

MINUTES OF THE ORLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 4, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Hoffman at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Bruce Roundy, Billy Irvin, Chris Dobbs (arrived via zoom at 6:45 pm), Vice Mayor Jeffrey A. Tolley and Mayor Dennis Hoffman

Councilmembers absent: None

Staff present City Manager, Peter Carr; City Clerk, Jennifer Schmitke; Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services Director, Rebecca Pendergrass; Ed Vonasek; Director of Public Works, Scott Friend, City Planner (via Zoom); City Attorney, Greg Einhorn; Joe Vlach, Police Chief; Paul Rabo, City Engineer

City Attorney Einhorn stated that Councilmember Dobbs would be participating via zoom from the Orland Volunteer Fire Department due to having to quarantine. Mr. Einhorn also stated that the agenda was missing the description of the closed session topic and wanted on record government Code section, that is the subject to the closed session, 54956.9D4 anticipated litigation and anticipated to be instituted by the City.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Public Comments: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Warrant List (payable obligations).
- B. Approve City Council minutes for December 21, 2021.
- C. Receive and file Planning Commission minutes of November 2021.
- D. Second Reading, Ordinance 2021-05 Approving the pre-zoning of an existing development parcel of land identified as 4309 County Road KK.

Action: Councilmember Irvin moved to approve the consent calendar A-D and Vice Mayor Tolley seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0 by the following roll call vote.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Honeybee Discovery Center Grant/Orland Grant Staff Report - Pete Carr, City Manager

City Manager Carr presented to Council a new State grant program, the Rural Recreation and Tourism Program (RRT). This program is intended to create recreation opportunities within rural communities to support health related and economic goals. Two local organizations, the Honeybee Discovery Center (HDC) and the Orland Otters Swim Team, are interested in the City sponsoring their grant applications.

Mr. Carr informed Council that the HDC Board of Directors is proposing to leverage this grant to help develop the City-owned parcel on Walker Street between the railroad tracks and Pizza Palace. The concept is to create a pedestrian-friendly event plaza (a new city park) with tree-based landscaping that includes pollinator garden features. The HDC is hopeful that the new park (landscaping around future building) would be Phase I of the future Honeybee Discovery Center. Mr. Carr also stated the Orland Otters have repropoed a project that City Council considered and approved last year for a different grant application that would add a seasonal-use heater for the swimming pool, with several other improvements and upgrades, allowing for the pool to be used year-round. Staff recommendation is to approve both project proposals for application for RRT grand funding.

Carolina Burreson, Vice President of the Honeybee Discover Center Board spoke about the City improvement opportunity at the vacant lot at 521 Walker Street. Ms. Burreson explained that with the grant funds the HDC would like to create a pollinator park (phase I) of their entire HDC project. Brad Lents, landscape architect for the HDC project, shared site plans on the pollinator garden. Mr. Lents spoke about seating and signage, trails, trees, flowers, potential amphitheater and shade areas and a possible extension to allow for parking.

Councilmember Dobbs arrived via Zoom at 6:45 pm.

Councilmember Irvin asked if the building owners to the South of the project had been approached about selling to the City. Mr. Carr stated he had met with the owner a few years ago. Councilmember Irvin asked about parking spots and City Planner Scott Friend stated the City has standards that should to be met.

Mayor Hoffman invited Ms. Suzi Kochems, Orland Otter representative, via Zoom to speak on behalf about their repropoed grant application. Ms. Kochems presented a redesigned application for funding through RRT program, modified from the previous grant application she submitted around a year ago. Ms. Kochems is proposing a heater for the pool, pool covers to keep heat in, new grandstands, new play structure with a shade cover, updated drinking fountains, new resurfaced pool structure and a walking path around Vinsonhaler park. These upgrades would turn the pool into a year-round complex. Councilmember Irvin asked if solar was included in the application. Ms. Kochems stated that if a year-round complex is being created that solar can be included in the grant application.

Mayor Hoffman asked if clubs that would utilize the pool would offset the costs of running the pool. Ms. Kochems stated that the pool would be able to be leased by the school and other clubs which would help with the upkeep and maintenance of the pool. Councilmember Irvin asked Recreation Director Joe Fenske if the walking loop would interrupt the softball field. Mr. Fenske stated the softball field would not be interrupted.

Action: Councilmember Roundy moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tolley to approve both project applications. Councilmember Roundy amended his motion to include solar into the pool proposal.

Action: Councilmember Roundy moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Tolley to approve both, Honeybee Discovery Center grant proposal and the Orland Pool grant proposal which would include solar. The motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote.

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

B. Presentation: Public Works Department and Engineering - Ed Vonasek, Director of Public Works

Mr. Vonasek presented an annual review of the Public Works Department. During the past year the department continued to oversee and maintain, water and sewer mains & lines, streets, parks, storm drains, building maintenance, fleet, green waste and tree removal/replacement. Highlights and accomplishments for this past year include replacing the stop light at South and Sixth Street, replacing trees along Hwy 32, Fire Hydrant replacements, repairing fallen light poles in Lely Park and beginning construction on a community pickleball court. Additionally, Mr. Vonasek stated that the City of Orland is loaning out one mechanic, on an as-needed basis, to help the City of Willows as their emergency vehicle mechanic is out. Goals for 2022 include: starting new connections for people who are participating in the DWR Orland area water project, Caltrans interchange art project and County Road M ½ project coming 2022/2023.

Councilmember Roundy inquired about the rate that old hydrants are being replaced. Mr. Vonasek stated that the City maintains five hundred hydrants within the city limits, of those five hundred Public Works budgets to replace 10 -15 a year.

Mayor Hoffman asked Director Vonasek if there is anything he could foresee Public Works needing this upcoming year. Mr. Vonasek stated that the Council has been incredibly attentive and supportive of Public Works needs, however, at this time the only thing needed is pay increases for the staff. The turnover rate in the department is increasing as employees leave to go to jobs that pay more.

C. Green Waste Site Update - Ed Vonasek, Director of Public Works

Mr. Vonasek presented background information on the history of the City's green waste operations, current operation costs as well as rates from Tehama and Butte Counties for reference. Mr. Vonasek stated that the green waste site's operating expenses have increased. Additionally, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a vendor who will grind up the waste and haul it away. To cover the additional expenses the current rates will need be increased again. Another option is to sunset the site's services.

Vice Mayor Tolley asked how many people use the green waste facility and who specifically frequents the site. Mr. Vonasek stated homeowners (around 75%) and landscapers (around 25%). Vice Mayor Tolley asked if the landscapers are from the City and are the lawn clippings from Orland. Mr. Vonasek stated that there is no way to say if the green waste is coming from Orland. Mr. Tolley asked if the City could burn the green waste. Mr. Vonasek stated that Public Works doesn't have the manpower to maintain the fires for weeks and it would be counterproductive to the objective of reducing burning waste.

Councilmember Irvin suggested either giving the green waste site its own line item on the budget or shutting the site down. Mr. Irvin stated that since the Glenn County Transfer station now accepts green waste there is an alternative spot to dispose of landscaping clippings.

Councilmember Dobbs asked what date the green waste site would be closed indefinitely. Mr. Vonasek recommended that the citizens be notified via postings at the green waste site as well as online. Council agreed that a month of notifications for citizens and then a final month of drop off of green waste would be a sufficient amount of time for residents.

Vice Mayor Tolley asked for an explanation on why the green waste grinding and disposal prices skyrocketed within the last few years. Mr. Vonasek explained that there is no market for green waste grindings anymore which has made it difficult to find someone who will not only grind the green waste but also haul them away for a reasonable price.

Council held discussion and determined that since there is no longer an outlet to grind and dispose of the waste and that there are now other options available (90-gallon bin from Waste Management for a small fee or Glenn County Transfer Station), it would be best to close the site.

Action: Councilmember Roundy moved, seconded by Councilmember Dobbs to close the City's green waste facility March 15, 2022. The motion carried 4-0-1 by the following roll call vote.

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

D. Review Quarterly Report: City Fiscal Year objectives - Pete Carr, City Manager

City Manager Carr presented to Council a review of progress on 2021-2022 project objectives. Mr. Carr asked Council to review the funded projects and capital outlays list presented in their agenda packets and asked for any questions on the progress of current projects.

A discussion was held, and Councilmember Irvin expressed his concern for updating the softball fields. Vice Mayor Tolley asked why item listed as Fire Engine #27 build was not showing 100% even though the project has been approved. Mr. Carr stated it is still at 20% because the engine is not fully constructed and delivered yet.

Mayor Hoffman opened up the discussion to the public and no comments were made.

E. Verbal update on Drought Conditions and Water Connection Project - Pete Carr, City Manager

City Manager Carr reported as of January 4, 2022, a total of 300 wells had been registered as distressed. Of those wells 191 (county wide) are dry, 130 are within the Orland area. Mr. Carr showed a map which displayed the south side of Orland to be the largest area in need with the northwest side being the second largest area in need. Dry well reporting has slowed down, and the expression of interest (EOI) applications deadline was December 31, 2021. The final number for those who wanted to connect to City water is 237, slightly down from the report at the last meeting due to duplicate entries. Of the 237 EOI, 135 are in Planning Area I (southern area of Orland). Currently the City is working with DWR to figure out the mapping so the most amount of people can be reached.

City Manager Carr stated that North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF) had delivered most of the tanks (so far, 52) and pump installations were currently underway. The first bulk water hauler was approved and started delivering water. There are currently 81 properties receiving bottled water.

Mr. Carr reported that the City's wells are stable but not where they were a year ago. The wells will continue to be monitored weekly. Mr. Carr showed a graph comparing water production from 2021 to 2013 and another graph comparing the well production of each month throughout the year. Mr. Carr reminded Council that in June the State set a goal to reduce water production by 15% by the end of December. The City of Orland reached 9% which is a 58.8 million gallons reduction from last year.

Councilmember Irvin asked if a date had been set for parcels with dry wells to be connected to City water. Mr. Carr stated that the emergency water connection project is dependent on the mapping process, hiring contractors and gathering supplies. Mr. Carr reminded that there is also a well and storage tank to be designed and built for the City.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Roundy:

- Nothing to report.

Councilmember Irvin:

- Nothing to report

Councilmember Dobbs:

- Nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Tolley:

- Nothing to report.

Mayor Hoffman:

- Attended the Honeybee Discovery Center on the First Friday of the December.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:50 PM

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – None

CLOSED SESSION

- A. Public Comments: The public will have an opportunity to directly address the legislative body on the item below prior to the Council convening into closed session. Public comments are generally restricted to three minutes.
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9; one potential case.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION AT 8:52 PM

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – Direction was given to staff.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:52 PM

Jennifer Schmitke, Deputy City Clerk

Dennis Hoffman, Mayor