

**PORTOLA CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Powers called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Powers led the Council in a moment of silence and the reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Oels, Gault, VanDahlen, Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu and Mayor Powers were present. City Manager Robert Meacher, Finance Officer Susan Scarlett, City Attorney Steve Gross, and City Clerk Melissa Klundby were also in attendance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralin Klundby, Pastor for the Sierra Valley Christian Church, read the Council a statement against the commercial cultivation of medical marijuana in the City limits and gave the Council a public petition with 166 signature of Eastern Plumas County residents and property owners who are requesting the Portola City Council adopt a resolution/ordinance to ban commercial growing of medical marijuana in the city limits.

5. CITY COMMUNICATIONS

A. City Council/Committee Reports

Councilmember VanDahlen reported that the Emergency Services Policy Committee had met.

Mayor Powers reported that he had attended the Sierra County Chamber mixer and a meeting with the Lost Sierra Marketing group.

B. Staff Communications

Robert Meacher reported on the following items:

- Staff did a mandatory SCORE training on 3/15.
- City Hall will be rolling out a new program for sports equipment rentals.
- Staff is considering a Frisbee/disc golf along the River Walk.
- Staff is working on MOU with Plumas County for the West End Park connection to the Memorial Hall.
- The Woodstove Change out program will soon be unveiled by the Air Quality Control District.

Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu requested that the City Manager agendize the idea for a Frisbee golf course and bring it back for Council review and possible approval after a full design, cost and idea is completed. The Council concurred and requested that this item be agendized at a future date.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. **Minutes** - Adopt the minutes of the City Council regular meeting held on March 9, 2016.
- B. **Claims** - Adopt Resolution No. 2275 authorizing payment of claims for the period of March 5, 2016, through March 18, 2016.

Finding no Council or public comment, Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu made a motion to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 9, 2016, and adopt Resolution 2275, authorizing payment of claims for the period of March 5, 2016, through March 18, 2016. Councilmember Gault seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

7. PRESENTATIONS

None.

8. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. **Sierra CAMP** – Presentation and request from the Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (Sierra CAMP) for the City of Portola to partner with Sierra CAMP. Discussion, possible action.

City Manager Robert Meacher introduced Dina Madson, the Program Manager for Sierra CAMP (Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership). Dina gave the Council a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed the goals, objectives, and membership benefits of Sierra CAMP.

Following the presentation City Manager Robert Meacher recommended that the Council join and authorize him to sign the membership agreement noting that Sierra CAMP offered a mechanism for ensuring that the City of Portola plays a role in the efforts of Sierra CAMP to create a legislative connection between urban centers and rural areas which house the majority of natural resources utilized by urban population areas.

Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Larrieu made a motion authorizing the City Manager, Robert Meacher to sign the membership agreement and to join Sierra CAMP. Councilmember Oels seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

- B. **Water and Sewer Utility Rates** – Review current utility rate structure, discuss mid-year adjustments to rates. Discussion, possible action.

City Manager Robert Meacher reported that following the adoption of this year's budget the option was left open to make a midyear adjustment to water and sewer rates and that at the special budget meeting of March 16th the Council requested that this item be agendaized for this meeting. Mr. Meacher also reported that the current rates are much less than those outlined in the Water and Sewer Utility Rate Study.

Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu reported that Councils of the past did not incrementally raise the water and sewer rates which put the rates far behind the cost of running and maintaining infrastructure. Councilmember Gault agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu.

The Council opened the discussion to public comment. Charla Rush, supervisor for the Portola Family Resource Center requested that the Council please consider not raising rates, noting that the resources they

have to assist with water and sewer bills are very limited and that many families are struggling to pay the utility bill. Mic Housel requested the Council not raise rates as it will cause people to move out of the area and cause a revolt of the citizens. Terri Woods reported that the largest citizen complaint she hears is concerning how high the water and sewer rates are.

Andrea Siler stated that she understands it is difficult financially for people to absorb rate increases, however she urged the Council to continue with responsible increases because the consequence for a water or sewer failure that the City did not have the funds to fix would cause even more people to leave the area. Andrea also noted that the rates seemed reasonable and comparable to other areas.

Councilmember Oels noted that he is opposed to rate increases and encouraged the Council and staff to pursue grants and loans to fund infrastructure improvement and costs.

Councilmember Gault reported that this is a hard decision, but reminded the Council that even though it is an election year, it is the responsibility of the current Council to make appropriate decisions to protect the citizens of Portola.

Following further brief discussion Councilmember Gault made a motion to direct staff to bring back a Resolution to the Council to memorialize the Council decision to raise the utility rates to the full rate increases outlined in the Water and Sewer Rate Study and to then discount those rate to a 5% increase for the water, sewer, consumption and availability rates. Councilmember VanDahlen seconded the motion and it was approved 4:1, with Councilmember Oels voting no.

C. AB 2614 – Review information from the League of California Cities on AB 2614. Review letter of support opposing AB 2614. Discussion, possible action.

Mayor Powers provided the Council with information regarding Council consensus to support a letter opposing AB 2614. Finding Council or public comment Mayor Pro tem Larrieu made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter opposing AB 2614. Councilmember Oels seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

D. Economic Development Committee – Appoint a second member to the Economic Development Committee. Discussion, possible action.

Mayor Powers reported that there is a vacancy on the Economic Development Committee and that currently, Councilmember Gault is the only committee member. Mayor Powers requested Council consent to appoint Councilmember VanDahlen to the Committee. The Council consented and Mayor Powers appointed Councilmember VanDahlen as the second member on the Economic Development Committee

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **Existing Litigation** - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), City of Portola vs. State of California Department of Fish & Game, Case No. CV09-00065.

- B. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation- City Manager** – (Continued discussion) Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, City Manager, City of Portola. Discussion, possible action.

Following a five minute recess the Council met in closed session. Mayor Powers reported out that there was no reportable action on item A. and that item B. was concluded and constituted the City Manager Annual review.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Councilmember Oels seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Klundby, City Clerk