

**MINUTES OF THE ORLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 4, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Roundy at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers present via teleconference:	Councilmembers Dennis Hoffman, Billy Irvin, Chris Dobbs, Vice-Mayor Jeffrey A. Tolley and Mayor Bruce Roundy
Councilmembers absent:	None
Staff present via teleconference:	Chief of Police Joe Vlach, Public Works Director Ed Vonasek, Fire Chief Justin Chaney City Manager Pete Carr, City Attorney Greg Einhorn, City Engineer Paul Rabo and City Clerk/Administrative Services Manager Janet Wackerman

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Citizen Comments:

Byron Denton, 127 Tanner Way, thanked all the new Councilmembers for serving and thanked the Public Works Department crew for putting up all the decorations around town. He added he was looking forward to Ed's report.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approve Warrant List (payable obligations).
- B. Approve City Council minutes for December 21, 2020.
- C. Receive and file Planning Commission minutes for November 19, 2020

Action: Councilmember Irvin moved, seconded by Vice-Mayor Tolley to approve the consent calendar. The motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Councilmember Irvin, Vice Mayor Tolley, Councilmembers Hoffman, and Dobbs and Mayor Roundy
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation: Public Works Department and Engineering Annual Review – Ed Vonasek, Public Works Director**

Mr. Vonasek gave a slide presentation on what has been accomplished, and the Public Works department's partnerships, in the past year. He noted that the most important, and most involved, project was the reconstruction of Tehama Street. Other projects of note were, meters and backflow

devices installed in city parks, installation of cameras at the Sixth/South street stoplight, bathroom upgrade in Carnegie Center, two downtown alleys repaired, continuation of hydrant replacement program and assisting with numerous other projects.

Councilmember Hoffman thanked Mr. Vonasek and his crew, especially for keeping in mind the safety aspect of their jobs. He has heard a lot of compliments in the community about this department.

Councilmember Irvin asked what the park meters were for. Mr. Vonasek stated the State will be requiring jurisdictions to keep track of all their groundwater use. Mr. Carr added, with the metering of the parks the city is able to better determine what its usage is.

Mr. Rabo stated Tehama Street was the most visible project and staff worked thru complicated and unforeseen items. The Public Works Director and his crew assisted and were important for the success of this project. The Sixth Street preservation project was straight forward, and the Road MM sewer line project is being wrapped up.

Mr. Denton stated he appreciated Mr. Rabo's knowledge and asked when Road MM would be completed. Mr. Rabo stated they have found leaks at the manholes so as soon as they are sealed, the project will be considered finished.

Mr. Denton asked Mr. Vonasek to explain the CUPA project. Mr. Vonasek stated CUPA is a County agency that requires certain materials to be stored in a certain way.

Mayor Roundy stated the department was up to date on equipment purchases. Mr. Vonasek stated they only use Measure A funds when it is safety related. He added they have a program in place for equipment purchasing and are following it.

#### **B. Unpermitted Work Fee – Pete Carr, City Manager**

The City levies a \$47 fee when certain types of work are being performed without a building permit. This is not an effective incentive to apply for a permit as required. In researching other jurisdictions, it is common to double the permit fee.

Councilmember Hoffman stated care should be taken to not be too punitive but there should be some fee. As a real estate seller, he knows it is difficult to sell a home if it has had work completed that has not been permitted.

Councilmember Irvin asked if a permit was needed for a water heater replacement. Mr. Carr stated yes because there is a disruption of plumbing and either gas or electric. Councilmember Irvin asked if the owner that did not pay the permit would be charged the \$47 and the cost of a permit. Mr. Carr stated yes.

Vice-Mayor Tolley stated this is a tough issue but want people to do things right. He added that there is a need to find what is a good amount. If the permit was for \$250 and this amount was doubled, it would bring the total to \$500? Mr. Carr stated that yes, if Council would want to double the permit because the work was started without obtaining a permit, the total cost for the permit would be \$500. Vice-Mayor Tolley stated the fee should be updated and people should be encouraged to do the right thing.

Councilmember Dobbs asked if the approximately 18 annual occurrences for working without a permit were for construction or replacing a water heater. Mr. Carr stated it was more often for a roof, patio, bathroom remodel or other remodels. Councilmember Dobbs stated that he agreed that eventually you need to incentivize people to get the permit but didn't think this was the right time due to Covid.

Mr. Einhorn stated he recommends a flat rate, such as what Rio Vista levies so the action is considered a fee and serves as a deterrent and provides funding for the service. Also, doubling the permit fee such as what Glenn County and Willows does is a proper use of the City's police power/authority to regulate construction in the city.

Mayor Roundy stated he wants to increase the fees to protect citizens and as a deterrent to being taken advantage of.

Councilmember Irvin stated he does not agree to suspend raising the fee because of Covid and if it is made a fee, put it high, like \$10,000 or \$1,000.

Vice-Mayor Tolley liked what Councilmembers Dobbs and Irvin said. Councilmember Dobbs clarified his earlier statement and said if a homeowner needs a new roof and it's raining, the job is being done because it has to be done.

Upon the consensus of those present, Staff was directed to look into the matter to update the unpermitted work fee and bring back to them for further review.

### **C. Verbal Update on Covid-19's Impact on the Local Economy and City Operations – Pete Carr, City Manager**

Mr. Carr presented the current Covid-19 statistics for Glenn County to date. There are currently 30% of ICU beds available in the Northern CA region. If this number reaches below 15%, stay at home orders will become effective. Glenn County has a positivity rate of 15.5% with an average of 46 cases per 100K population in the last 14 days. There were 197 active cases this past week, 13 hospitalized this week and a total of 16 deaths.

Mr. Carr stated if the area returns to the red tier, church services can be held indoors, and restaurants can serve patrons indoors. Appointments for the Optum Serve testing site can be made on-line.

Approximately 13 businesses are receiving CARES Act funding. An additional State grant opportunity opened that is being facilitated by 3Core. Business owners can apply for funding on-line.

City operations have not changed. Presently there are five active cases among employees, and one is in quarantine because their spouse tested positive. CalOSHA and CA Department of Public Health have released guidelines for jurisdictions to use. All scheduled ride-a-longs with patrol officers have been cancelled and department heads and Councilmembers have been requested to minimize their visits to City Hall.

City fire fighters were offered vaccinations last week; only priority groups are offered the vaccine at this time. Councilmember Irvin asked if not every firefighter and first responders took the vaccine. Mr. Carr stated that was correct and added that he could regulate who receives the vaccine but he is not requiring every one to receive it at this time.

### **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

Councilmember Tolley:

- Working on a couple of things and will bring forward those items at the next meeting

Councilmember Hoffman:

- Nothing to report

Councilmember Irvin:

- Thanked the Councilmembers and the City for his raise in compensation. He challenged Councilmembers to donate their additional compensation to a charity of their choice. He will be donating \$500 to the Orland High School sports program.

Councilmember Dobbs:

- Nothing to report

Mayor Roundy:

- Stated he thought Councilmember Irvin's suggestion was a good one and offered he would also suggest donating time.
- Attended the County/City Selection Committee and was selected Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Janet Wackerman, City Clerk

Bruce T. Roundy, Mayor