

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
YREKA HELD IN SAID CITY ON FEBRUARY 6, 2014

On the 6TH day of February 2014, the City Council of the City of Yreka met in the City Council Chambers of said City in regular session, and upon roll call, the following were present: Robert Bicego, Bryan Foster, John Mercier and David Simmen. Absent – Rory McNeil.

Consent Calendar: Mayor Simmen announced that all matters listed under the consent calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion unless any member of the Council wishes to remove an item for discussion or a member of the audience wishes to comment on an item:

- a. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held January 16, 2014.
- b. Approval/ratification of payments issued from January 17, through February 6, 2014.

Councilmember Bicego requested item a be pulled for discussion.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Foster moved to approve item b on the consent calendar as submitted.

Councilmember Mercier seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the following voted YEA: Bicego, Foster, Mercier and Simmen.

Mayor Simmen thereupon declared the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the meeting held January 16, 2014.

Councilmember Bicego noted for the record that he was absent from the January 16 City Council meeting and therefore is abstaining from the vote.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Foster moved to approve the minutes as submitted.

Councilmember Mercier seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the following voted YEA: Foster, Mercier and Simmen. Abstain: Bicego.

Mayor Simmen thereupon declared the motion carried.

Presentation – Mary Frances McHugh, Court Executive Officer – Design Plans for the new Yreka Courthouse.

Court Executive Officer, Mary Frances McHugh gave the Council a presentation on the design plans for the new Courthouse. Ms. McHugh reported that the state-funded courthouse project is currently in the design stage. The estimated groundbreaking is in the spring of 2016, with completion expected in early 2018.

Ms. McHugh stated that initially the project came with an estimated \$92 million price tag but has since been reduced to \$40 million with various cost-cutting measures. Those measures ranged from reducing the number of courtrooms to scrapping a proposed parking structure to accommodate the limited downtown spaces currently available. The resized proposal features five courtrooms, and a 120-space parking area in the same location as the current county lot, which she said would likely meet parking needs on most days.

Approve Agreement for Services between the City of Yreka and Springbrook for Web-Based Payment Inquiry and Processing and Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary agreements for Web-based payments.

Finance Director Rhetta Hogan reported that the City has utilized the Springbrook Utility Billing system for its water, wastewater, fire and landfill assessments since early 2009. Currently, customers do not have the ability to access their account information online, receive electronic billing information, or to make payments by credit or debit card either online or at City Hall. This is a service offered to customers by most utilities, and one that the City utility customers routinely request. Offering this service may reduce the number of customers coming to City Hall to pay their bills. In addition, customer access and service would improve because the customers would be able to access their information and pay their bills on a 24/7 basis online.

Finance Director Hogan further reported that the cost to implement the new feature includes a monthly fee of \$0.05 per active account with a minimum of \$200.00 per month, and a \$1.00 per transaction fee that would be paid by the City directly to Springbrook for software use. In addition, the City would incur a special "fixed rate utilities" interchange fee of \$0.65 for MasterCard or \$0.75 for Visa, for each card transaction processed. This is a reduced rate offered only for utility payments. These costs would be partially offset by an estimated savings of \$1.05 for printing and mailing costs for each customer who enrolls in electronic billing to replace their current mailed paper utility bill. Finance estimates it costs approximately \$2.50 per transaction to assist the customer at the counter. The City has approximately 3,500 accounts that are billed monthly. Over time, trends shown that approximately 15% of the customer will migrate to electronic billing and or credit card payment. The cost of services would be funded from the enterprise funds. There would be no cost to the General Fund or direct cost to the customer for these services.

Following Council discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to table this item, pending further review of the contract language by the City Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the Council the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

David Simmen, Mayor
Minutes approved by Council
Motion February 20, 2014

Elizabeth E. Casson, City Clerk