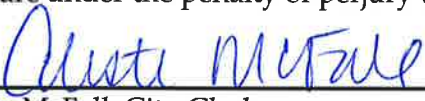


Fort Jones City Council
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2022

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING AGENDA

I, Celeste McFall, City Clerk for the Town of Fort Jones, hereby certify that the agenda for the August 8, 2022 meeting of the City Council was posted in City Hall, near the door of the City Council Chambers, Ray's Food Place, Scott Valley Family Resource Center, Outside Ace Hardware and on the City's website www.fortjonesca.org on August 3, 2022.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Celeste McFall, City Clerk

ROLL Call

The regular meeting of the Fort Jones City Council was called to order in person by Mayor Michelle DeCausmaker at 7:00 p.m. In addition to Mayor Michelle DeCausmaker council members present were Kathye Banks, Mercedes Garcia, and Mark Gepford, Bill Beckwith absent due to recent hospitalization.

Also present: City Administrator Karl Drexel, City Clerk Celeste McFall, Fire Chief Joseph Hess.

Mayor Michelle DeCausmaker led the flag salute.

Public Comment:

Discussion/Reports: Non-Action Items:

A) Police Department Monthly Report

Police Chief Josh Short reports their department has been very busy covering the patrols for the Fire services. They have been stationed at Fort Jones for the evacuation. He believes that if things go well tomorrow, they should pull them from 24/7 duty. In addition, they have been handling their regular calls. He notes that there is good news coming with the motel, it appears the owner is willing to sell, and he has a buyer. The prospective new owner would like to keep it a motel.

B) Fire Department Monthly Report

Fire Chief Joseph provides his report verbally due to the McKinney fire. There were 53 calls in July, he doesn't have the breakdown what is within City Limits and what was outside. He introduces the new Seasonals. He reports the department has an engine assigned to the McKinney Fire, in the area, assisting the non-local fire departments with understanding the locality.

C) Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement Officer Kelly York was not present, and due to the McKinney fire, there is not a written report.

D) Public Works Monthly Report

Kevin Hullquist provided a monthly report in the Council packet. He notes that water is a big concern. The well is at 22 feet currently. Discussion regarding how far it dropped last year. He is monitoring it closely. He explains that the location is an excellent area for the well. The Tank cleaners spent a full day cleaning. The Tank is staying full. He has been cleaning the sidewalks in front of businesses. Residents commend him on how nice the town looks.

E) City Administrators Report

City Administrator Karl Drexel provided a monthly report in the Council packet.

Branding Report: Michelle DeCausmaker notes that Rachel Agron did a great job on the Branding Report. We have been working with RCAC on the topic of Economic Development for businesses in Fort Jones. The next step is to create a brand for the Town of Fort Jones to bring in tourists and businesses to support the community. Historic has been the driving concept. We are supported by sales tax by those coming into this community. Having meetings, as they come along, they will be announced.

We are also working on the Community Pedestrian Bicycle Safety Training to improve the safety of our streets. There will be a public workshop on August 29, 2022.

The sesquicentennial of the incorporating the Town is this year and we are looking at having an event in October.

Consent Calendar:

- 1 a). Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting July 11, 2022.
- b). Ratification of Disbursements: July 1 through July 31, 2022
- c). Approve Payables for August 2022
- d). Receive and Review YTD P&L

Mercedes Garcia moves to accept the Consent Calendar Mark Gepford seconds the motion.

Kathye Banks questions the wording in the minutes regarding changing speed limits and issuing tickets. And she asks that Jeanette Cramer be changed to Pauline Cramer.

AYES: M. DeCausmaker, M. Garcia, K. Banks, M. Gepford

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Beckwith

Motion passes

Public Hearing: Ordinances and Resolutions

Mayor DeCausmaker calls a Public Hearing for the CDBG Housing Rehab and other Applications. Karl Drexel provides an overview of the CDBG program in the Town of Fort Jones, which provides low-interest loans for income-eligible homeowners. Currently there is

approximately \$500,000.00 in the accounts, which without having projects in the pipeline, the state is looking to take that money away. What we have proposed to the state is to use the money in order to take care of infrastructure issues with the CDBG money if the HCD approves our plan. The Council and the Loan Committee will decide what projects will be performed with these funds. One example is the four-inch pipeline on Dale Street, where there should be a six-inch flow, as the town has been spending money due to the inadequacy of the pipeline. Discussion follows.

2. CDBG Public Hearing Discussion and Review and Approve Resolution 1108

Mark Gepford makes a motion to approve the Resolution with the change of 01 to 030 Kathy Banks seconds the motion.

AYES: M. DeCausmaker, M. Garcia, K. Banks, M. Gepford

NOES: Beckwith

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion passes

Mercedes Garcia makes a motion to approve the Resolution 1108 with the change of 01 to 030. Kathy Banks seconds the motion. All ayes. Motion passes.

Discussion/Reports: Action Items:

2. Letter and Response to Scott Valley Disposal Attorney Mercier.

Michelle DeCausmaker asks Mercedes Garcia why she took the letter directly to Mr. Isbell. Ms. Garcia stated she took the letter directly to Mr. Isbell because she wanted Mr. Isbell to know what was in the statement. Mayor DeCausmaker states those types of actions do not serve the best interests of the community and that she should not have done that. Mercedes Garcia responds saying that she gets reprimanded and Karl (Drexel) does not.

3. Review and Re-Adopt SWRCB Drinking Water Planning Grant Resolution 1110.

Kathy Banks asks what the Resolution is regarding, Karl Drexel explains the Planning Grant is for the drinking water system, which includes: refinishing the insides of the tanks, an alarm to alert us if the tanks are lower, as well as an additional well, the generator, a pad for the generator, and general basic improvements such as replacing the pipes.

Mercedes Garcia makes a motion to adopt Resolution 1110, Kathy Banks seconds the motion.

AYES: M. Garcia, K. Banks, B. Beckwith, M. Gepford, M. DeCausmaker

NOES: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Beckwith

Motion passes

4. Review and Re-Adopt the Local Agency Biennial Notice of Conflict Resolution 1109

Kathye Banks makes a motion to re-Adopt the Local Agency Biennial Notice of Conflict Resolution 1109 Mark Gepford seconds the motion.

AYES: M. Garcia, K. Banks, B. Beckwith, M. Gepford, M. DeCausmaker

NOES: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Beckwith

Motion passes

5. Review and Discuss the Implementation of a Transient Users Tax (TOT) AKA Hotel Users Tax (HUT)

Karl Drexel explains that this is a tax on transient users which is paid by the people who stay in the units. It must go on the general ballot, and it is too late to go on this November's ballot. But could go on the ballot in two years.

Mark Gepford makes a motion review the Orland Resolution and advise staff to continue to research and develop a Resolution for an election on the General election ballot and to develop rules, regulations and ordinances for such a tax; Mercedes Garcia seconds the motion.

AYES: M. Garcia, K. Banks, B. Beckwith, M. Gepford, M. DeCausmaker

NOES: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Beckwith

Motion passes

6. Review and Approve Etna Police-Fort Jones Fire Department MOU for Code Enforcement

As the Fort Jones Fire Chief Joseph Hess completed the requirements of CA Penal Code Section 832, making him a sworn officer, or his designee, to enforce laws concerning the fire code, public resources code, the Town of Fort Jones Municipal Code, and Penal Code Violations involving fire crimes, including, but not limited to, arson investigations, the Etna Police Chief Josh Short and Chief Hess developed an MOU to clarify the associated duties authorized under Penal Code 830.37.

Mark Gepford makes a motion to approve the Etna Police-Fort Jones Fire Department MOU for Code Enforcement, pending approval by the City Attorney, Mercedes Garcia seconds the motion.

AYES: M. Garcia, K. Banks, B. Beckwith, M. Gepford, M. DeCausmaker

NOES: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Beckwith

Motion passes

7. Review resumes for Administrator's Job Position:

Citizens question why this is all happening. Mayor DeCausmaker asks Mercedes Garcia to answer. Mercedes Garcia says that he (Karl Drexel) is unprofessional and untruthful all the time. She states that he is lying and trying to 'cover his butt' in public documents. Mercedes Garcia says that parks are a waste of time, and money. She states that she feels that the Fire Department is more important than parks.

Julie Morgen wants to know the real reason the majority of the council wants to end Karl Drexel's contract. "He is doing the job that we are paying him to do," said Morgen. Kathy Banks said that she understood that he came to help bail the City out of trouble and then he was leaving. She said that he said that he is going to transition out. Kathy Banks states her concern is to have the town to be protected and have the new person trained. Karl Drexel says he is 76 and he intends to work for another three or four years. Sherry Glendenning asks if they know what the facts are and what is not.

Mercedes Garcia directs staff to contact the people that they've selected. There is an interview committee which includes Colleen Baker. Direction given to staff to set up interviews. Deadline is until position is filled.

STAFF COMMENTS: Celeste McFall notes that a Council Member recently posted an election statement on Facebook in which they stated that "nothing is being done." She feels that this is demoralizing to the staff. The Council Member states he will take the post down.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Kathy Banks notes that Suse LaMarr came into City Hall and approached her and asked if the City could help with funeral costs. She understands that we cannot use public funds. She asks for private donations.

Mark Gepford says that the Masonic Lodge has an upcoming meeting and he will ask the Masons for funds for Mrs. LaMarr

Mayor DeCausmaker said that she attended the Fire Update at the Junior High School and it was fantastic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Attest:



Celeste McFall, City Clerk

Approved:



Mayor Michelle DeCausmaker