



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes City Council

*THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL MEETS CONCURRENTLY AS
THE FORT BRAGG MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1
AND THE FORT BRAGG REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR
AGENCY*

Monday, June 22, 2020

6:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lee opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Will Lee, Vice Mayor Bernie Norvell, Councilmember Tess Albin-Smith, Councilmember Jessica Morsell-Haye and Councilmember Lindy Peters

AGENDA REVIEW

Mayor Lee moved Item 8B to the top of the agenda order.

8B. [20-777](#) Receive Report and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Adopting a Hiring Policy for Police Officers to Disqualify Any Applicant Based on Prior Acts of Misconduct

City Manager Miller introduced the staff report and turned the item over to Vice Mayor Norvell, who explained the language in the resolution and stated that it assures the community that the City will only hire people of integrity. Chief Naulty said that this resolution encompasses the practices already in place at the Police Department. Officers go through a strict background check, but this puts in writing the City's rules for hiring police officers.

Public Comment was received from:

- Jeff Wright spoke in support of the hiring policy and recommended it be called the Ricky del Fiorentino Resolution.
- Amy Wynn gave comments in support of the resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Peters, seconded by Vice Mayor Norvell, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Lee, Vice Mayor Norvell, Councilmember Albin-Smith, Councilmember Morsell-Haye and Councilmember Peters

Enactment No: RES 4272-2020

1. MAYOR'S RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Lee announced that the COVID-19 ad hoc committee's term has expired and will not be renewed.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON: (1) NON-AGENDA, (2) CONSENT CALENDAR & (3) CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

(1) Non-Agenda Items:

• Jay McMartin Rosenquist submitted public comments regarding use of the Fort Building for City staff offices when the leases with the County and Congressman Huffman expire.

(2) Consent Calendar Items: None.

(3) Closed Session Items: None.

3. STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager Miller reported on Biobot testing of the sewer system for COVID-19. Finance Director Victor Damiani announced his resignation effective July 3. City Clerk Lemos gave information on the City Council election.

4. MATTERS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilmember Peters noted that this is Pollinator Week and invited people to view the Bee Garden at the Guest House. Councilmember Albin-Smith commented on the Mendocino County Fire Vulnerability Assessment documents, and asked members of the public to submit comments via the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) website.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Norvell, seconded by Councilmember Peters, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Lee, Vice Mayor Norvell, Councilmember Albin-Smith, Councilmember Morsell-Haye and Councilmember Peters

5A. [20-763](#) Adopt City Council Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding and Support Letter for a Storm Water Trash Capture Grant Application for the Greater Fort Bragg Area with the County of Mendocino and Authorizing City Manager to Execute Same

This Resolution was adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Enactment No: RES 4269-2020

5B. [20-775](#) Adopt City Council Resolution Confirming the Continued Existence of a Local Emergency in the City of Fort Bragg

This Resolution was adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Enactment No: RES 4270-2020

5C. [20-776](#) Adopt City Council Resolution Approving a Funding Increase to Grant #17-CDBG-12020 of the State Community Development Block Grant Program

This Resolution was adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Enactment No: RES 4271-2020

- 5D. [20-772](#) Approve Minutes of Joint City Council/Mendocino Coast Recreation and Parks District Special Meeting of June 4, 2020

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Calendar.

- 5E. [20-773](#) Approve Minutes of June 8, 2020

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Calendar.

6. DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 8A. [20-774](#) Conduct City Council Discussion and Provide Direction to Staff Regarding Submitting to the Voters a Local Ballot Measure Changing the Name of the City of Fort Bragg

City Clerk Lemos presented the staff report on this agenda item. She and City Manager Miller responded to questions from Councilmembers on the matter.

Public Comment was received from: Javier Silva, Misty Dawn Cook, Jenny Shattuck, Bernadette Rafanan, Marsha Rafanan, Rex Gressett, Scott Taubold, Merlin Larson, Davion Johnson, Susan Collins, Ryan Bushnell.

Mayor Lee recessed the meeting at 7:17 PM; the meeting reconvened at 7:24 PM.

Further Public Comment was received from: John Burns, Heather Drum Baxman, Tammy Lowe, Jeff Wright, David Giesen, Elias Henderson, Judy Valadao, Paula Goodwin, Joe Luhan, Love Moon, Travis Squires, Jude Tillman, Marcello Graciani, Steve Roberts, Amy Wynn, Greg Lambert, Che Wachtel, Tara Jackson, Megan Smitheman, Scott Menzies, Caleb Hawk.

Mayor Lee recessed the meeting at 8:22 PM; the meeting reconvened at 8:31 PM.

Further Public Comment was received from Elise Decuba, Jay McMartin Rosenquist, Jacob Patterson, Hope Najjar, Gabriel Quinn Maroney, Jerry Stavely, Ben Stevenson, Lavender Cinnamon, Junice Gleason, Andy Wellspring, Kim Bratton, Kyra Rice, John Gallo, Anna Marie Stenberg, Katie Turner Carr, Diane Dodge, Samuel Fowler, and several other citizens who did not give a full name.

Discussion: The City Council consensus was to: (1) prepare a proclamation reiterating the substance of Council Resolution 3972-2017 which confirms the City's commitment to non-discrimination; (2) not sponsor a ballot measure for the November 3, 2020 election; and (3) appoint an ad hoc committee to bring forward recommendations to Council regarding a Citizen Commission concerning changing of the City's name.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Norvell, seconded by Councilmember Morsell-Haye, to continue the meeting past 10:00 PM; the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

After much discussion, the City Council directed as follows:

1. Draft a proclamation denouncing any tie between the City of Fort Bragg, California,

Confederate General Braxton Bragg, and racism. Include in the proclamation a reminder of the City's commitment to embrace a diversity of backgrounds, as set forth in Resolution 3972-2017.

2. So that more comprehensive conversations can take place on this matter, a name change question will not be placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

3. Mayor Lee appointed Vice Mayor Norvell and Councilmember Morsell-Haye to an ad hoc committee whose purpose is to determine the best model for creating a Citizen Commission that would provide a recommendation on the best path forward for the name change matter and address the deeper systemic issue of racism. The ad hoc committee will define the scope of work for the Citizen Commission, how participants should be selected and the protocol for how the working group would function. The ad hoc committee is to report back to the full Council at a future meeting.

This Staff Report was referred to staff and to the Fort Bragg Name Change Ad Hoc Committee.

9. CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee adjourned the meeting at 10:12 PM.

WILLIAM V. LEE, MAYOR

June Lemos, CMC, City Clerk

IMAGED (_____)