

**Alturas City Council**  
**Regular/Special Meeting**  
City Hall Council Chambers  
November 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20 dated March 12, 2020 and March 17, 2020, The Alturas City Council Mayor Mark Steffek called the regular special meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers and via teleconference. **Councilmembers present:** Mark Steffek, Kelly Crosby, Cheryl Nelson, Loni Lewis and Samantha Wood. **Councilmembers absent:** None. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Director of Public Works Jason Diven, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, and Fire Marshal Eric Hunter. **Public attending:** 3. All present joined together in the Pledge of Allegiance.

No comments were presented under public forum.

Mayor Steffek would like to add an emergency action item. Mr. Steffek received a notice from the State of California Public Health and Modoc County Public Health declaring a mask mandate. Mr. Steffek would like to see it added after the consent agenda.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to add the notice from the State of California Public Health and Modoc County Public Health declaring a mask mandate as an action/discussion item after the consent agenda. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to declare the notice from the State of California Public Health and Modoc County Public Health declaring a mask mandate as an emergency item due to public health and safety concerns. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt the consent agenda as follows a) Approve minutes for October 20, 2020 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for October 2020 in the amount of \$107,855.08; c) Adopt **Resolution #2020-49** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$2,044.01;d) Approve ACH reconciliation report for October, 2020 in the amount of \$104,798.41. **ALL AYES.**

Mayor Steffek would like to discuss the State mandate that requires everyone to wear a mask if they leave their homes.

Councilmember Lewis inquires if this mandate is recommended or required?

City Attorney Hedlund replies that it is required. Even though it is a State guidance. The Governor's orders delegate the authority to Public Health.

Councilmember Crosby attended a local meeting earlier in the day that consisted of healthcare providers, and other agencies during this meeting they covered that currently in Modoc County there are 288 people that are currently quarantined. Which means Modoc County Public Health will have to trace everyone the 288 people have been in contact with. Mrs. Crosby encourages everyone to wear their masks to help stop this spread. Mrs. Crosby asks the City to be role models and support our local Public Health to stop the

increase. Mrs. Crosby would like to see City Council abide by the guidance and either wear a mask during City Council meetings or participate through the teleconference option.

Councilmember Nelson has seen a decline in numbers for the restaurant since COVID-19 has increased in the County.

Councilmember Lewis asks who will be enforcing this mandate.

Councilmember Crosby replied that it should be self-enforced. She does not anticipate that local law enforcement or anyone else will be enforcing this or handing out tickets.

City Treasurer Long asks if each department will have to implement new policies for these regulations, or will this be enforced by the Council.

Mayor Steffek replies that he would like to only enforce when in Council session that the masks be mandated. If someone does not want to wear the mask they can attend through teleconference. This is to protect our community. However, he believes it is more of a common courtesy and isn't something that will be enforced if someone chooses not to wear a mask in the meeting. At this point of time Mr. Steffek does not see placing new policies within the departments.

Fire Marshal Hunter believes that masks are not helping protect anyone from COVID. He believes it is increasing the spread because people constantly touch their mask.

Councilmember Crosby replies that research has proven they are the most effective defense against this COVID. It may not prevent COVID but it will help stop the spread. Mrs. Crosby reminds staff and Council to always wash your hands or use sanitizer. Mrs. Crosby wants to see the schools and businesses fully open again, and if this is how to achieve that goal, she is happy to comply.

Fire Marshal Hunter reiterates his concern the cloth and paper masks will not help protect from COVID-19. Mr. Hunter explains the infected should wear masks and not everyone that leaves their homes. Mr. Hunter believes safety measures like social distancing and not shaking someone's hand should help slow down the spread of the virus.

Councilmember Crosby replies that some people are Asymptomatic and will not show symptoms.

Fire Marshal Hunter is concerned with all the required mandates and executive orders that Governor Newsom has implemented if they are Constitutional. Mr. Hunter informs Council Governor Newsom is currently in lawsuits regarding this.

Councilmember Crosby inform the Council that she has heard the vaccine is on its way.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Crosby to comply with mask mandate during Alturas City Council meetings with the option of attending by teleconference if participant does not want to wear a mask. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to appoint Councilmember Cheryl Nelson as the City representative to serve on the Modoc County Transportation Commission and Councilmember Loni Lewis as the alternate. **ALL AYES.**

After reviewing preliminary report for the proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant property located at 18721 County Rd 54 in Alturas City Attorney Hedlund recommends disapproving exception 15 short form Deed of Trust that is encumbered by a trust. If SCP Manteca, LLC can not remove this exception they do not have authority to sale the property.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to authorize the City Attorney to send a letter of disapproval for exception 15 on the preliminary report for proposed Waste Water Treatment Plant property located at 18721 County Rd 54 in Alturas. **ALL AYES.**

Mayor Steffek is concerned that with Sage Country Recycling closing their doors, and Holdorff Recycling be open on limited time that our community will no longer have a recycling center that fits their needs. Mayor Steffek reminds Councilmembers that the franchise agreement with Waste Management will be renewed in February 2021, so this would be a great time to explore options.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to establish an Ad-Hoc committee to explore recycling options for the City of Alturas and authorize the Mayor to appoint Committee Members. **ALL AYES.**

Mayor Steffek would like to appoint Director of Public Works Jason Diven, County Administrative Officer Chester Robertson, Councilmember Samantha Wood, Waste Management District Manager Kyle Weber, and Steve Holdorff of Holdorff's Recycling to the Recycling Committee.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt **Resolution #2020-50** authorizing the submittal of the application for Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds. **ALL AYES.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2020-51** authorizing the submittal of the application for Per Capita Grant Funds and authorizing City Treasurer to be the delegated authority. **ALL AYES.**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Nelson reports that she and Councilmember Lewis attended a meeting at the Mill Site with County officials with discussion of opportunities of a wood pellet mill. Which would add more jobs.

Councilmember Lewis inquired during the meeting if this would have any environmental impact. They assured Mrs. Lewis it would be very minimal and comparable to when the Mill was working. However, they will research more into this matter.

Director of Public Works Diven adds that Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is also researching a solar enterprise project. Mr. Diven would also like to follow up on the previous lease that was at the Mill Site.

Councilmember Crosby reminds Mr. Diven they need to schedule a meeting to review the vacant City properties.

Mr. Diven replied that he has a list and would be happy to schedule a meeting with Mrs. Crosby.

Councilmember Crosby reports that she will be attending her first Superior California Economic Development District (SCEDD) meeting November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Wood reports at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting, the Commissioners approved a memorial for Bryan Parker at the frisbee golf park.

Mayor Steffek reported the next Modoc LAFCO meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Steffek also reports that he and Councilmember Lewis met with members of the Daphnedale Service District Board. They discussed the payment issues that have been occurring and the options to proceed. However, they did make a payment the day of the meeting for \$12,000.00. Mr. Steffek reports that Labor Negotiations are still in progress. With COVID restrictions at restaurants going to half capacity Mr. Steffek asks who is in charge of determining the occupancy number in a room.

Fire Marshal Hunter replies that it depends. Modoc County building inspector can determine this or the Fire Marshal. There is a formula that determines this number off the square footage of the building or space.

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

Director of Public Works Diven introduces Tim O'Malley who is a Modoc High School senior intern and is present to attend the City Council meeting. Mr. Diven also reports with today's windstorm there was damage to a hangar at the airport. Mr. Diven and Councilmember Crosby attended a zoom meeting with University of Arkansas where they presented ideas that could be implemented in Alturas such as a food hub or housing center that had housing for both senior citizens and small families. Mr. Diven also received a final preliminary report for the Waste Water Treatment Plant planning grant. Modoc Street was also paved. The East Street Project will go back out to bid January 2021.

Councilmember Lewis would like to thank Public Works Lee Baldrige and City Clerk Binning for responding quickly on a man hole cover that came off.

Mayor Steffek would also like to thank City Clerk Binning for scheduling and coordinating the Daphnedale Service District meeting with the board members.

Fire Marshal Hunter reports that the Alturas Fire Department has recently received more medical calls. Mr. Hunter has also been working to secure abandon houses that are considered as fire hazards. Mr. Hunter has been busy cleaning the fire barn and maintaining the fire trucks.

City Treasure Long informs Council California Highway Patrol (CHP) provided the City staff with an active shooter training. Ms. Long received a call from the Modoc County Assessor's office apparently due to a system the City was to receive 50% and was receiving 100% of the documentary tax. Ms. Long will keep

the Councilmembers informed of the outcome to fix this error. Ms. Long also reports that Michelle Ray has been set up as extra help to update the City's Geographic Information System (GIS).

City Clerk Binning was contacted by Modoc County Clerk/Auditor Stephanie Wellemeyer who informed Ms. Binning that California is changing the primary election dates. During Presidential elections the primaries election date will be held in March. However, other even numbered years will have June primaries. Mrs. Wellemeyer suggested reviewing the City of Alturas Municipal Code and adjusting the day the elected officials take office for consistency with the terms.

Councilmember Crosby would like to thank staff for all their hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. She understands that it has been very difficult for everyone.

Councilmember Wood reports that she has received an email regarding the Devil's Garden Conservation Camp and it sounds like people are fighting to keep it open.

Mayor Steffek would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

At 4:00 p.m., Mayor Steffek announced the Council would be meeting in closed session under G.C. Section 54956.9(b) – Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (1) potential case.

Reconvened back to open session at 4:23 p.m.

With no further business to come before City Council. **MOTION** by Councilmember Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m. and to return in regular session on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall. **SECONDED** by Councilmember Crosby. **ALL AYES.**

Respectfully,

*Macey Binning*

Macey Binning  
City Clerk