

## Alturas City Council

### Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

March 17, 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, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, Fire Chief Keith Jacques, Fire Marshal Eric Hunter, Sergeant Russell Turner, Officer William Engel, Officer Cody Widby, Officer Dominick Middleton, and Officer Conner Mitchell. **Public attending:** 21. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by invocation presented by Robert Fendler.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to amend the agenda and add an emergency action item to the agenda declaring a local emergency due to COVID-19. Item #11 Discussion only: Michael Conrad would like to discuss the possibility of solar panels. Was requested to be removed from the March City Council Agenda and added on the April City Council Agenda. **ALL AYES.**

No comments under the public forum.

Modoc County Sheriff William “Tex” Dowdy and Modoc OES Deputy Director Heather Hadwick updated the Council on the current status of COVID-19. Currently there are no cases in Modoc County. They have taken action to help mitigate the outbreak. Modoc County declared a local emergency and are opening an Emergency Operation Center. They recommend that the City of Alturas also declare a local emergency. However, it is not necessary since the City of Alturas is in Modoc County. Currently their recommendation is to practice social distancing, washing your hands, and cover your mouth when sneezing and coughing.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt **Resolution #2020-11** declaring a proclamation of a local emergency, with the amendment to page 2, article IV striking Modoc County and adding City. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt the consent agenda as follows: a) Approve minutes of February 18, 2020 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for February, 2020 in the amount of \$147,697.53; c) Adopt **Resolution #2020-8** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$894.47; d) Approve ACH reconciliation report for February, 2020 in the amount of \$132,216.50. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Steffek, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to authorize Dorothy Long, HR Director to sign the United Public Employees of California (“Union”) acknowledgement and agreement to update the 2018-2020 Alturas General Unit MOU. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to approve the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grant 25% match in the amount of \$13,732.00 for the Alturas Fire Department to purchase new turnouts. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to approve the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grant 25 % match in the amount of \$28,234.00 for the Alturas Public Works Department to purchase a new backhoe. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Irvin to **adopt Resolution #2020-9** approving the third amended budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 in the amount of \$5,422,674.00. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Irvin, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Steffek to adopt **Resolution #2020-10** declaring the results of the March 3, 2020 Consolidated General Municipal Election. **ALL AYES.**

City Treasurer Dorothy Long administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Cheryl Nelson, Councilmember Kelly Crosby, Councilmember Samantha Wood, City Clerk Macey Binning and new Patrol Officer Connor Mitchell.

City Clerk Binning calls for nominations for the positions of Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis nominating Mark Steffek as Mayor. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Mayor Steffek nominating Cheryl Nelson as Mayor Pro-Tem. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wood, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of City Treasurer Long, Director of Public Works Diven, Planning Director Andersen, Jim Cavasso Chamber of Commerce representative, Rose Bouldae Chamber of Commerce representative, City Councilmember Crosby and City Councilmember Lewis to explore the options for the Transient Occupancy Tax. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of City Treasurer Long, City Councilmember Wood and City Councilmember Lewis to explore the Sales Tax options for the City. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to approve the appointment of John Dederick as City of Alturas representative on the Modoc County Library Advisory Board to fill an unexpired vacancy. Term to expire January 1, 2022. The Modoc County Library Advisory Board voted to recommend this appointment at its March 11, 2020 meeting. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to re-appoint Alturas Planning Commissioners Thomas Romero, Chris Lauppe, and Robert Dolan for another four-year term through March of 2024. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to appoint Cheryl Nelson as the City Council representative to serve on the LAFCO Board to replace Councilmember Jim Irvin. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to appoint Bobby Ray as the City representative to serve on the Modoc County Transportation Commission. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Crosby to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of City Treasurer Long, Director of Public Works Diven, City Councilmember Wood and City Councilmember Nelson to explore and set a fee schedule for the Livestock Grounds and Ball Fields. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of Director of Public Works Diven, Alturas Fire Marshal Hunter, City Councilmember Steffek, City Councilmember Lewis and Karen Hays to explore options for the Citizens building located at 113 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to re-appoint members to an Economic Vitality Standing Committee. The committee will consist of Director of Public Works Diven, City Planning Director Andersen, City Councilmember Steffek and City Councilmember Lewis. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to appoint Planning Director Jenn Andersen and City Councilmember Wood as the City representatives to serve on the NOR-CAL Continuum of Care Modoc Advisory Committee. **ALL AYES.**

#### **COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:**

Fire Chief Jacques would like to thank Bobby Ray and Jim Irvin for being outgoing Councilmembers. Mr. Irvin was very active in the emergency operation plans and the restructure. Mr. Ray has been working with Fire Chief Jacques for over a decade. With the support of both Councilmembers the Fire Department has been able to attend several trainings and purchased much need equipment. On March 13<sup>th</sup> the Fire Department received their new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. March 16<sup>th</sup>, they had a training to certify everyone for the new equipment. They also measured the firemen for turnouts.

Councilmember Lewis stated that she is concerned that the Alturas Fire Department responds on call before paramedics and would like to see cautionary measures in place for their safety with the COVID-19.

Fire Chief Jacques responds that they are currently self-regulating and following new protocols that have been put in place. Dispatch has a code so they are aware to proceed with caution. Mr. Jacques has also asked a few firemen to stay home if they or their families could be considered high risk.

Police Chief Cullins reports since the last Council Meeting the Alturas Police Department made a total of eighteen arrests. Four of those arrests were felonies. The total arrests to date are fifty-two.

Councilmember Lewis would like to thank the Alturas Police Department for their response to a recent call. The response time was very quick.

Mayor Steffek recognized City Treasurer Long for all her hard work to submit grants for the Fire Department, Public Works Department, and now the Police Department.

Public Works Director Diven reports he is creating a contingency plan with his staff in case there is an outbreak with COVID-19. The new waste water treatment plant is moving forward. Currently Mr. Diven is waiting on the purchase option agreement to be reviewed by the owner. Mr. Diven is also working on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) projects such as runway offsets. Mr. Diven would also like to thank Bobby Ray and Jim Irvin for their service as Councilmembers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nelson would also like to thank Bobby Ray and Jim Irvin for their service as Councilmembers.

Councilmember Crosby is excited to work with City staff and Councilmembers. She is looking forward to being a part of the Council and serving the community.

Councilmember Wood is also excited to work with City staff and Councilmembers. She is looking forward to being a part of the Council and serving the community.

Councilmember Lewis attended Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs (LEAD) training provided by Modoc County Behavioral Health. Mrs. Lewis was also going to attend the Shelby's rules training but due to the COVID-19 it was cancelled.

City Clerk Binning informed the Councilmembers of an annual Alturas Fire Department appreciation dinner. Councilmembers cook for the fire department to show their appreciation. This year's dinner will be held April 6<sup>th</sup>. Councilmembers need to get together to decide what they would like to contribute to the dinner. Ms. Binning also announces that as of April 1<sup>st</sup> the airport will have a vacant hangar. Ms. Binning also handed out calendars to the Councilmembers to help with scheduling.

Mayor Steffek informs Council that the pool committee recently met. The committee would like to present to Council with a contract with California Waters to design and construct the pool. Mayor Steffek would like to schedule a special meeting Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm to review and take action on this contract. Mr. Steffek also announced that the pool committee applied for Prop 68 grant, and their application was not selected. The pool committee plans to continue to submit grant applications as they become available. The pool committee has been discussing with Superintendent Tom O'Malley geothermal for the new pool. The next LAFCO meeting will be held April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Superior California Economic Development District (SCEDD) provided information regarding emergency loans for small business administration that have suffered economic injury from as a result of COVID-19. They ask that local business fill out an economic injury report form and return to the Sacramento office to use as basis for the need for rural communities.

With no further business to come before Council, meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m. to return in regular session on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall.

Respectfully,

*Macey Binning*

Macey Binning  
City Clerk