

Alturas City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

February 18, 2020 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bobby Ray at 2:00 p.m. **Councilmembers present:** Bobby Ray, Cheryl Nelson, Jim Irvin, Loni Lewis, and Mark Steffek. **Councilmembers absent:** None. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, Chief of Police Sid Cullins, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Director of Public Works Jason Diven, and City Attorney Jeff Hedlund. **Public attending:** 13. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to amend the agenda and move item #5 Discussion only: Recognize Officer William Engel and his wife Jennifer Engel for all their hard work to organize and manage “Shop with a Cop” program and the Law Enforcement softball game fundraiser to item #3. **ALL AYES.**

No comments under the public forum.

Mayor Ray would like to recognize Officer William Engel and his wife Jennifer Engel for organizing and managing “Shop with a Cop program” and the Law Enforcement softball game fundraiser. Mayor Ray asked if Officer William Engel could briefly describe the programs to others that are not familiar with the programs.

Officer Engel explained that the “Shop with a Cop” program is designed to help kids that could benefit building a positive relationship with Law Enforcement Officers. The Alturas Police Department is now working with other Law Enforcement Agencies to participate with “Shop with a Cop”. Officers are paired up with children that have been selected by School Officials and the Officers. The Officers then proceed to take their child to local stores to shop for their families, that way the children can experience the joy of giving. Afterwards the Officer surprises the child with a gift of their own. The Law Enforcement softball game is intended to raise money for local youth sports programs and other charitable causes.

Councilmember Lewis also acknowledged that Officer Engel led the “Caught Red Handed Program” to encourage kids to follow safety laws and be awarded by the officers for doing so. This also built a positive relationship with Law Enforcement Officers.

The Councilmembers would also like to thank Jennifer Engel for all her efforts to help with these programs that create awareness.

MOTION by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Irvin to reimbursement James Walker for plumbing costs incurred in the amount of \$930.00. **ALL AYES.**

Rose Boulade and Jim Cavasso, representing the Chamber of Commerce did not have a proposal to present regarding the Transient Occupancy Tax. However, they would like to request that the City Council form a Committee consisting of Councilmembers, City Staff, and members of the Chamber to explore ideas to help contribute a percentage of the Transient Occupancy Tax to the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Ray proposes this item being tabled for the next Council Meeting so the new Councilmembers may be involved and on the Committee.

Councilmember Lewis inquires if the Chamber has any members in mind that would like to be on the committee. Ms. Lewis would also like to be a part of this Committee.

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to table forming a committee consisting of Councilmembers, City Staff, and members of the Chamber to explore ideas to help contribute a percentage of the Transient Occupancy Tax to the Chamber of Commerce. **ALL AYES.**

Public Hearing: The Alturas City Council will consider the amended Housing Element, if adopted will become part of the City's General Plan.

Planning Director Jennifer Andersen proceeded to inform the City Council that the State Housing and Community Development recommended several minor changes to the Cycle 6 Housing Element. City Council adopted the original Housing Element November 19, 2019. Ms. Andersen is confident that the Housing Element should be satisfactory to the State Housing and Community Development after the recommended amendments.

Mayor Ray read an article regarding the Housing Element in the Western City Magazine. This article discusses the potential penalties, one of which is to withhold transportation funds. Mayor Ray asks Ms. Andersen if this will affect the City.

Ms. Andersen responds that she does not believe the City will be affected. The purpose of the Housing Element is not to prevent the opportunity of housing development within the City, which the City has never prevented development. However, she did say that the transportation funds could be withheld if the City is not in compliance with the Housing Element.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek attended the February 12th Planning Commission meeting, and the Commissioners recommended that the City Council adopt the amendments to the Housing Element.

With no further comments, the hearing is closed at 2:27 p.m.

MOTION by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2020-6** adopting the amended Housing Element and making it part of the City's general plan. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Irvin to approve the hire of Connor Mitchell as Patrolman, at Salary Range 41, Step A. With the potential start date as March 6th, 2020 upon passing results of psychological exam. City Clerk Binning to administer the Oath of Office on March 6th, 2020. **ALL AYES.**

Mayor Ray explains the predicament with the Citizens Building. Recently the building was condemned and the City needs to explore their best option to proceed. Currently the options are to tear the building down or sell the building to MPAT as is and with stipulations that the building will be brought up to code.

However, if the City chooses to tear the building down, a certified licensed contractor will need to be involved due to asbestos, which will be costly. MPAT and Mr. Diven received bids on a new roof for the Citizens building. If MPAT has the building the proposed bid is \$43,000.00. Which MPAT would like to apply for grants to help with this cost. If the City were to add a new roof, they would be looking at twice the amount MPAT is paying.

Karen Hayes spoke with Amanda Hutchins with the McConnell Foundation and if MPAT has the building they will be able to apply for grant funding. MPAT will need a letter from the City stating that we plan to potentially sell the building to MPAT. They will need that letter before March 11th to apply for the McConnell Grant.

City Attorney Hedlund advises Council that there is a process to declaring a building as surplus property and in this process the City must contact other local public entities. Mr. Hedlund thinks if they receive official letters of rejection from the other public entities, they may be able to expedite the process.

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to authorize the Mayor to sign and send a letter on the behalf of MPAT to apply for the McConnell Grant before March 11, 2020. **ALL AYES.**

During discussion the Council questions if the consulting services for CM Covey, Inc. includes the pool project or if a separate contract exists for the pool project.

City Attorney Hedlund advises Council to make the following motion and investigate further.

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to authorize the Mayor to sign termination letter if there is a separate contract for CM Covey, Inc for the pool project. If there is not a separate contract, they authorize the amendment of the CM Covey, Inc. for consulting services to only reflect consulting for the pool project. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to approve the hangar lease agreement between the City of Alturas and Glen Gordon, with the amendment to Paragraph 2 striking "Lessee may, however, store non-aircraft personal property in said hangar, provided, however, that Lessee is in fact storing aircraft in the hangar and the storage of the non-aircraft personal property does not interfere with the storage of Lessee's or other tenant's aircraft in the hangar, nor with the ingress and egress or Lessee's or other tenant's aircraft to the from the hangar.", and replacing it with "except that Lessee may store personal property used for the maintenance and operation of the aircraft. However, Lessee personal property may not interfere with the storage of Lessee's or other tenant's aircraft in the hangar, nor with the ingress and egress or Lessee's or other tenant's aircraft to the from the hangar.". **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt the consent agenda as follows: a) Approve minutes of January 21, 2020 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for January, 2020 in the amount of \$145,776.51; c) **Adopt Resolution #2020-7** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$893.16; d) Approve ACH reconciliation report for January, 2020 in the amount of \$173,171.87. **ALL AYES.**

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Planning Chair Bill Hall informed Council at the February 12th Planning Commission Meeting Modoc County provided the Commissioners with a plan for a new parking lot and also a new sign at Modoc County Public Health Office on Main Street and W. 4th Street. At that meeting the plans were not finalized, Modoc County plans to make adjustments and provide the Commissioners with the new design.

Police Chief Cullins reports since the last Council Meeting the Alturas Police Department made a total of 18 arrests. Four of those arrests were felonies. The total arrests to date are 33 out of these arrests 9 were felonies. Chief Cullins is also waiting on parts to start the renovation of the squad room.

City Treasurer Long reports that Administrative Assistant Stains is back from maternity leave, which has helped with the office workload. Ms. Long has also recently submitted a USDA grant for the Public Works Department to purchase a backhoe. Ms. Long will be working with City Clerk Binning to provide all existing and new Councilmembers to comply with required trainings such as ethics, and harassment. They will also have City Attorney Hedlund provide a Brown Act training which is also part of their new Loss Exposure Experience Plan (LEEP) for Risk Management Accreditation Program (RMAP). Ms. Long has also been working with Officer Middleton to apply for federal funding through COPS, which is a hiring grant. This grant is due by March 6th, 2020.

Public Works Director Diven reports the sewer plant preliminary engineering report draft is completed, and has been submitted to the Regional Water Control Board. Mr. Diven will have a conference call regarding the sewer plant preliminary engineering report Friday, February 21st. Mr. Diven has also been working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to get the environmental clearance completed and potential funding back on track. Mr. Diven attended the February 11th LAFCO meeting to learn the process of annexing non-contiguous property, so the City can annex the new sewer plant. Mr. Diven also reports that Mike Colbert with USDA recently visited to take pictures of the backhoe. Mr. Diven has been in contact with Sean Curtis exploring future plans with the mill site.

City Attorney Hedlund inquires on the progress of the current mill site tenant.

Director of Public Works Diven has not seen any progress lately.

City Attorney Hedlund recommends to communicate with the tenant to know their time frame or proceed to the next step of the process.

Public Works Director Diven reports he will also be attending a SB1 training in Santa Rosa February 19 through the 20. Mr. Diven also met with Carl McConathy the Union Pacific Railroad Track Maintenance Manager. Union Pacific has recently taken over the Goose Lake Railway tracks. Union Pacific plans on improving the tracks and crossings. Recently Council was concerned that hazardous material will be transported through the City of Alturas. However, Mr. Diven spoke to Carl regarding the concern and he has not heard of this and assured Mr. Diven there is an extensive process to ensure tracks are up to code before hazardous material can be transported.

City Attorney Hedlund reviewed the surplus property disposal process that requires a 60-day notification. After careful review City Attorney Hedlund advised council to not send a letter to the McConnell Foundation for MPAT.

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to rescind their previous motion to authorize the Mayor to send a letter on the behalf of MPAT to apply for the McConnell Grant and table the item until next meeting. **ALL AYES.**

Councilmember Nelson would like to know the status of the new waste water treatment plant.

Public Works Director replies that sewer plant preliminary engineering report draft is completed and he is waiting on comments back during the scheduled conference call Friday February 21st. Mr. Diven also received the preliminary purchasing option drafted by City Attorney Hedlund and is still reviewing the document.

Councilmember Irvin was notified that he and John Dedrick are in charge of barbequing for the Annual Fireman Appreciation Dinner that will be held in April.

City Clerk Binning notifies the Council she received a call from Charter Communications. Charter Communication will be providing highspeed internet to the residents. Charter was able to team up with Zayo to offer this service. Charter will proceed to give the City updates on the progress. Ms. Binning also informed the Council they have submitted their annual RMAP application. Depending on the score of the application Golden State Risk Management Authority will award the City up to 10% of the current year's insurance contributions. The past two years the City has received a 100% score. Ms. Binning also reminds Council and staff the 700 Forms will be due April 1, 2020, and please submit these to her before then.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steffek recently attended a Modoc Joint Unified School District workshop. He was disappointed in the attendance, and would like to see more involved because this affects education for our youth. Mr. Steffek also had the pleasure to be a judge of the Academic Decathlon. Mr. Steffek will also attend a scheduled pool meeting February 26th to review and discuss options if we are awarded Prop 68 grant, the timeline for the pool, discussion of geothermal heat, and will review the pool design provided by California Waters. The pool committee plans to have Council review and approve the California Waters Contract in the near future. Mr. Steffek also plans on attending a Superior California Economic Development District (SCEDD) meeting on Thursday, February 19th in Redding. Mr. Steffek informs Council the Library Advisory Board still has a vacancy for the City representative

Councilmember Lewis would like Chief Cullins to extend a thank you to Officer Middleton for responding to an alarm at the Alturas State Preschool. Mrs. Lewis would also like to represent the City and attend the LEAD training and Shelby's Rules presentation provided by Modoc County Behavioral Health. Mrs. Lewis would also like to thank Public Works for painting red curbs for emergency parking by the soccer and ball fields. Mrs. Lewis would also like to thank the Alturas Fire Department for another wonderful crab feed.

Mayor Ray would like to thank the candidates for attending this Council Meeting.

With no further business to come before Council, meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. to return in regular session on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall.

Respectfully,

Macey Binning

Macey Binning
City Clerk