



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes Special 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*

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

3:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N Main Street

Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peters called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Lindy Peters, Vice Mayor Will Lee, Councilmember Michael Cimolino, Councilmember Bernie Norvell and Councilmember Dave Turner

1. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 1A. [17-006](#)** Receive Oral Report and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Declaring a Local Emergency Related to Damage to the North Fort Bragg Water Main Incurred as a Result of a Winter Storm Event

City Manager Ruffing explained that this special meeting was called in order for the Council to adopt a resolution declaring a local emergency. Last Friday, a City worker noticed that the Pudding Creek dam, a facility built in 1953 and owned by Georgia Pacific, was overtopping due to recent heavy rains. The City's North Fort Bragg water main, which provides water to a mobile home park and several hotels north of Pudding Creek, was exposed due to excessive water from spillway blockage caused by debris. The water line was situated in the center of a 30-foot berm, but as a result of the flooding, the line is now perched on the edge of an eroded slope with its footings exposed. Georgia Pacific (GP) hired a crew to remove the debris and all of the gates to allow the water to flow freely. GP also had a dam and levy expert inspect the facility and the dam was declared safe as long as water is not up against it. GP notified all involved agencies and they are currently considering options for repairing or removing the structure.

The City was prepared to institute temporary measures to deal with the situation, but fortunately the storm water subsided and a solution was developed for addressing the immediate damage that was done to the line. Public Works Director Varga showed the Council video footage taken by the City's drone on the day of the flooding and earlier this morning to show the damage. Relocation of the line is the preferred solution to the problem, and CalTrans is planning to widen the Pudding Creek Bridge in 2018, which will accommodate a 10-inch water line. Meanwhile, the City is working with CalTrans on an interim repair.

City Manager Ruffing and the City Attorney are investigating insurance coverage that might compensate the City for the costs of responding to this situation. The City has also contacted the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services, a conduit to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), who can potentially provide both financial and regulatory assistance in responding

to the emergency. In order to access OES assistance, the Council has to declare a local emergency, which is the purpose of the meeting today.

Discussion: The following was noted during discussion of this item:

- Any development of the dam, including bell-mouth spillways or glory holes, would be up to the property owner, Georgia Pacific, and the City would not be involved in the future development of the dam.
- Considering there may be some future residential development near Pudding Creek, a question was raised about whether the City should consider a 12-inch line instead of 10-inch. Public Works Director Varga said a fair amount of capacity has already been built in.
- The City inspects the pipe two or three times a year and there have been no leaks or evidence of leaks before the incident on Friday.
- The City is searching the archives to determine if there is an agreement on file with GP regarding responsibility for the water pipe.
- A temporary solution of putting the line on the walking path of the bridge was suggested.
- Security issues were discussed. The City will keep an eye on the situation to see if any problems crop up.
- The use of Pudding Creek as a facility for storing water is a subject for a future meeting, as this meeting is only to adopt a resolution declaring an emergency.
- Lyme Timber Company owns all the land and timber rights upstream, with a permit to operate the dam as a fish passage structure. In terms of maintenance and operation, under normal water flows, it is a structure that Lyme Timber maintains so the fish can get through. Under flood situations, it's a flood management problem that GP takes care of.
- Regarding effects of the flooding on the Pudding Creek Trestle, Public Works Director Varga said that railroad trestles are built to handle locomotives and rail traffic and it is unlikely that this sturdy structure would be affected by the flooding.
- GP's dam expert inspected the dam on Monday and assessed it for safety issues. They are talking about repairing it by placing riprap.

Public Comment was received from:

- Rex Gressett asked if the fish could still get upstream.
- Rick Ehlert, Mendocino County OES coordinator, recommended moving forward with a proclamation of local emergency, which opens up the potential of funding under California Disaster Assistance Act if insurance funding is not available. He urged the Council to approve the resolution.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cimolino, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Peters, Councilmember Cimolino, Councilmember Turner, Vice Mayor Lee and Councilmember Norvell

Enactment No: RES 3968-2016

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Peters adjourned the meeting at 4:08 PM.

LINDY PETERS, MAYOR

June Lemos, City Clerk

IMAGED (_____)