



City Council Minutes

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, April 10, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
33 S. Main Street, Colfax CA

1. CLOSED SESSION (*No closed session items*)

2. CALL TO ORDER

2A. **Call Open Session to Order**

Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

2B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Tim Ryan, President of the Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2C. **Roll Call**

Council members Present: Burruss, Douglass, Lomen, Mendoza

Council members Absent: Fatula

2D. **Approval of Agenda Order**

On a motion by Councilmember Burruss, seconded by Councilmember Lomen, the City Council approved the agenda order.

AYES: Burruss, Douglass, Lomen, Mendoza

ABSENT: Fatula

Mayor Fatula arrived at 7:08PM.

3. PRESENTATION

3A. **Earth Day Presentation: Climate Change in Our Community**

Rachelanne Vander Werf, Environmental Scientist

Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza introduced Ms. Vander Werf who gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding Climate effects in Colfax.

There were no questions from the Council.

Jim Dion, Colfax business owner, asked if rain barrels are allowed to catch water. *Ms. Vander Werf stated permission depends on City or County regulations. Staff will check the Municipal Code to see if rain collection is allowable in the City.*

Foxy McCleary, Colfax resident, asked if Colfax residents would be able to capture gray water for use. *Staff will check the regulations on this as well.*

Timothy Dion, local business employee, asked if Ms. Vander Werf is an environmental scientist. *She works for the State but is presenting in her own capacity.*

3B. **Cal Fire North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break**

Steve Garcia, Unit Forester

Mayor Fatula introduced Forester Garcia. He discussed the project to create a fuel break near Colfax. He asked the public to provide their contact information to receive updates as they become available and handed out maps with an overview of the project which extends from Auburn to Cape Horn.

Cal Fire is the lead agency for the fuel break project which requires an environmental approval (California Environmental Quality Act – CEQA) of the project. The CEQA approval requires public

input – this is the third presentation as part of fulfilling CEQA regulations. CEQA approval is only the first step to actually start the project. The next step will be to obtain funding and landowner permissions.

Forester Garcia explained the extent of the project. About 5,000 acres stretching from along the ridge above the American River from Auburn to Cape Horn will be cleared to create a shaded fuel break and protect about 20,000 improved parcels. This is a massive project which may take 10-15 years to complete. The Governor may enact some emergency relief for CEQA requirements so Cal Fire can start soon.

Forester Garcia gave a PowerPoint presentation with slides to show the improvements to the forest and impacts of fire after the fuel reduction has been performed. The goal is to have a resilient forest so the impacts of a fire will not be severe. Large trees will continue to grow and fire will actually be helpful to the habitat once the understory has been cleared. Post treatment forests are much more stable, but will require regular maintenance to remain fire resistant.

Forester Garcia gave a detailed description of the types of processes to improve the forest as well as the mitigation measures to protect the environment.

Members of the public and Council posed several questions which Forester Garcia answered:

- Does Cal Fire help private property owners remove hazardous vegetation? *There are many programs available through the County, State and Cal Fire.*
- Will Cal Fire protect plants which are important to Native Americans? *Yes*
- Who controls the lands adjacent to the project? *The lands belong to the Federal Government and are not part of the project because federal lands require a different environmental impact process (NEPA). Cal Fire is working to coordinate with federal agencies.*
- What can the public do to help? *Each land owner should ensure they have a defensible space around their homes and then work towards creating a fuel break on their own lands beyond the 100-foot defensible space.*
- Is Union Pacific Railroad willing to keep their properties clean of debris and extra fuels? *The railroad realizes they are at risk for liability and are willing to allow their properties to be part of the Fuel Break Project.*
- How does the fuel break impact the land values? *The land will be improved with the reduced fuel load.*

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Consent Calendar

4A. Minutes – Regular meeting March 13, 2019

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2019.

4B. Public Works Corporation Yard Roof Replacement

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 09-2019 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Logan Roofing for installation of a new roof on the Public Works Corporation Yard Shop in an amount not to exceed \$26,500.

4C. Cash Summary Report: February 2019

Recommendation: Accept and file.

4D. Schedule of Activities for Collecting Delinquent Sewer and Garbage Charges on Annual Tax Rolls

Recommendation: Information only.

4E. Sales and Use Taxes – Quarter Ended December 31, 2018

Recommendation: Information only.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Lomen, the City Council approved the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Burruss, Douglass, Fatula, Lomen, Mendoza

5. PUBLIC HEARING (No Public Hearing items)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Ackerman, Colfax resident

- Mr. Ackerman read a letter to Council which explained his opposition to the Colfax Net Tower which will be discussed at a Public Hearing during the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Lomen asked how many will be impacted by the tower. *Four residents will be directly impacted.*

Rose Swick, Colfax resident

- Ms. Swick read a letter in opposition to the Colfax Net Tower.

Tom Swick, Colfax resident

- Mr. Swick read a letter in opposition to the Colfax Net Tower.

Andrea Harrison, President of the Colfax Green Machine

- Ms. Harrison spoke about the recent Crab Feed fundraiser. She thanked everyone for their support.
- She gave a brief update of the plans for the 3rd of July event.

Heidee Harvee, President of the Sierra Foothill Little League

- Ms. Harvee introduced two players from the Little League, David Harrison and Lucas Clark.
- She thanked the Council for the new shade structures. They are beautiful and have made a huge difference in the way the ballpark looks. The League is very grateful!!

Councilmember Burruss acknowledged the efforts of the previous Council who approved the project.

Timothy Dion, Cannabis dispensary employee

- Mr. Dion spoke about how the business reaches beyond Colfax and mentioned obtaining wholesale product is expensive.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS (No Council Business items scheduled)

8. COUNCIL, STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

8A. Committee Reports and Colfax Informational Items - All Councilmembers

Councilmember Lomen

- Councilmember Lomen attended the Green Machine Crab Feed.
- The Fire Safe Council will be showing “Wilder than Wild” at the Colfax Theatre on April 17, 2019. A panel will discuss the film after the presentation and answer questions.
- The Recology Spring cleanup will be May 8.

Councilmember Douglass

- Councilmember Douglass stated the Sierra Vista Community Center Board is finalizing a survey regarding the possibility of having the Skate Park located at the Sierra Vista Community Center.
- He represented the City on the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Board. He gave a brief report of SACOG budget and grants which may be available.
- He attended the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency Board meeting.

- Councilmember Douglass represents the City on the Pioneer Energy Board. The State is mandating a time-of-use program with higher rates between 4PM and 9PM to PGE but not to Pioneer Energy – The Board is looking for public input about following the State’s lead on this.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza

- Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza attended the Crab Feed, the Historic Society meeting, and met with the Senior’s First group at the County.
- She is working closely with the Colfax elementary school Hardwork Café Program which encourages 7th and 8th grade students to implement volunteer projects.
- She has asked an author who includes Colfax history in his books to speak in Colfax.
- Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza had several announcements and brochures available for the public: Placer County Office of Education Pre-K at Colfax Elementary, Auburn Rodeo, Beautiful Minds and Wellness for Therapy, Diabetes Class, Senior’s First, the Restart Program from TCI, Citizens Guide to California Bonds.

Councilmember Burruss

- Councilmember Burruss also attended the Crab Feed.
- She represented the City at the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency Board meeting.
- She met with David Carter and the new owners of the Historic Hotel. They are very eager to renovate the building and get a thriving business for downtown. The City is hoping to work together with the owners to facilitate progress toward that goal.

Mayor Fatula

- Mayor Fatula had no report for Council.

8B. City Operations Update – City staff

City Manager Heathcock

- City Manager Heathcock stated staff continues to pursue grants for the City. Staff will meet with USDA next week to discuss grants for Fire equipment and assistance with the loan on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The City is in the pre-application stage for a SACOG Green Means Go grant to obtain \$1,000,000 to be used for economic development. The funds may be used to assist with development of the historic hotel and to repair the cul-de-sac at Hill Flat Lumber.
- He announced the new website is live. It is still a work in progress, so please make comments and report inconsistencies.
- Roundabout construction is out to bid. Hopefully, staff will bring the contract to Council at the May 8, 2019 meeting and schedule a May 13, 2019 ground breaking ceremony.
- He reported on the progress for the Regional Water Quality grant of \$6.5 million –It has been a tedious process – We now have four of the 15 signatures needed.
- Staff has submitted a preliminary design for repairs to the Pond III fissure for approval of the insurance company to go to full design.
- Efforts to keep the Wastewater Treatment Plant running smoothly has paid off and the state is allowing the City to eliminate groundwater monitoring wells, two of which were destroyed this week. This reduces ongoing monitoring costs.

8C. Additional Reports – Agency partners

Chris Nave, Public Information Officer California Highway Patrol, Gold Run Area

- Officer Nave stated he is hoping the winter storm season with its accompanying congestion is over for the year.
- The CHP has declared April as Distracted Driving Education Month – don't use your hand-held device when driving

City Manager Heathcock asked if the twitter account for winter storm warnings is working.

- Officer Nave stated he has been working on utilizing social media to get the safety messages out. He suggested the California Road Report App for mobile devices.

Brian Eagan, Cal Fire Battalion Chief

- Chief Eagan announced burning permits will be required beginning May 1, 2019. Permits may be obtained at the Colfax Calfire Station or on the statewide website.

Mayor Fatula wants to add gutters and vents to the vegetation ordinance which is in progress.

- Chief Eagan stated that topic is more appropriately addressed in the building code.

City Manager Heathcock will work with the building inspector to see if fire safety design can be included in the requirements for the new developments. He will report back to Council

Dan Jakobs, Placer County Sheriff's Office Deputy

- Deputy Jakobs reported the deputies answered 155 calls for service with 11 arrests.
- There is an ongoing investigation into a series of gas station burglaries.
- The department has provided 4 detectives to investigate the recent housefire for arson.

Tim Ryan, Colfax Area Chamber of Commerce President

- The Chamber has recently met with neighboring Chamber organizations and the Placer County Visitor center to exchange ideas.
- He has been working with City to investigate branding for the City.
- Mr. Ryan met with a representative from Recology. They want to promote the City.
- Winterfest plans are coming along.
- He met with the victims of house fire and reported the community help has been fantastic in giving support and donations.

Fred Abbott, Colfax Events Liaison

- Mr. Abbott announced the deadline for articles for the May issue of the Colfax Connections is April 20, 2019.
- Fiesta De Mayo is scheduled for May 4, 2019.
- He is pleased the next issue of the Colfax Connections will be featured on the new website.
- Plans for Railroad Days are progressing.
- There is a list of social organizations included in Colfax Connections

Foxey McCleary and Sharon Conners, Sierra Vista Community Center representatives

- Ms. Conners stated the Sierra Vista Community Center bingo event was last Sunday with free lunch provided. They plan to host lunches quarterly.
- The Weimar Institute Food Train will be serving brunch on Sunday.
- Ms. Conners thanked the City for delivering bleachers for the Sierra Vista Community Center ball field
- She invited everyone to the April 19, 2019 Annual dinner.
- Ms. McCleary announced the VFW breakfast on April 14, 2019 and the Chocolate Wine and Art Indulgence on April 27, 2019.

9. GOOD OF THE ORDER - INFORMAL COUNCIL STATEMENTS REGARDING THE BUSINESS OF THE CITY

Councilmember Douglass, stated he has information from Project Go to provide funds to citizens for insulation, energy efficient refrigerators, etc.

He mentioned that one of the bills tracked by SACOG is one which will reduce the 2/3 requirement for Ballot Measures associated with taxes. Transportation Bills will be more likely to be passed.

Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza requested support from Council to allow her to represent the City at the Cap to Cap program.

The funds are in the budget and within the signature authority of the City Manager so the decision can be made tonight.

Council discussed the issue and Councilmember Lomen made a motion to provide up to \$5,000 funding for Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza to attend the Cap to Cap event. Councilmember Burruss seconded the motion.

Ms. Conners asked if special expertise is necessary to represent the City. *Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza will be on the Economic Development and Land Use Task Force.*

Ms. McCleary asked if the conference is in Washington DC. *The program is in Washington DC.*

Mr. Dion feels it is a great idea for Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza to attend.

Council unanimously agreed to provide funding for the Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Burruss stated she attended the Colfax High School Olympic Week. She is very impressed with the number of talented students!

Councilmember Burruss stated that since the Colfax Connections is produced as a newsletter from the City, she would like to ensure the entire Council maintains control of the content of the newsletter. She requested that a draft of each issue be placed on consent calendar for Council approval.

Council, staff and the editors discussed the topic and concluded City Manager Heathcock could facilitate Council review by emailing the drafts to each Councilmember who could preview the newsletter and get comments back to City Manager Heathcock within 24 hours.

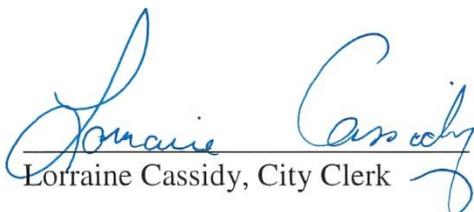
Councilmember Burruss stated if the Colfax Connections is not sponsored by the City, but a private publication, then Council approval would not be necessary. She also stated if the newsletter remains under the auspices of the City, the editors should receive a stipend.

6 ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mendoza and a second by Councilmember Burruss, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

Mayor Fatula adjourned the meeting at 9:41PM.

Respectfully submitted to City Council this 24th day of April, 2019.


Lorraine Cassidy, City Clerk