

Alturas City Council
Regular/Special Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers
February 16, 2021 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, Samantha Wood, and Loni Lewis. **Councilmembers absent:** None. **Staff present:** City Clerk Macey Binning, City Treasurer Dorothy Long, Chief of Police Sid Cullins, Director of Public Works Jason Diven, City Attorney Jeff Hedlund, Fire Chief Keith Jacques, and Fire Marshal Eric Hunter. **Public attending:** 3. All present joined together in invocation by Robert Fendler, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

No comments were presented under public forum.

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to amend the agenda and remove item 11 Discussion/action: Approval to hire Jonathan Mundt as Maintenance Worker I effective February 25, 2021, at Salary Range 31, Step A and adjust agenda accordingly with amendment. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to separate Item 4c) Adopt Resolution #2021-8 removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$2,119.37 from the consent agenda to discuss separately. **ALL AYES.**

Councilmember Crosby is concerned that there are only two accounts that are on the inactive water & sewer account list and they are both extremely high. Mrs. Crosby asks if there is any policy or procedure to prevent these extremely high inactive water & sewer accounts from occurring.

City Clerk Binning informs Councilmember Crosby that the City does have a policy and procedure to prevent high inactive water & sewer accounts. Currently the City can not act upon this because the Governor's executive order for COVID-19, which prevents the City from ceasing accounts due to non-payment. City Clerk Binning warns the Councilmembers that they will see more accounts similar to this.

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to approve Item 4c) Adopt **Resolution #2021-8** removing inactive water & sewer accounts in the amount of \$2,119.37 from the consent agenda. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt the consent agenda as follows a) Approve minutes for January 19, 2021 meeting; b) Approve City warrants for January, 2021 in the amount of \$193,718.11; d) Approve ACH reconciliation report for January, 2021 in the amount of \$139,113.13. **ALL AYES.**

Fire Chief Jacques informs the City Council that the Alturas Fire Department advertised for Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Fire Engine (4X4) Pumper. They received one RFP from Rosenbauer in the amount of \$459,827.51 which includes the truck, taxes, training, and delivery. After review Chief Jacques

recommends the City accept the RFP since it meets all specifications and is within the proposed budget. If approved the Fire Truck should be ready and delivered to the Fire Department by June 2021. They plan on applying for a USDA grant which would be for \$50,000.00.

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to approve the Request for Proposals (RFP) received from Rosenbauer in the amount of \$459,827.51 for a new fire truck and authorize the execution of the sales contract. **ALL AYES.**

Kim Stanford requests the City Council to waive water overage in the amount of \$481.80. Overage was caused by a broken water line. Ms. Stanford would like to thank the Public Works Department for notifying her of the leak after reading meters, and installing a new meter to the second house.

Councilmember Crosby apologizes to Ms. Stanford for all of her misfortunes. However, she has been in a similar situation and it is the property owner's responsibility from the meter connection to the house.

Ms. Stanford informs Council she has already installed the second meter this will bring in more revenue to the City.

City Clerk Binning informs Council that installing a second meter is also at least an addition \$950.00.

Mayor Steffek reiterates that it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the water line from the meter to the house. If it was from the street to the meter that would be the City's responsibility. Mayor Steffek offers to schedule a payment plan with City Treasurer Long.

MOTION by Councilmember Wood, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Nelson to adopt **Resolution #2021-9** approving the Seventh Amendment to Garbage Service Contract between USA Waste of California, Inc. and the City of Alturas. **ALL AYES.**

Councilmember Lewis would like to readdress mandating mask wearing during City Council meetings. Mrs. Lewis believes that instead of mandating the City should recommend that mask be worn. Mrs. Lewis stresses that the phone system needs upgrading if meetings are going to continue teleconferencing because it is difficult to hear everyone in the meeting. Mrs. Lewis believes social distancing is crucial and wants it to continue in the Council room and possibly improved.

Councilmember Crosby agrees that striking "mandate" and adding "recommend" would be ideal. Mrs. Crosby sees that some are not following the mandate. Councilmember Crosby will continue to do her part to protect her family and does not feel threatened by others that choose not to wear a mask, as long as social distancing continues. Mrs. Crosby believes with our small community we respect one another to provide the social distancing no matter what our views are. Mrs. Crosby also thanks Mr. Cox for the information that he provided and found a lot of valued information. Mrs. Crosby advised everyone in her experience is to think and educate yourself and know the signs and symptoms to protect yourself and help eliminate spreading any virus.

Brian Cox thanks the City Council for acknowledging the documentation that was provided and appreciates them agreeing that it is a personal responsibility. Mr. Cox states that the America is built on Constitutional rights and believes personal choice is important.

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to strike “mandate” and add “recommendation” to the previous motion of “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 Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to authorize the hire of Donnetta Kinney as Police Clerk/Dispatcher effective March 1, 2021, at Salary Range 34, Step A. In favor were Councilmember Nelson, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Wood and Mayor Steffek. Councilmember Crosby abstained. **MOTION PASSES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to authorize the hire of Anthony Rangel as Maintenance Worker I effective February 25, 2021, at Salary Range 31, Step A. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Lewis, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to adopt **Resolution #2021-11** adopting the updated job description for the Grade II Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2021-12** approving the agreement with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board and the City of Alturas to grant access to well sampling on City Owned Property located at Maple Street & South of 10th Street (APN 002-103-018-000). **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to approve the temporary hangar lease agreement between the City of Alturas and Wesley J. Stevens. **ALL AYES.**

City Clerk Binning informs the Council that the State of California is requiring all at-large voting district to become districts which is called “redistricting”. If this is not completed it could lead to costly lawsuits. City Clerk Binning is trying to be proactive to comply with requirements. However, a major part of this process is the Census data, which is predicted to be available in the Fall of 2021. This will make it hard to complete the process in the necessary timeline. Everything must be completed within 174 days before the election. Ms. Binning has also been advised to create a resolution with an anticipated deadline for the process to help with any potential lawsuits. Ms. Binning does need the direction from the Council for the redistricting commission.

City Attorney Hedlund expands more informing the Council with redistricting the City voting district will be broken up in five districts, essentially a representative on the Council for each district. The City Council will need to create a commission to draw the lines and be involved in the hearings to create the district boundaries. The options are City Council to be the board which can cause issues and be seen as favoring to their areas. There is also an advisory which is appointed by City Council; Hybrid, and Independent which have strict requirements. City Attorney recommends the Advisory Commission.

MOTION by Councilmember Crosby, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood to proceed with an Advisory Commission for the redistricting process. **ALL AYES.**

MOTION by Councilmember Nelson, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Lewis to adopt **Resolution #2021-13** authorizing the Mayor to sign the letter of notice of termination between Government Payment Services, Inc. and the City of Alturas for payment processing services. **ALL AYES.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Steffek reports he and Councilmember Nelson attend the last LAFCO meeting which was held February 9th via zoom. During this meeting Daphnedale board was present and agreed they will provide the City with their minutes that proves they are in agreement with proceeding with the dissolution and subsidiary district. The City then will draft a resolution requesting LAFCO to proceed with this process. Mr. Steffek also inform the Council that LAFCO plans on updating the City's Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI). Modoc County Administrative Officer Chester Robertson informed the LAFCO board that they may have funding for the City's update. Mr. Steffek provided an update from the Pool Committee, and provide a handout with the estimated cost of the pool that was submitted in the grant application. The requested grant amount is \$6,429,386.00.

Councilmember Crosby reports the Superior California Economic Development (SCED) will be conducting a survey to gather the input from communities that will be used in developing the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). This will help communities identify economic development priorities. Mrs. Crosby will forward the survey to City Clerk Binning to distribute to others.

Planning Commissioner Bill Hall updates Council on the February 10th Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commissioners approved several replacement signs for Rite Aid. Rite Aid is currently rebranding. They also approved a sign for Carey's Grooming at their new business location. During the meeting they voted on a new Vice Chair, which will be Commissioner Thomas Romero.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

Fire Chief Jacques reports the Fire Department is conducting their annual fundraiser. Chief Jacques also reports that they will working on updating fire plans, and reviewing their process for weed abatement.

Director of Public Works Diven reports he and the Ad-Hoc Committee for the Mill Site will be meeting with Glenn Zane to review a draft contract and view property. Mr. Diven met with White Bear Construction and they agree to fix the drainage for the new baseball/softball fields. Mr. Diven will be meeting with the Modoc County Building Inspector Dominic Budmark to review code compliance.

City Clerk Binning informs Council the Annual Fireman's Appreciation Dinner will be April 5, 2021.

Councilmember Lewis informs Councilmembers that she was contacted by the coordinator of the child abuse prevention and they would like to coordinate a main street cruise for awareness April 10, 2021. They also would like to hang banners and will be in contact with the City.

Councilmember Nelson would like to thank the Alturas Fire Department for another great annual ladies night dinner.

With no further business to come before City Council. **MOTION** by Councilmember Crosby to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m. and to return in regular session on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall. **SECONDED** by Councilmember Wood. **ALL AYES.**

Respectfully,

Macey Binning

Macey Binning
City Clerk