

**PORTOLA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 25, 2012  
7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mark called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers Wilson, McBride, Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu and Mayor Mark responded to the roll call. City Manager/City Clerk Leslie Tigan, City Attorney Steve Gross, and Finance Officer Susan Scarlett were also in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Junk Cars**

Portola resident Eddie Corrales, 260 Ridge Street, commented on the recent adoption of the ordinance addressing inoperable vehicles. He explained that his vehicles are not junk and that he had already been prosecuted for having them, any more actions would result in double jeopardy, he can't be tried twice. He noted that he sees a lot of communism in this town and would not take threats from City personnel

**Lake Davis Water Treatment Plant**

Portola resident BJ Pearson requested correction to the newspaper article that stated it is a 4 million dollar treatment plant. He read a list of figures indicated the cost was much higher and also requested to be provided a figure on how much of the treatment plant was paid with tax payer dollars.

Portola resident Mike Matus explained that he was under the impression that water rates couldn't be increased unless the water is readily available and asked how the rate payers could pay for the treatment plant when it isn't in use.

**State of the Union**

Portola resident Larry Douglass reported that he had watched the State of the Union address and wanted to know the State of the City. He stated that City policies have not created economic development.

**City Council Chambers**

Portola resident Joe Moctezuma requested a speaker in the lobby of City Hall so the meeting could be heard in that location.

**Property Restrictions**

Portola resident Mike Rush questioned restrictions on property use and stated that the Community Service Officer is over stepping her bounds.

**Large Map Sign**

Portola resident Mike Rush questioned if any business other than J's Feather River Rental could advertise on the large map sign.

**CITY COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Mark reported on her recent attendance at the Economic Forecast in Oroville. She also welcomed new businesses Value-Wide and the Grateful Dawg.

## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Tigan reported on the following; a recent membership meeting of the Eastern Plumas chamber of Commerce; communications with Liberty Energy; Willow Springs fuel reduction grant application; a CDBG grant application request from the Plumas Crisis Intervention & Resource Center; completion of the installation of the pipeline valve and the process for state approval to use the treatment plant; and the upcoming special meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Councilmember Weaver seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu to approve the consent calendar as presented. All members present voted in favor.

- A. Minutes – Adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 11, 2011.
- B. Claims – Adopted Resolution No. 2113 authorizing payment of claims for the period January 7, 2011 to January 20, 2012.

Accounts Payable:	\$ 73,701.04
Payroll:	<u>\$ 22,572.23</u>
Total:	\$ 96,273.27

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Request for Additional Information

Mayor Mark opened the floor to public comment.

Councilmember Wilson indicated that if Mr. Morrison had viewed the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting tape he would find that some of his questions had been answered. He stated that the Prop 218 process set a maximum limit for rates each year, but explained that each year the City Council is required to take separate action to implement the rate changes. He noted that Mr. Morrison states that half of Portola rate payers can't afford the rates but doesn't supply facts to substantiate the statement. Mr. Wilson presented a chart comparing neighboring water rates from LAFCo's recent MSR. He explained that water conservation could help residents lower their rates. Mr. Wilson indicated that he had hoped Mr. Morrison would be in attendance so he could ask him how passionate he is about having the questions answered and suggested the Council should wait until after the recall election to deal with the questions.

Ms. Mark indicated that she felt Mr. Wilson didn't listen to the citizens group with a proper spirit.

Portola resident Fran Roudebush explained that Mr. Wilson is missing the point. It is in the summertime months that the people can't afford the increase, the questions aren't just Mr. Morrison's questions they are everyone's questions. She stated we wouldn't be discussing this if Mr. Wilson hadn't disbanded the Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Mark indicated that she just wants to put the rates on hold for four months; she doesn't think the City will go bankrupt in four months.

Portola resident BJ Pearson noted that Mr. Wilson's statement that it was a few disgruntled citizens started the whole issue. He questioned why the rate study didn't follow generally accepted principals and gave on class special consideration.

Portola resident Pam Gill asked what the financial impact on the City would be if the rates were put on hold for four months.

Maurice Willis stated that Federal and State regulations are expensive and suggested the rates should be put on hold until the Treatment Plant was in use.

Portola resident Joe Moctezuma explained that if people conserve then they won't use enough water to generate the revenue projected and there will need to be another rate increase.

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Portola resident Gail Massey indicated that she uses a small amount of water and her water bill is still higher. It was explained that she was looking at the total of the utility bill not the water portion.

Portola resident Larry Douglas stated the Ad Hoc Committee should be reactivated.

Mayor Mark noted that she felt a citizen's committee is a good idea.

After further discussion of the agenda item it was moved by Councilmember McBride seconded by Councilmember Larrieu to authorize and expenditure not to exceed \$720 to cover the cost for HDR Engineering to respond to the questions.

Mayor Mark recessed the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:42 p.m. Councilmember McBride and Councilmember Larrieu each excused themselves from the meeting.

Mayor Mark discussed placing the issue of putting the rates on hold on the next agenda. It was the consensus of the Councilmembers present that the item should be placed on the next agenda and directed Ms. Mark to work with staff on developing the agenda item.

B. Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce Web Site Proposal

City Manager Leslie Tigan explained that the City had been presented with a proposal from Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce (EPCC) to provide website maintenance services for the City. She noted she felt the proposal should be reviewed by the City Council and requested direction from the Council on moving forward to prepare a contract and move forward with a change.

EPCC Executive Director Audrey Ellis explained that the Chamber would like to offer assistance with the City's web site by revising the site and then providing maintenance on the site. She noted that City staff would still have the ability to update the site and ensure that requirements for agenda postings, etc. were being met but the Chamber would also be able to update calendars, events and other areas. She explained that she would like to see the City and the Chamber working more closely together and felt this would be of great benefit to both.

Portola residents Jeanne Rowder-Dansby and Michelle Gault each noted that they felt this was a great idea.

Portola business owner Ernie Jones explained that the Chamber was assisting his business with a web site and also included a mobile application.

After further discussion it was the consensus of the Councilmembers present to direct staff to move forward with the proposal and bring back a contract to the City Council for consideration.

C. Coffee Klatch Visitations

Due to the absence of two Councilmembers it was determined to cancel a January Coffee Klatch and place the item on the next agenda.

D. City Engineer Employment Agreement

City Manager Leslie Tigan reviewed her report regarding the City Engineer Employment Agreement. She explained that the contract covered only work that would be reimbursed by the state and would be reviewed by staff on a regular basis.

It was then moved by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Weaver to approve the City Engineer Employment Agreement and authorize the City Manager to sign. All members present voted in favor. Councilmembers McBride and Larrieu were absent.

E. Finance Review and Budget Amendment

Finance Officer Susan Scarlet reviewed the six month financial review with the City Council and responded to questions.

Ms. Scarlett and Ms. Tigan reviewed a budget amendment to cover costs associated with security and safety issues at the public works building and recommended Council approval.

It was moved by Councilmember Weaver, seconded by Councilmember Wilson to approve the budget amendment as presented. All members present voted in favor. Councilmembers McBride and Larrieu were absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business it was moved by Councilmember Weaver, seconded by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. All members present voted in favor. Councilmembers McBride and Larrieu were absent.

Leslie Tigan, CMC  
City Clerk