

City of Rogue River City Council Minutes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CITY OF ROGUE RIVER, JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Council meeting which was called to order by Mayor Pam VanArsdale at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION Pastor Dale Schaffner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Pam VanArsdale led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

QUORUM **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

City Councilor Barb Gregory
City Councilor Sherrie Moss
City Councilor Barb Hilty
City Councilor Grace Howell
City Councilor Sherrie Davis
Mayor Pam VanArsdale

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator, Ryan Nolan
City Recorder, Diane Oliver
Rowan Fairfield, Associate Planner with RVGOG
Onnie Heater, Planner with RVGOG

MEDIA PRESENT:

Brian Mortenson, Rogue River Press

Jackson County Commissioner Colleen Roberts

A quorum was present, and due notice has been published.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED (Moss) SECONDED (Howell) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF October 24TH, 2024 with Corrections. ALL AYES, NONE OPPOSED, MINUTES APPROVED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Relations: Chamber of Commerce Liaison Barb Hilty reports that there was a meeting this morning, they are planning the decorating for Christmas. Winter Wonderland is December 7th at 6:00PM. There will be a contest for the best decorated windows for all our businesses with a prize being a gift basket from Harry and David. Dinner at the Grange will start at 4:30PM on December 7th till the soup is gone. Santa will also make an appearance with cookies. The December mixer will be at the Grange on December 5th from 5:30PM-7:00PM.

Community Relations: Community Center Representative Barb Gregory reports that the Community Center received a grant which gave them the opportunity to feed over 100 people on Thanksgiving with partners Kiwanis and Tailholt Hope so it was free to all. Bingo has been every week with attendance getting better. Cheryl is on medical leave. The craft fair is this Saturday from 9AM-3PM. The next dinner is December 20th at 5:00pm.

Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon: Ryan Nolans update was a follow-up question from Councilor Howell regarding the scanner app that was down. He talked to the Chief and per ECSO everything works, however if you happen to be using an old school short radio scanner that could explain especially if you are on a private app, why it's not working.

Finance Committee: Councilor Moss reports that the finance committee met for a total of four times and the check signings were between 10-19-24 and 11-15-24 for a total of \$250,949.53.

Planning Commission Liaison: Barb Gregory reports that we are still working on the FEMA mandates along with the City Council and Rogue Valley Council of Governments.

Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation: Councilor Davis reports that there was no meeting due to lack of agenda items.

Rogue Valley Council of Governments: Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports that there will be no meeting until December.

Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization: Mayor Pam VanArsdale reports that their meeting was this afternoon, they worked on the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program and its updates. ODOT Federal Transit Authority & Federal Highway Authority approved a change in the matrix to make amendments more streamlined and simpler to approve. The Service Transportation Block Grant Fund, which is the grant we received to update Oak Street, is going away, and in place of that we can receive more gas tax money. A discussion took place on how to disperse that funding. It gives us a base of \$25,

000 dollars over a three-year period instead of having to compete for funding with the larger cities.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1 Resolution** Approve, Resolution 24-1441-R, a resolution increasing the employee Christmas bonus from “an amount not to exceed \$150” to \$200.

MOVED (Hilty) SECONDED (Moss) TO APPROVE INCREASING THE EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS FROM THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150.00 TO \$200.00

DAVIS-YES

HOWELL-YES

HILTY-YES

MOSS-YES

GREGORY-YES. MOTION PASSES

- 2 Ordinance** Adopt, Ordinance 24-433-O, an ordinance amending the City’s Flood Damage Prevention Code in order to implement the new FEMA requirements related to compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Open the public Hearing at 6:15pm

No objections to jurisdiction

No Ex-Parte was declared

No objections from audience

Ryan Nolan City Administrator presented the staff report for the record and explained it in his report why we would need to update our municipal code to comply with FEMA’s requirements. He also explained the history of how we got here.

Rowan Associate Planner with the RVCOG presented the staff report for the record also and explained to the Council what action we must take as a city, and what the rules will look like if we adopt this. If we do adopt, we will need our municipal code updated to comply so that we can guide citizens and assist in the development process. Rowan covered the new language that we must adopt if your property is in the special Flood Hazard area which would limit development in order to comply with the species act. On November 12, the Planning Commission moved this to the City Council so that we could possibly adopt this before the December 1st deadline and replace the entire 15.55 section in our code.

Ryan Nolan City Administrator followed up by telling us what properties would be impacted if we decided to adopt this. Any property identified on a FEMA map located in the 100-year-old flood plain. If

we do not comply our residents will not be able to be covered federally if a flood damages their property.

No questions from the Council

No Testimony in Favor of this Amendment
Public Testimony

Charlie Smith of 8486 Rogue River Hwy, Rogue River, OR 97527 spoke not in favor of this amendment because he thinks the FEMA maps are outdated which means they do not have the correct information. They should update the maps before imposing rules like this. It is serious because it dictates what people can and can't do on their property. **Charlie Smith also entered into the record recent crests on the Rogue River.**

No questions from Councilors

Cal Martin of 3947 Shamrock Drive, Medford, OR 97504 has been involved with water issues since he is an architect and Land Use Planner. He states that the FEMA maps were created in the 1960's, and since then, all the buildings that have been built in the floodplain changed the floodways, and now it is the floodways you should not develop in. He knows there are techniques you can use to build in this area but it's rather expensive. FEMA is out of money, so he knows they will not be updating the maps, or paying for property that is destroyed due to flooding. He spoke not in favor of the amendment but believes you can elevate buildings in this floodplain area. He hopes the council looks at this and realizes we have the tools that can solve this. He moved here in 1974 when the Lost Creek dam was built and believes this is what created all the problems.

No questions from Councilors

John Gutierrez of 1594 Pine Road, Rogue River Or 97537 spoke on behalf of his mother who lives on Cedar Street and is on Wards Creek. He spoke not in favor of this amendment and told the city council that the decision made here will either help or hurt people. His mom believes she may lose her property because of these rules. John was able to build his home in the floodplain which was extremely expensive and would not do it again. We should push back because this needs more analysis, and FEMA should get the maps right before we update our language in the code, it is not right. Who will compensate those who are not able to develop their properties? Please do not adopt this.

No questions from Councilors

Dee Copley of 401 Berglund Street, Rogue River OR 97537 spoke not in favor of this amendment. She lives on Evans Creek with 220 feet of creek frontage and if we adopt this, she will not be able to develop her property which would not allow her to build an ADU on her property in her later years to live in. This amendment will hurt people, and she believes the city needs more time. She asked the council to please protect the homeowners. There is also a huge housing shortage and by implementing

this we will not be able to build. Oregon has done an excellent job protecting the salmon, but will we put the fish before people? Please delay this.

No questions from the Councilors

Kaiya Tway of 104 Wards Creek Lane Rogue River, OR 97537 asked why her property was designated in the latest flyer mailed out as being on the bank. The property across the street is also designated as "on the creek." Is this designation new?

Ryan Nolan City Administrator addressed her questions and said that we notified people whose properties were on the bank of the creek. Kaiya's property was noticed because it is remarkably close to the creek, and it has been included in that special mapping. We wanted people to know that they may be affected when the new FEMA rules go into effect.

Councilor Moss asked staff if we could ask FEMA to update their maps before the city decides since the dams made such a significant impact.

Ryan Nolan City Administrator The FEMA maps were updated in 2011, but they used very old technology. It is a difficult position to be in as a city because we do not have clear and objective rules from FEMA, so how can we update our municipal code without clear rules to give our citizens who need to develop?

Mayor Pam VanArsdale FEMA acknowledges that with the last map revision there were problems because they made it possible for a landowner to do what is called a letter of map amendment. A landowner could hire an engineer to come out and certify that the home is one foot above the base flood elevation and then you were not required to obtain flood insurance, so the maps are incorrect.

No more questions from Councilors to staff

Motion to continue this public hearing to February 27th, 2025, at 6:00PM with directions to staff to provide the following information or proof to the planning commission.

Motion by: Hilty, seconded by Moss.

No discussion on the motion

Roll call vote: Gregory, yes.
Moss, yes
Hilty, yes
Howell, yes
Davis, yes

Motion is passed, this public hearing is continued, and staff will get more information so that the council can make a good decision for our citizens of Rogue River.

Public hearing is continued

Mayor VanArsdale thanked the citizens for being here and for their comments.

AGENDA ITEM 3 Accept November 14th, 2024, Tree City Minutes

MOVED (Moss) SECONDED (Davis) TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14TH 2024 TREE CITY MINUTES. NO DISCUSSION

VOTE ALL AYES, NONE OPPOSED, TREE CITY NOVEMBER 14TH MINUTES ARE APPROVED.

OTHER BUSINESS: We will have more information on the Street design options for December 5th's workshop. Ryan will schedule some of us for the Central Point training on December 7th, and we will get the ethics training done.

ADJOURN THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL AND UPON A MOTION DULY MADE (Gregory), SECONDED (Howell) AND CARRIED, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.

Next City Council Workshop: Thursday December 5th at 10:00 AM.

ATTEST:

Mayor Pam VanArsdale  Date 12/19/24

Diane Oliver, City Recorder 