

**RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2017
MINUTES**

A Special Meeting of the Rio Dell City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Wilson.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Councilmembers
Garnes, Marks and Strahan

Others Present: City Manager Knopp, Community Development Director
Caldwell, and City Clerk Dunham

Absent: Finance Director Woodcox, Chief of Police Hill,
Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen and Wastewater
Superintendent Trainee Yaple (excused)

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL MEETING MATTERS/STUDY SESSIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

Study Session to Discuss and Set Priorities for 2017

City Manager Knopp began by providing an overview of past priorities from 2013 to current and the status of the tasks as previously identified.

He pointed out that the current list is not comprehensive and Councilmembers will have the opportunity to add anything else they would like to see addressed as priorities for the current year or in the future. Councilmembers were asked to review the current list of priorities and describe on a sticky note their top five (5) policy goals for the year from the list provided or present their own separate ideas. The notes were put on a board under the corresponding category to get a visual reference to assist the Council in coming to a consensus on individual priority projects for the year.

Councilmember Garnes commented that there doesn't seem to be much under Personnel except daily issues and that it seems those priorities are more the City Manager's priorities rather than the City Council.

City Manager Knopp said recruitment and retention of employees is certainly a priority and part of what staff wants to do is gauge the priority as a lot of time can be spent on recruitment which is not always fruitful. He said certainly labor negotiations over the first six (6) months of the year are going to be comparatively of higher priority than they have been in the past. He noted that the list is not only a priority list of projects but addresses policy areas as well.

Mayor Wilson noted that there are only 21 more City Council meetings for the year after tomorrow night's meeting and what he doesn't want to see happening next year is employee

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contract negotiations coming to the Council in December. He said he wants to see policy items but not necessarily the routine things the City Manager does with staff but bigger things that will dominate the Council's time. He said as projects are prioritized he doesn't want to see things drop off when other issues come up

City Manager Knopp explained the list is for reference and is certainly not exclusive. He noted that it includes everything from projects to broader policy objectives and commented that Prop 64 was one item that was left off unintentionally but should be added. He indicated the Council may also have other additional items to add.

Melissa Marks mentioned the high cost of electricity at the wastewater treatment plant and the possibility of doing a Cost Benefit Analysis for solar.

Nick Angeloff commented on the status of the Land Use Matrix.

Community Development Director Caldwell explained that the various use types were adopted but staff still has some final work to do on the definitions.

Nick Angeloff also mentioned an infrastructure plan for roads.

Individual Council priorities included:

- Eel River Sawmill Development Plan
- Stable Money for Street Maintenance
- I & I/Smoke Testing
- Cannabis Tax Measure
- Keeping competent staff
- Habitat for Humanity parcel
- Painter St. Access to River Bar
- Prop 64/Tax Measure
- Revisit 215 – Medical Marijuana
- Code Enforcement
- Infiltration Gallery Mitigation
- Street Repairs
- Youth Activities during Summer
- Elderly Care – Meals on Wheels
- Streets, Curbs & Sidewalks
- Labor Negotiations
- Protocol Review/Transparency
- Comprehensive Budget Review

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In summary, the biggest three (3) priorities fell under the categories of Public Works, Economic Development and Planning & Building.

Councilmember Garnes pointed out that the other items such as personnel and budget are every bit as important but simply fall under daily routine duties.

Mayor Wilson said what he would like to see is staff return to Council with a calendar including a 3-month forecast of priority projects and when the Council agenda appears light, load it up with some of the priority items. He pointed out that Councilmembers seem to be in agreement to address Prop 64, the Cannabis Tax measure and the overall development of the Eel River Sawmill site as top priorities and said realistically in moving forward, this is what is going to change the City and will have the most financial impact so how it's handled is important. He added that the stakeholders want clear answers so they can move forward and the Council needs to deal with the situation sooner than later.

Community Development Director Caldwell reported on feedback he received from developers after the recent stakeholders meeting and said Alex Moore, Honeydew Farms and Glen White both indicated that they don't want to be tied to someone else's design and want to have independent designs tied to their branding. He explained that under the guiding principles of Design Review, designs have to be found to enhance the community values, enhance property values and be aesthetically pleasing to the eye. He said he provided each stakeholder with a copy of the Design Review Guidelines including landscaping requirements so they know what is going to be expected.

Discussion continued regarding the City Council's role with regard to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Design Review process.

Community Development Director Caldwell reminded the Council that the CUP/Design Review process is handled through the Planning Commission and if the Council wants to have that authority they would have to amend the code which will slow down the process.

City Manager Knopp said clearly there is a lot to discuss along the lines of economic development in the City but one other area he has concerns with is Public Works since there are a lot of needs and projects. He pointed out that part of the problem is that the City is short on cash and short on staff and with each new storm event comes a whole new series of projects that need to be addressed.

He noted that in talking with public works staff one of their priority projects would be to address the wastewater piping from Painter St. over to the wastewater treatment plant to repair an ongoing problem and avoid sewer overflows.

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Mayor Wilson commented that in addition to Prop 64, the Council needs to devote discussion at a Council meeting to the schedule for placing the Cannabis Tax Measure on the ballot; whether it is June or November.

Councilmember Strahan pointed out that four out of five councilmembers listed the Tax Measure as a priority and she wants to make sure not to miss the deadline for June.

City Manager Knopp explained the difference between a special tax and a general tax and said a special tax requires 2/3 voter approval whereas; a general tax only requires 50% plus 1 for approval. He pointed out that the City would also have to bear all the costs for a special election in June

Mayor Wilson commented that he would like to place before the voters a general purpose tax so the Council can decide how the money is spent and suggested staff put together information on both election options and bring the matter back at the February 21st meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the Cannabis Tax Rate schedule as previously proposed.

City Manager Knopp said the next six months will be filled with labor negotiations, budget and economic development related issues at the Sawmill site and his hope is that this translates into other economic development opportunities in the City such as a hotel or other commercial development.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to the February 7, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Frank Wilson, Mayor

Attest:

Karen Dunham, City Clerk