

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
YREKA HELD IN SAID CITY ON FEBRUARY 16, 2017

On the 16th day of February 2017, 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: Deborah Baird, Joan Smith Freeman, Duane Kegg, and Norman Shaskey Absent - David Simmen.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steve Radford addressed the Council inquire about the planters on Miner Street and the status of the proposed upgrades to the area/island around the Miner Statue/Yreka sign located at the central Yreka I-5 exit. Stating that the project was approved for funding through the Miner Street Grant in 2014, however, was it put on hold by Caltrans due to the drought. City Manager Steve Baker stated he would look into these projects and respond back to Mr. Radford.

Karl Greiner addressed the Council to give the annual report of the Yreka Chamber of Commerce.

Consent Calendar: Mayor Freeman 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/ratification of payments issued from February 3, 2017 through February 16, 2017.
- b. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held February 2, 2017.
- c. Acknowledge Receipt of 2016 General Plan Annual Housing Element Progress Report.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Shaskey moved to approve the items on the consent calendar as submitted.

Councilmember Kegg seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the following voted YEA: Baird, Freeman, Kegg, and Shaskey.

Mayor Freeman thereupon declared the motion carried.

Yreka Creek Greenway 2016 Master Plan Update: Adopt Resolution approving the Yreka Creek Greenway 2016 Master Plan Update and the Environmental Impact Report for the 2016 Greenway Master Plan and Flood Hazard Reduction Project, and adopting the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Flood Hazard Reduction Project.

Jeannette Hook, Public Works Administrative Assistant distributed to the Council for consideration the following amendment to Page 8 of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program 3.7 Hazardous and Hazardous Materials: "MM3.7.1 – Due to the potential for soil contamination, the City shall conduct a Phase I Environmental Assessment prior to any land disturbance activities on the project site. When indicated by a Phase I Report, the City shall

conduct a site review and take appropriate soil samples to verify the presence or absence of potential contaminants before conducting land disturbance activities.” Ms. Hook stated that this minor change is primarily for clarity and efficiency, and asked that the Council adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Flood Hazard Reduction Project with this amendment.

Ms. Hook reported that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Yreka Creek Greenway Master Plan project was released for public comment on December 9, 2016. The Master Plan and the EIR were provided for Council members’ review in November/December 2016 and have been available to the public at City Hall and on the City’s website. The public comment period for both documents closed on January 30, 2017. The Department of Public Works requests that the City Council conduct a public hearing before considering the attached Resolution to approve the Master Plan and certify the EIR.

Project benefits for the City include:

- Guidance for watershed development and restoration, which is consistent with the goals of the community and regulatory agencies.
- Potential tourism that could lead to economic growth for the community.
- Water quality improvement in Yreka Creek by filtering potentially polluted runoff entering the Creek and reducing erosion and potential flooding which could help the City comply with EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals for the Shasta and Klamath Rivers.
- Floodway corridor improvement by widening the area for Creek flows and enhances wildlife habitat with native riparian vegetation.
- Non-motorized trail and open space network along Yreka Creek and its related tributaries.

The Flood Hazard Reduction (FHR) project requires a full environmental analysis, which has been conducted at two levels. First, the Yreka Creek Greenway Master Plan provides general guidance for how the community can implement the goals of the City’s existing General Plan. As such, the analysis considers potential environmental impacts of the Greenway Master Plan at a broad, programmatic level. Second, the City also anticipates construction at several reaches as part of the current project. This requires a detailed review of potential environmental impacts at a specific project level.

Copies of all comments received during the public comment phases have been included with your agenda. A formal Scoping Period was conducted from September 16 to October 23, 2015. The City received five comment letters, most of which are incorporated into the design of the Master Plan. The scoping comments are generally “boilerplate”-type comments and did not raise new or unanticipated environmental issues.

Scoping Letters Received from Person/Agency	Date
Mike Rosan, CalFIRE	September 21, 2015
Jake Shannon, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	October 13, 2015
Marcelino Gonzalez, Caltrans District 2	October 26, 2015
Curt Babcock, California Department of Fish and Wildlife	October 23, 2015

Scoping Letters Received from Person/Agency	Date
Joseph Waddell, Karuk Tribe	October 26, 2015

Only comments received during the public review of the DEIR require specific, formal responses which are addressed in the Errata for the EIR. The Planning Commission has considered the Master Plan and the EIR to make a recommendation to the City Council whether to approve the Master Plan and certify the Environmental Impact Report.

Master Plan and DEIR Comment Letters Received from Person/Agency	Date
Lisa and John Nixon, Herzog Johnson, LLC <i>(Master Plan comment received outside the formal DEIR comment period)</i>	November 26, 2016
Scott Morgan, Governor's Office of Planning and Research	January 25, 2017
Jodi Aceves, Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture	January 30, 2017
Curt Babcock, California Department of Fish and Wildlife	January 30, 2017
Nita Still, Resident	January 30, 2017
Jerry Mosier, Yreka Creek Committee, Siskiyou Gardens, Parks, & Greenway Association	January 30, 2017
Margaret J. Boland, Siskiyou Gardens, Parks, & Greenway Association	January 30, 2017

Fiscal Impact: The fiscal impact over the long term will be for the maintenance of the developed Greenway. As segments of the trail are constructed the City will assume maintenance as a natural area park (similar to Greenhorn Park). The Greenway design incorporates self-sustaining native vegetation and many "bomb-proof" features which are specifically intended to minimize maintenance. The City will continue to rely heavily on volunteers and other partners to assist with maintenance of the existing Greenway. Filing the Notice of Determination requires the payment of Department of Fish and Game Fees, which are reimbursable through the grant.

This being the time and date scheduled for the public hearing, Mayor Freeman opened the hearing to the audience. Jerry Mosier, Jennifer Silveira, and Patricia Grantham spoke as proponents of the Yreka Creek Greenway Project. Jerry Mosier read a letter from Peg Boland, President of the Siskiyou Gardens, Parks and Greenway Association, also in support of the Greenway Project.

Steve Radford spoke in favor of the project, however, stated that he was not in favor of utilizing grant funding for local projects.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Baird moved to adopt Resolution No. 2017-9 as submitted, and adopting the Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Flood Hazard Reduction Project, as amended.

Councilmember Kegg seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the following voted YEA: Baird, Freeman, Kegg, and Shaskey. Mayor Freeman thereupon declared the motion carried.

Little League Request for Participation in the Replacement of Picnic Tables at Little League Park.

City Manager Steve Baker reported that at the last City Council meeting, the Yreka Little League requested the City's participation in the replacement of picnic tables at Little League Park. The request specifically was for the sum of \$1,500, which would purchase 2 of the 4 picnic tables. Little League would handle the costs of the other picnic tables as well as delivery and installation.

As was mentioned at the last meeting, the City and Little League have an agreement identifying the respective responsibilities of the City and Little League. The purpose of this agreement was to make sure that as leadership changed in the Little League that there was an understanding of what was expected of each party and, just as importantly, what was not expected. Installation of capital items or replacement of the picnic tables are not part of that agreement.

Note that because of the lack of facilities elsewhere in northern Siskiyou County, the Yreka Little League, as well as other youth sports groups, the participants include youth from other communities.

Other facilities such as Shasta Avenue Park and the softball/soccer fields are similar to Little League Park. Additional requests from these other sports leagues may be expected in the future for similar improvements and part of the discussion should be how staff should handle those requests since such improvements are also not budgeted nor planned for.

The City's strategy for youth activities has been for a long time to allow non-profits organizations and their volunteers to take the lead (including the sports leagues and the YMCA) with the City providing land and sometimes facilities to make these programs possible. It has worked well and the community has a great many dedicated volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of youth in our community. If the Council wishes to change or examine this strategy, this may be a topic for a future meeting or workshop.

Matt Bray, Director of Public Works provided the Council with a brief history of Yreka Little League Park:

In 1961, \$86,809.10 was gifted to the City in the Last Will and Testament of Mrs. Nellie M. Ringe, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a swimming pool. Mrs. Ringe passed away on or about the 4th day of February 1959.

On January 17, 1962, the City of Yreka Recreation Committee Secretary was presented a set of plans by Committee Member Bob Weber for building a Little League ballpark. Mr. Weber had received these plans from the local organization of the Little League. During this meeting, Harry Friedman showed the Commission the blueprints he had of the Ringe Memorial Swim Center. Location of the ballpark was discussed. Mr. Friedman reported that a Recreation Specialist from the State Division of Recreation would be in town to advise them on the layout of the swim center and park.

According to meeting notes of the May 5th, 1962 Recreation Committee, it was moved by Mary Ann Dillon and seconded by Edna Barr that the Little League organization lay out suggested plans and estimates for the Little League ball park at Ringe Center. The motion carried by common consent.

Throughout the 60's the City worked closely with Little League in search of a permanent home. Hibbard Field was utilized for a time, as was City Park (Miner Street Park). A number of alternative sites were discussed. In the end, the League found a home at "Ringe Center". In February 1967 the Commission carried a motion for the installation of lights at the little league park in the amount of \$5,000. This money was reimbursed to the City by the club through donations and sales. This recommendation was ordered to be referred to the City Council along with a number of others.

I have not yet found the additional minutes of the Recreation Committee after 1967. In 1993, the City Council was given copies of a proposal from Little League for the field renovation project. The Council carried a motion to advance the Little League the total cost of \$9,916.75. Another renovation project came along in June of 2006. A letter from Tom O'Gorman, President of YLL explained that work had begun on a dugout project. The phase included an ADA ramp to access the lower field. A request for funding to purchase handrails was made and a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$5000 was approved.

Over the years many community members have "stepped up to bat" for YLL. The original Siskiyou Little League was formed due the high costs of joining Little League International. Meeting minutes reflect names known as cornerstones of our community. Dick Stretz, Ed Louden, Warren Behnke, to name just a few. The written history shows that for many years the Community, Yreka Little League, the City of Yreka, and numerous sponsors have worked on the common goal of affording our children of Northern Siskiyou County the opportunity to learn and play the game of baseball. Which in my opinion, is one of the most vital aspects of community.

Natalie Rizzardo, Yreka Little League Vice President, addressed the Council to answer any questions regarding the request.

Councilmember Kegg stated that since the last meeting, he has had several individuals contact him asking how they could donate to the picnic table project. Councilmember Kegg stated that he would coordinate the donations and suggested that that total be deducted from the \$3,000 cost therein reducing the final cost to both the City and the Little League.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Shaskey moved to approve the request of the Yreka Little League for the City to participate in the replacement of picnic tables in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, with the idea that the funds collected by Councilmember Kegg by March 1, would be deducted from the \$3,000, and therefore reducing the cost to the City by 50% of the additional funds raised.

Councilmember Kegg seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the following voted YEA: Baird, Freeman, Kegg, and Shaskey. Mayor Freeman thereupon declared the motion carried.

City Treasurer's Report: Discussion/Possible Action – Acceptance of:

- a) Cash Balances Report – December 2016
- b) Quarterly Treasurer's Investment Report – 2nd Quarter FY 2016/2017
- c) Budget of Revenue and Expenditures with Year to Date Actuals through December 2016
- d) Quarterly Fiscal Performance Report – 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year to Date 2016/2017

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Kegg moved to accept the Treasurer's Reports as submitted.

Councilmember Baird seconded the motion, and upon roll call, the following voted YEA: Baird, Freeman, Kegg, and Shaskey. Mayor Freeman thereupon declared the motion carried.

Update on Strategic Planning Workshop and Police Station Workshop.

Following Council discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to tentatively schedule the Strategic Planning Workshop for March 1 at 4 p.m., and the Police Station Works for March 8 at 4 p.m., with a backup date of March 14 at 4 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Conference with Labor Negotiator Government Code Section 54957.6 (a)
Agency negotiators: Steven Baker and Rhetta Hogan.
Employee Organizations: Yreka Police Officer's Association, Yreka Employees Association, Yreka Police Administration Association, Yreka Management Team Association, and the Confidential Unit.
2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code: (Number of cases to be discussed – 1 - The names of the parties are not disclosed, as it is believed that that to do so would jeopardize the City's ability to serve process or to conclude existing settlement negotiations to the City's advantage).

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Upon return to open session, City Manager Baker reported out as to item no. 1, Council conferred with its labor negotiator and Item No. 2 was pulled from the agenda.

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

Attest:

Joan Smith-Freeman, Mayor
Minutes approved by Council
Motion March 2, 2017

Elizabeth E. Casson, City Clerk