

MINUTES OF THE ORLAND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

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

Meeting opened with the Fire Chief Chaney leading the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember present: Councilmembers Bruce Roundy, Billy Irvin, Chris Dobbs,
Vice Mayor Jeffrey Tolley and Mayor Dennis Hoffman

Councilmembers absent: None

Staff present: City Clerk, Jennifer Schmitke; Assistant City
Manager/Administrative Services Director, Rebecca
Pendergrass; Joe Vlach, Police Chief; Justin Chaney, Fire
Chief (left at 6:45 PM); City Attorney, Greg Einhorn; City
Engineer, Paul Rabo

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Public Comments: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approve Warrant List (payable obligations).
- B. Approve City Council minutes for February 1, 2022.
- C. Receive and file Public Works and Safety Commission minutes of December 14, 2021.
- D. Receive and file EDC Commission minutes of November 9, 2021.
- E. Receive and file Arts Commission minutes of January 19, 2022.

Action: Councilmember Dobbs moved to approve the consent calendar, and Vice Mayor Tolley seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0 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. Resolution for Cal Fire Grant – Fire Chief Justin Chaney

Fire Chief Justin Chaney presented resolution for approval on a grant that Orland Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) applied for a Cal Fire; the grant is for fuels reductions to mitigate fuels in Stony creekbed.

Chief Chaney stated that this project will be a major win for the City and its residents to protect the wildland urban interface with Stony Creek and the homes on the north side of town. This project will be a great benefit to both the City of Orland, rural Orland and will also be available for surrounding agencies on mutual aid fire calls.

Chief Chaney stated Cal Fire will break the grant into three parts over the next three years, with the first year's portion totaling \$500,000 to purchase a dozer and transport to start. The bulldozer will be available for the upcoming fire season.

Councilmember Irvin asked if the dozer would be used for big fires around California during fire season or if the dozer would mainly stay in Orland. Chief Chaney stated that the dozer would stay regionally.

Councilmember Dobbs asked what the average response time is when the fire department requests dozers and Councilmember Tolley asked where the dozers usually transport from. Assistant Fire Chief McDermott stated it takes about an hour and a half to get to Orland if available and that the dozer usually comes from Salt Creek.

Mayor Hoffman asked if there will be any extra costs to the City of Orland. Chief Chaney stated that there would be minimal costs to the City if any for maintenance and that a few days of fire crew stand-by work with Cal Fire would pay for a whole year's worth of maintenance on the dozer.

Council thanked Chief Chaney and Assistant Fire Chief McDermott for applying for the grant.

Action: Councilmember Roundy moved to approve the action as presented, and Councilmember Dobbs seconded the motion. 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. Police Officer Recruitment Incentive – Chief of Police, Joe Vlach

Chief of Police Joe Vlach presented to Council a recruiting and retention incentive payment program for lateral sworn officers. Chief Vlach stated that in today's economic and social environment it is increasingly and overwhelmingly challenging to recruit police officers. Chief Vlach stated that to be competitive in the current police officer labor market, many local government agencies in our region are now offering sign-on bonuses ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 plus other benefits.

Chief Vlach proposed to Council that Orland begin offering a \$10,000 sign-on bonus for lateral candidates paid 1/3 at signing, 1/3 at completion of field training and 1/3 at successful completion of probation. Chief Vlach stated this program will strengthen the City's recruiting and retention of experienced police officers and it will save the City money on the front end compared to recruiting and sponsoring academy candidates.

Councilmembers discussed cost analysis of lateral candidates versus academy recruits in surrounding areas with Chief Vlach.

Councilmember Roundy suggested offering \$12,000 to be a little more than the surrounding areas. Council discussed how incentives work in surrounding areas and the bonus retention schedule and the amount of the incentive that would work best for Orland Police Department.

Matt Romano, 929 Third Street, asked Chief Vlach his experience with academy recruits staying in one area. Chief Vlach stated that he has noticed in Northern California new police officers usually do not transfer to other agencies for money but rather for a different experience or patrol such as Sheriff's offices. Chief Vlach stated that Orland Police Department has changed its hiring process to help new candidates recognize and understand the career that they are training for.

Action: Councilmember Roundy moved, seconded by Councilmember Dobbs to authorize the City of Orland Police Department to offer recruiting and retention incentive payments of up to \$15,000 for lateral candidates. The motion carried 3-2 by the following roll call vote.

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

Councilmember Irvin and Vice Mayor Tolley support the incentive but preferred a different structure and requested more time.

C. County of Glenn Water Well Drilling and Standards – City Engineer, Paul Rabo

City Engineer Paul Rabo reported to Council that Glenn County has begun a review of their current regulations pertaining to Chapter 80 (Water Well Drilling Permits & Standards) of title 20 of the County Code. Mr. Rabo stated that the county is proposing many changes including strengthening its code and potential enforcement by providing additional regulations for the construction, repair, modification and destruction of wells so groundwater will not be contaminated or polluted.

Mr. Rabo stated the biggest take aways for the City on these updates will be the well completion reports, well pumping capacity, well spacing requirements, well casing and screen depths. These changes will all have impacts on municipal wells for the City. Additionally, the county is proposing updates to the current code sections including permit requirements, applications, inspections, drilling standards, permit revocation an appeal.

Mr. Rabo stated these updates the county has been working on should be completed in December 2022.

Councilmembers discussed and asked Mr. Rabo to come back in a few months when there are more details available.

D. City of Orland Well Standards – City Engineer, Paul Rabo

City Engineer Paul Rabo stated that working with two different state agencies (Department of Water Resources-DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board) as well as the county working on their well standards, has brought up the topic of Orland having its own municipal well standards in meetings with City Manager Carr and Public Works Director Vonasek.

Mr. Rabo stated that having municipal groundwater well construction standards would apply to construction of new wells. These standards would provide requirements for the construction of groundwater wells including separation from contaminants, sealing of upper water strata, casing materials, surface features, and development. Mr. Rabo explained that the City could use DWR Bulletin 74 as a starting point and add requirements to suit the City's needs. Additional items to consider could include power (and back up power) controls, software systems, casing size, motor size, setbacks from residential/commercial uses, treatment, and site improvements (i.e., buildings, paving, fencing).

Councilmembers discussed and consensus was given directing Mr. Rabo to prepare standards for the construction of municipal groundwater wells.

E. Contract with California State Water Resources Control Board – City Engineer, Paul Rabo

Mr. Rabo stated the City has been working with the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to obtain grant funding for the planning and engineering phases of a project that would construct a new municipal well and storage tank. Mr. Rabo explained that the proposed water system improvements, including a groundwater well and storage tank will be located on 6th Street.

Mr. Rabo spoke about the scope of work which includes drilling two test wells, field studies, environmental studies, permitting, preparation of engineering reports and project plans and specifications. The value of the grant is \$540,000 and the completion date for the scope of work is March 2024.

Action: Vice Mayor Tolley moved, seconded by Councilmember Irvin to approve the agreement with the State Water Resource Control Board as presented. The motion carried 5-0 by the following roll call vote.

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

Verbal Update on Drought Conditions and Water Connection Project – Rebecca Pendergrass, Assistant City Manager

Assistant City Manager Rebecca Pendergrass presented that Glenn County experienced its fourth driest January in the last 128 years due to limited rainfall. Ms. Pendergrass stated that there are still currently 300 dry wells listed on the County's website. Ms. Pendergrass explained that 237 people expressed interest in connecting to City water services and about 150 of those people are within the planning area and will be connected.

Ms. Pendergrass stated that extension of services into County areas was approved at the February 14th LAFCo meeting and staff is currently working with Department of Water Resources (DWR) over the next few weeks to prepare paperwork for each property owner.

Ms. Pendergrass reported that the City's wells are holding steady with about 20 feet below average, and they continue to be monitored weekly. Ms. Pendergrass stated that there is still currently one pump down, waiting on parts to arrive.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Roundy:

- Attended the Art Gallery show February 4th, 2022,
- Attended the LAFCO meeting February 14th, 2022,
- Attended the Water Authority Meeting February 14th, 2022,
- Attended the Cal Cities Meeting February 14th, 2022.

Councilmember Irvin:

- Nothing to report.

Councilmember Dobbs:

- Attended Glenn County Fish and Game Meeting for February 2022

Vice Mayor Tolley:

- Attended February's EDC Commission meeting.

Mayor Hoffman:

- Attended the Art Gallery show February 4th, 2022.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:16 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 – LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Government Code Section: 54957.6

Agency Negotiators: Peter R. Carr; Rebecca Pendergrass; Greg Einhorn

Employee Organizations: United Public Employees of California Local #792

Mid Management and General Units; Orland Police Officers Associations.

Unrepresented Employees (All other not in UPEC)

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION AT 8:54 PM

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – Councilmember Roundy and Irvin will represent the City in negotiations.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 PM

Jennifer Schmitke, Deputy City Clerk

Dennis Hoffman, Mayor