

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
YREKA HELD IN SAID CITY ON JULY 7, 2016

On the 7th day of July 2016, 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, John Mercier and David Simmen Absent - None.

Mayor Mercier announced that the closed session has been pulled from the agenda.

Consent Calendar: Mayor Mercier 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 June 17 through July 7, 2016.
- b. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held June 16, 2016.
- c. Adopt Resolution approving requests associated with special events known as the Yreka High School District 2016 Cross Country Meets.

Councilmember Freeman requested that item 1c be pulled for discussion.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Simmen moved to approve items 1 a & b on the consent calendar as submitted.

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

Adopt Resolution approving requests associated with special events known as the Yreka High School District 2016 Cross Country Meets.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Freeman moved to adopt the Resolution as submitted.

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

PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and Possible Action to:

- 1) Adopt Resolution of the City Council of the City of Yreka, calling and giving notice of the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Yreka, of a certain measure relating to a proposed Ordinance imposing a one-half cent transactions and use (sales) tax or general purposes, giving notice, and requesting consolidation of an election to be held on November 8, 2016, and finding that the Measure is not subject to CEQA.
- 2) Waive Reading of the body of the Ordinance in full and read by title only and move to adopt the Ordinance subject to the approval of a majority of the electors voting at the election.
- 3) Direct the City Attorney to prepare an Impartial Analysis for the measure.

City Manager Steve Baker reported that the City faces continuing financial difficulties providing for basic services such as public safety and streets. The revenue from the proposed tax measure would provide sustainable funding needed to address multiple city issues.

The City's streets are deteriorating and require approximately \$18-20 million to bring and keep them up to standard. State gas tax funds are declining, both in the local funds that can be used on all streets for repair as well as the Surface Transportation Improvement Program funds that can be used to fix the City's arterials.

The police force also faces challenges. Recent changes in state law that force convicted criminals back to the County for incarceration have resulted in an overcrowded jail. Criminal activity and calls for service are increasing while the police force remains below its staffing levels of only a few years ago. Arrestees are often getting out the same day, providing little in the way of consequence for criminal activity. Finding qualified police officers continues to be a challenge. And, a new police station is needed to replace the deteriorating 100-year-old facility.

In addition, the City's other facilities (other than those funded through enterprise funds), such as City Hall, Community Center and Theater, the Fire Hall, parks facilities and other public buildings also have deferred maintenance that will require significant resources to keep these facilities usable and in good condition.

Since 2008, City staff has declined more than 20%, with most of those cuts at the management level. The City partners with non-profit agencies to provide services that otherwise the City could not afford to do so such as the Madrone Hospice operating the City's senior programs and Yreka Splash keeping open the City's aging pool. The City has also streamlined processes, allowing customers to make water/sewer bill payments on line. The streetlights have been changed to LED lighting, saving tens of thousands per year. The City Council and staff have worked together to keep costs as low as possible, but the service needs and deferred maintenance continue to outstrip revenues even in the current economy.

California State Law authorizes cities to seek voter approval of transaction and use taxes in multiples of 0.125 percent so long as the combined transaction and use taxes do not exceed two percent. It is estimated that non-City residents generate a majority of Yreka sales tax revenues. The proposed measure will provide annual revenues of approximately \$950,000 in fiscal year 2017/18. The revenue will be placed in the general fund to be used to fund essential City services such as: improving law enforcement response to violent crimes, burglaries and property offenses; repairing potholes and streets; and maintaining the Yreka's long-term financial stability. All funds will stay local and none will go to Sacramento. The funds will be subject to the city's annual audits.

Director of Public Works, Matt Bray, gave a presentation regarding the rapid decline of the City's street infrastructure and the estimated cost to maintain, repair, and reconstruct the existing 52 miles of paved streets within the City.

Finance Director, Rhetta Hogan, gave a presentation regarding the budgetary shortfall, the strategies the City has used to address the anticipated shortfalls since 2011, and an explanation of

the City's general fund revenue sources, noting that the City currently receives only 1 penny from each dollar of sales tax generated.

This being the time and date scheduled for the public hearing, Mayor Mercier opened the public hearing to the audience.

Alex Kwasnikow asked if the City had considered using volunteers to help with maintenance of parks.

Director of Public Works Bray reported that we have many individual volunteers and groups that currently help the city with various parks projects, stating, "We love our volunteers and we are always looking for more".

Catherine Gilbert asked how much revenue this measure would generate, and how much of that revenue would be from locals versus out of town people and tourists.

City Manager Baker stated that it is anticipated that this measure would generate approximately \$950,000 annually, and it is estimated that non-City residents would pay at least 50% of this tax.

Claudia East, Craig Mommer, and Phil Porter addressed the Council as proponents of the tax measure stressing a need to inform and educate the public.

There being no further statements from the audience, Mayor Mercier closed the Public Hearing and opened discussion to the Council.

Following the reading of the title of the Resolution and Ordinance, and Council discussion, Councilmember Freeman moved to adopt Resolution #2016-36 as submitted; waive the reading of the body of the Ordinance and adopt the Ordinance as submitted subject to the approval of a majority of the electors voting at the November 8, 2016 election; and direct the City Attorney to prepare an Impartial Analysis for the measure.

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

Mayor Mercier thereupon declared the motion carried.

Introduce an Ordinance of the City of Yreka amending Section 1.24.010 ("Regular Meetings") of the Yreka Municipal Code to change and fix the place of City Council meetings and amending Section 8.08.130 to omit any reference to gutters in Yreka's Dog Nuisance Ordinance.

Following the reading of the title of the Ordinance and Council discussion, Councilmember Baird moved to waive the reading of the body of the Ordinance and to introduce the Ordinance as submitted.

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

Mayor Mercier thereupon declared the motion carried.

Approve Designation of Councilmember Joan Smith-Freeman as Voting Delegate and a Councilmember as Alternate Voting Delegate to the League of California Cities Annual Conference October 5 – 7, 2016 in Long Beach.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Simmen moved to designate Councilmember Joan Smith-Freeman as Voting Delegate and Councilmember Deborah Baird as Alternate Voting Delegate to the League of California Cities Annual Conference.

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

Mayor Mercier thereupon declared the motion carried.

Selection of Mayor Pro tempore.

Following Council discussion, Councilmember Simmen moved to appoint Joan Smith-Freeman as Mayor Pro tempore.

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

Mayor Mercier thereupon declared the motion carried.

Selection Process for New City Councilmember; Appointment of new Councilmember using that process.

City Manager Baker reported that the purpose of this agenda item is to outline the process for appointment or election of a replacement city councilmember to fill the vacant seat of Councilmember Bryan Foster, and to identify alternatives.

Government Code Section 36512 requires that upon vacancy of a City Council seat, the City Council either appoint a replacement within 60 days or call for an election. Since Councilmember Foster's seat is up for election on the November 8, 2016 election, the second option is covered.

If the Council wishes to make an appointment of a Councilmember for the remainder of the term (now through approximately the first meeting of December), there are alternatives. State statutes do not identify the details of the appointment process, so the Council has wide latitude in how to make the appointment. The Council could, for example, simply nominate and agree on an individual to fill in the unexpired term of Councilmember Foster. Alternatively, the Council could accept applications for appointment to post and hold interviews (this was the process followed at the last vacancy in 2010, which included a special meeting for the interviews).

Finally, the Council could operate with only four members until the results of the November election are certified.

Following Council discussion, Mayor Mercier moved to operate with only four members until the results of the November election are certified.

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

Mayor Mercier thereupon declared the motion carried.

City Manager Report: Update/Discussion: Community Center Tree Removal.

Director of Public Works Matt Bray reported that the large pine trees at the Community Center have damaged the sidewalks to a point further maintenance is not an option. Large portions of sidewalk are now in need of replacement. The foundation of this building is also showing signs of damage. In addition, a number of trees are showing signs of disease. Three smaller trees were removed from the Theater lawn two years ago due to disease. Staff has consulted with an arborist and also had the City's Building Official assess the situation.

Regretfully, the trees must be removed. They will be replaced, but with different species and in locations less likely to interfere with the building and sidewalks in the future. The ambiance of the Community Center will be dramatically altered so we wanted to make Council aware of the project before it occurred.

Removal of these trees will save the foundation. The Maintenance Division will then plant the replacement trees, and repair the failed sidewalk areas.

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

Attest:

John Mercier, Mayor
Minutes approved by Council
Motion July 21, 2016

Elizabeth E. Casson, City Clerk