

**MINUTES OF THE ORLAND CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 16, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Hoffman.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers present:	Councilmembers Bruce Roundy (left at 8:21 pm), Chris Dobbs, Billy Irvin, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Tolley and Mayor Dennis Hoffman
Councilmembers absent:	None
Staff present:	City Manager Pete Carr; Assistant City Manager/Director of Administrative Services Rebecca Pendergrass; City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke; Police Chief Vlach; City Attorney Greg Einhorn

City Manager Pete Carr asked City Council to consider his request to add an emergency action item to the agenda regarding the possible suspension of the current tiered water rates.

Action: Councilmember Roundy moved, seconded by Councilmember Dobbs to add the emergency action item to the agenda. The motion carried by a roll call vote 5-0.

AYES: Councilmembers Roundy, Irvin, Dobbs, Vice Mayor Tolley and Mayor Hoffman

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Warrant List (payable obligations)
- B. Approve City Council Minutes for August 2, 2022
- C. Receive and file Arts Commission Minutes from July 13, 2022
- D. Match for Economic Development Study Grant
- E. AB361 Compliance

Action: Vice Mayor Tolley moved, Councilmember Dobbs seconded, to approve items A-E on the consent calendar. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

**PRESENTATION: California Senior Legislature – John Pereira, Senior Senator Elect**

Mr. Pereira, Senior Senator Elect gave a PowerPoint presentation about the California Senior Legislature. Mr. Pereira gave a brief background and history on the organization sharing that the Senior Legislature has sponsored over 200 new laws helping seniors with financial abuse, health care, transportation, and housing. Mr. Pereira shared a few of the current 2022 Legislature priorities.

Mayor Hoffman thanked Mr. Pereira for his information about the California Senior Legislature.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

### **A. Employment Agreement for the UPEC General Unit, Salary Schedule**

City Manager Pete Carr presented the General Unit agreement that provides for salary increases of 6%, 4% and 4 % over the next three years, the increasing of the boot allowance from \$150/yr to \$220/yr, and up to \$300 in special circumstances with a medical prescription. Mr. Carr shared that part of the action is also approving the updated salary schedule.

Action: Vice Mayor Tolley moved, seconded by Councilmember Dobbs, to approve the proposed agreement by resolution, and salary schedule, as presented; authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute the resolution and bargaining unit agreement. The motion carried by a roll call vote 5-0.

AYES:	Councilmembers Bruce Roundy, Billy Irvin, Chris Dobbs, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Tolley and Mayor Dennis Hoffman
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

### **B. Verbal Update on Drought Conditions and Water Supply Project**

City Manager Pete Carr provided an update on reported dry wells, stating an additional 29 wells have been reported since the last Council meeting. Currently the total of wells being affected this year is 114.

Mr. Carr shared the Dry Well – Hot spot map from the County’s website, showing a new feature that allows users to view the increase in dry wells from June 2022 versus dry wells in August 2022.

Mr. Carr reminded Council that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will be connecting 168 county residents that were identified last year with dry or at-risk wells to Orland’s City water system and stated currently there is no project to address newly dry or distressed wells this year. Mr. Carr shared there is still short-term assistance through the County and the North Valley Community Foundation (NVCF).

Mr. Carr stated that the water project is progressing at a good pace, the DWR engineers, City engineers and planning team are working daily on permitting, planning and design work to prepare for future bidding on upcoming fall projects such as construction of a new well, construction of a storage tank and construction of water lines that will go out into the County. The Orland Public Works Department has about 30 properties they are preparing to connect, just waiting on parts to arrive before installations begin on Hwy 32 near Linwood subdivision.

Mr. Carr stated the City municipal wells continue to be producing good water, are reasonably stable and continue to be monitored weekly.

Councilmember Irvin asked if a resident signed up for the DWR water project but decided to drill a new well due to the length of time it was going to take to get connect, can the resident still have the connection to the meter paid for by the state in case their well goes dry again, but not hook their home up to water until they need it. Once the resident needs the water then they can pay the fee to connect the meter to their home at their own expense? Will the resident have to pay the bi-monthly water fee if the pipe is in front of their home or would they not get charged until they were connected to the water pipe through the meter into the house using City water? Mr. Carr stated that this scenario is not listed in the agreement with DWR and that he would bring up the question with the DWR partners.

Councilmember Roundy briefly spoke about groundwater monitoring wells and explained groundwater replenishment/recharge.

Councilmembers discussed concerns and questions they have about adding new wells and connections.

### **C. Emergency Action Item – Tiered Water Rates**

Mr. Carr reminded Council that the intention with the tiered water rates of stage 2 was to increase conservation and meant to incentivize the community to conserve more water. Stage 2 has two parts, first the restrictions to watering yards (times and days of the week depending on whether a person lives north or south of Hwy 32) and the tiered rates for going over the 15,000-gallon allotment.

The results of stage 2 tiered rates have shown to not match the intention, there has been some conservation, but some residents' water bills are very high due to the tiered rates.

Mr. Carr shared that there are other ways beside tiered rates to incentivize and encourage conservation. Mr. Carr reminded Council that in 2015, the basic allotment was reduced to 12,000 and that helped encourage people to conserve.

Mr. Carr proposed to keep the City at stage 2 (keep watering restrictions the same) but would ask that the Council suspend the part of stage 2 that includes tiered water rates. Mr. Carr shared that if this option is chosen City Hall staff can reissue the current water bills with the standard rate of \$1.70 for every 1,000 gallons over the allotted 15,000 gallons and would also allow a due date extension to September 9th. Mr. Carr shared that for the residents that have already paid their bills they will have a credit on their account.

Mr. Carr reminded Council that the State is coming out with a new model for the water shortage and contingency plan within the next 8 weeks. The State's contingency plan will have recommendations to help guide Council on water conservation.

Councilmember Dobbs stated that he would like to see different ideas or options on water conservation for businesses.

Councilmembers discussed questions, concerns, and suggestions they have with the contingency plan and Councilmembers unanimously decided to go back to the original overage rate until they can come back to the issue in the fall.

Mr. Carr stated that the City received a written 4-page letter from an Orland water customer that had been distributed to all Councilmembers which will be entered into the record and part of the minutes of the meeting as a comment on this topic.

Action: Councilmember Irvin moved, seconded by Councilmember Dobbs, to stay in stage 2 with the current 15,000-gallon allotment bi-monthly, cancelling all tiered charges for overages and crediting all customers for over charging due to current tiered rates. The motion carried by a roll call vote 5-0.

AYES:	Councilmembers Bruce Roundy, Billy Irvin, Chris Dobbs, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Tolley and Mayor Dennis Hoffman
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

#### **D. Community Gift Cards**

Mr. Carr introduced HdL, a company that consults for the City of Orland as well as other cities and counties about their sales tax. Mr. Carr presented to Council an innovative way to leverage existing funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to stimulate local shopping and to support locally owned businesses.

Barry Foster, HdL Principal/Managing Director, gave a brief background and history on HdL and explained how they could help in facilitating an opportunity for the City to leverage available funds from ARPA to provide a boost to small local businesses in Orland thru a Community Gift Card program. Mr. Foster explained how the City would work with an experienced vendor (Yiftee.com) with proprietary software to provide digital gift cards that could only be used at participating small businesses in Orland. Mr. Foster stated that HdL will help the City structure accounts and cards to be unique to Orland while staying within a stated budget. Mr. Foster gave examples and outcomes from other cities who are currently participating in the program.

Mayor Hoffman opened the discussion to the public.

Jody Samons, ED3 Development representative, stated this program would be a great economic development opportunity for the City of Orland not only benefiting residents but also the small local businesses.

John McDermott, Orland resident, asked if the businesses that participated would be subsidized? Mr. Foster stated the businesses would not have to pay for anything but would not be subsidized. Mr. McDermott asked that if there is extra money from ARPA he would like the City Council consider giving back to the Orland Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD). Mr. McDermott stated that the program sounds like a great idea. Mr. Foster shared that the City could choose to give the bonus gift cards to the OVFD as a unique way to give back to the community.

Councilmembers discussed and asked many questions about the gift card program. Vice Mayor Tolley expressed concern that consultants would be getting a commission for these services.

Action: Councilmember Dobbs moved, seconded by Councilmember Irvin, to move forward and bring back more information and a contract for Council to review if there is interest by merchants. The motion carried by a roll call vote 4-0-1, Councilmember Roundy absent.

AYES: Councilmembers Billy Irvin, Chris Dobbs, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Tolley and Mayor Dennis Hoffman  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Councilmember Bruce Roundy  
ABSTAIN: None

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

Councilmember Dobbs:

- Nothing to report.

Councilmember Irvin:

- Attended the Chamber of Commerce Buzz meeting on August 11, 2022

Vice Mayor Tolley:

- Will be attending the next skate park committee meeting August 24, 2022 at Carnegie Center from 6-7 PM.

Mayor Hoffman:

- Shared his support for the Chamber's Morning Buzz

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS – None**

**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:42 P.M.**

**CLOSED SESSION OPENED 8:48 P.M.**

**RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION AT 9:05 P.M.**

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – Direction was given to staff.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:05 P.M.**

Jennifer Schmitke, City Clerk

Dennis G. Hoffman, Mayor