this time no action will be taken by City Council.

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2021-5** approving the Memorandum of Agreement contract NO.690EG4-21-L-00022 between the City of Alturas and Federal Aviation Administration. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt **Resolution #2021-6** declaring four Public Works vehicles and equipment as surplus property and authorizing disposal of said vehicles and equipment. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt **Resolution #2021-7** Approving the Supplemental Service Agreement between Reinard W. Brandley, Consulting Airport Engineer and the City of Alturas. **ALL AYES.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Steffek reports the next pool meeting will be February 3, 2021 at 3:30 pm. The Pool Committee plans to continue working on grant proposals. The next Modoc LAFCO meeting will be February 9, 2021 at 4:00 pm. Mr. Steffek also informs Council the Negotiations Committee is diligently working with the General Unit to create the new Memorandum of Understanding.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Director of Public Works Diven reports he met with the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Mill Site and they are brainstorming on how they would like to proceed with the new and old lease. Mr. Diven also informs Councilmember Wood that there is a Rotary meeting Tuesday, January 26 at 5:00 pm to review the Rotary fields. Mr. Diven also met with Mike Mason to look at extra chain link material from Rotary fields that is stored by the sewer plant. This material can be utilized to create the bull pen at the Rotary fields. The Rotary and Mr. Diven are still reviewing the drainage system and hope to have the fields ready for the season. Mr. Diven also reports that the Public Works Department is currently pot hole patching on Warner Street.

Councilmember Lewis is concerned that there have been reports of a squatter near the fields. Which is concerning since children play in that area.

Police Chief Cullins is aware of the situation and had an Officer contact the individual. Chief Cullins also reports the total arrests for 2020 was 254. Which resulted in 513 recommended criminal charges and 85 were felony arrests. Which is slightly down from 2019.

City Clerk Binning updated the Council on the progress of Paymentus. They will be launching the new payment software. City Clerk Binning reminds City Councilmembers the 700 Forms will be due April 1, 2021. City Clerk Binning learned that the City will need to redistrict which is now a requirement from the State. Currently the City is an “at large” voting district which is no longer acceptable.

Councilmember Nelson inquires if the railroad crossing on Main Street will be fixed. She has noticed it is a little rough.

Director of Public Works Diven replies he can follow up with Caltrans since Main Street is their responsibility and the Railroad.

Councilmember Lewis would like to add Brian Cox’s request to the next agenda and revisit the mandate of wearing masks during City Council meetings.

Councilmember Crosby reports she is now on a strategic planning committee for Superior California Economic Development District (SCEDD).

At 3:41 p.m., Mayor Steffek announced the Council would be meeting in closed session under G.C. Section 54961 – Liability Claim: Claimant-Deborah Bailey.

Reconvened back to open session at 3:49 p.m.

MOTION by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to authorize the Mayor to sign the notice of rejection of claim letter to Deborah Bailey. **ALL AYES.**

With no further business to come before City Council. **MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m. and to return in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall. **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson. **ALL AYES.**

Respectfully,

Macey Binning

Macey Binning
City Clerk