



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 9, 2014

6:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Dave Turner, Vice Mayor Meg Courtney, Councilmember Scott Deitz, Councilmember Doug Hammerstrom and Councilmember Heidi Kraut

AGENDA REVIEW

1. MAYOR'S RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. STAFF COMMENTS

City Manager Ruffing reported that Public Works Director Tom Varga was not present this evening as he went to Eureka to advocate for a drought grant for the Summers Lane reservoir. The Board reviewing the grant application responded with a volley of questions but it looks like they are going to fund the project.

3. MATTERS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Turner reported that the City spent a long day last week reviewing the budget for FY 2014/15.

Vice Mayor Courtney reported that the anti-fracking initiative she's been talking about has gathered 4,500 signatures in two weeks so it looks like it will make it to the ballot.

Councilmember Deitz commended staff for the new budget format noting that it is easy to understand.

Councilmember Hammerstrom reported that the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) reviewed Mendocino Transit Authority's (MTA) operation and they are doing a wonderful job. He encouraged people to ride MTA as they need more riders.

Councilmember Kraut invited people to attend the Community Development Committee meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. They will be discussing a business retention and expansion program.

Mayor Turner stated that he asked Vice Mayor Courtney, who serves as the City's representative on the MTA Board, about whether there could be a program to help college students get to Willits or Ukiah for class and was told that MTA would love to work on such a program. The Committee suggested something where passes would be issued when a student registers for class.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

5. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

- 5A. [14-174](#) Receive Report and Consider (1) Adoption of City Council Resolution Calling and Giving Notice of a General Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 for the Election of City Councilmembers as Required by Provisions of the Laws of the State of California Relating to General Law Cities, and for Submittal of a Question to the Voters Relating to Continuing and Increasing the Levy of a Special Tax for the Acquisition of Fire Equipment; Establishing Policies and Procedures in Connection with Such an Election; and Requesting the Services of the Registrar of Voters in Conducting Said Election; and (2) Waiving the First Reading and Introducing, by Title Only, Ordinance 910-2014, An Ordinance Continuing Chapter 3.30 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code Authorizing the Levy of a Special Tax for the Acquisition of Fire Equipment and Allowing for the Expenditure of Funds Derived from Such Tax

City Clerk VanWormer reviewed the Agenda Item Summary prepared for this item with the City Council.

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

* Mayor Turner stated that Chief Orsi was very clear that he felt that the tax should only be used for fire equipment.

* Councilmember Deitz noted that the Fire Department does an amazing job with an all-volunteer force. It is important to get this tax extended in order to pay for future equipment upgrades.

The City Council concurred with designating Councilmember Deitz and Mayor Turner, who represent the City on the Fort Bragg Fire Protection Authority Board, as the persons responsible for writing the argument for the ballot measure and a rebuttal argument to any argument against the ballot measure, if necessary.

* Vice Mayor Courtney suggested issuing a proclamation to this amazing group.

A motion was made by Councilmember Deitz, seconded by Councilmember Hammerstrom, that this Resolution be adopted as amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Turner, Vice Mayor Courtney, Councilmember Deitz, Councilmember Hammerstrom and Councilmember Kraut

Enactment No: RES 3709-2014

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Courtney, seconded by Councilmember Kraut, waiving the first reading and introducing, by title only, Ordinance 910-2014. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Turner, Vice Mayor Courtney, Councilmember Deitz, Councilmember Hammerstrom and Councilmember Kraut

- 5B. [14-177](#)** Receive Report and Recommendation from Finance and Administration Committee Regarding Amended Water Rates and Provide Direction to Staff

City Manager Ruffing reviewed the Agenda Item Summary prepared for this item with the City Council and distributed another rate schedule option (15-10-10-10). She noted that the most significant change between the 15-7-7-7 and 15-10-10-10 rate schedules is the annual surplus deficit number. With the 15-7-7-7 rate schedule the Enterprise is running a deficit until FY 2017/18; with the 15-10-10-10 rate schedule it only runs a deficit in the first year. Also, with the 15-10-10-10 rate schedule the reserve stays stable between FY 2014/15 and FY 2017/18; with the 15-7-7-7 rate schedule the reserves are used to balance the Enterprise Fund, which isn't optimal for funding debt. The current bonding company has indicated that it is okay but that may not be the case when the City issues bonds in FY 2016/17. Ruffing recommended being conservative and going with the 15-10-10-10 rate schedule.

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

- * The drought grant requires a 25% match, approximately \$400,000, which would come out of reserves.
- * A 5% conservation assumption is included in all rate categories.

A motion was made by Councilmember Deitz, seconded by Councilmember Kraut, that staff prepare the Prop 218 hearing notices using the proposed 15-10-10-10 rate schedule. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Mayor Turner, Vice Mayor Courtney, Councilmember Deitz, Councilmember Hammerstrom and Councilmember Kraut

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA, CONSENT CALENDAR & CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

1. Jim Goekler, Treatment Operator, speaking on behalf of the Fort Bragg Employee Organization and members of SEIU 1031, stated that the Organization's last contract allowed the employees' salaries to remain equal while the City worked through the economic down turn. He reviewed prior Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), additional employee payments to PERS, and insurance premium increases, and noted that the employees have not had a true increase since 2009. There has been a substantial increase in the cost of living since 2010. The City has a lot of skilled employees who go beyond their routine duties to do work themselves rather than contract it out. They also respond to after hour emergencies. Goekler noted that some employees have had raises through changes in job classifications but most have not had any increase. He stated that he feels that the members deserve a cost of living increase that reflect that staff is the City's greatest resource.

2. Aaron Burton, SEIU 1031 representative, reiterated that the last two contracts have been recessive contracts. He noted that 66% of the members are maxed out at the top salary step. Members have explained that they are living paycheck to paycheck. In the City's 2013 comprehensive report the reduction in staff is noted. SEIU 1031 members have helped get the City out of the recession. Burton then reviewed the City's reserves which amount to 30% of the budget; there is also a Litigation Reserve of \$300,000 and a Facility Maintenance Reserve of \$760,000. The City has a balanced budget, unemployment rates are down, Transient Occupancy

Tax and Sales Tax are recovering; the recession is over and the City is back on track. A lot of that is due to sacrifices the employees made. Now is the time to reinvest in the City's workforce. Burton asked the City Council to provide a real COLA after five years of stagnant salaries. The Organization wants to make it so Fort Bragg continues to be a good place to work.

3. Robert Oates, President of SEIU 1031, presented a Petition for a Fair Contract and read the petition language. The petition was given to the City Clerk for the record.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the Consent Calendar

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

Aye: 5 - Mayor Turner, Vice Mayor Courtney, Councilmember Deitz, Councilmember Hammerstrom and Councilmember Kraut

7A. [14-173](#) Accept Certificate of Completion for Harrison Street House Rehabilitation Project No. 2013-05, and Direct City Clerk to Record Notice of Completion

This Certificate of Completion was accepted on the Consent Calendar.

7B. [14-182](#) Adopt City Council Resolution Supporting the Renewal of the Sonoma/Mendocino/Lake Recycling Market Development Zone

This Resolution was adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Enactment No: RES 3710-2014

7C. [14-166](#) Approve Finance and Administration Committee Minutes from Special Meeting of April 28, 2014

These Committee Minutes were received and filed on the Consent Calendar.

7D. [14-180](#) Approve Minutes from Special Meeting of May 27, 2014

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Calendar.

7E. [14-181](#) Approve Minutes of May 27, 2014

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Calendar.

8. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Turner recessed the meeting at 6:57 p.m.; the meeting was reconvened to closed session at 7:07 p.m.

A. [14-189](#) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS; Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:
City Negotiators: Linda Ruffing, City Manager and Ginny Feth-Michel, Assistant City Manager

Employee Organization: Fort Bragg Employee Organization

Mayor Turner reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 7:44 p.m. and reported that no action was taken on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Turner adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

DAVE TURNER, MAYOR

Cynthia M. VanWormer, MMC, City Clerk

IMAGED (_____)