

**PORTOLA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Morton, Gault, Mark, Mayor Pro Tem Oels and Mayor Larrieu responded to the roll call. City Manager Leslie Tigan, City Attorney Steve Gross, Finance Officer Susan Scarlett and City Engineer Dan Bastian were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Plan Goals

Portola Resident Larry Douglas explained that he was concerned about the cost of utility service and the lack of public input; he recited various goals from the General Plan and suggested that commingling of services would help achieve the goals.

Disaster Drill

Portola resident Dennis Dickensen reported that there would be a disaster drill on April 15th.

City Manager Leslie Tigan noted that he was referring to the state wide Golden Guardian Drill that is being held on May 15, 2013 and the City would be participating.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS

LAFCo – Mayor Larrieu reported that the City’s portion of the LAFCo expenses would be a little less for the upcoming budget.

Integrated Waste Management Board – Ms. Tigan reported that Intermountain Disposal was requesting a rate increase from the County and that if approved the City would also be asked for an increase.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Ms. Tigan reported on the following; the 1st Annual Shiver at the River, a Railroad Days fund raiser is scheduled for April 20, 2013 at Memorial Hall, with a yoyo challenge; the continued vacancies on the Planning Commission; the abatement process at 201 Main Street and she reported that the City’s Taurus had been involved in an accident which may have totaled the car due to its low value.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Minutes – Adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 27, 2013.
- B. Claims – Adopted Resolution No. 2160 authorizing payment of claims for the period March 23, 2013 to April 5, 2013.

Accounts Payable:	\$ 80,365.20
Payroll:	<u>\$ 19,958.61</u>
Total:	\$ 100,323.81

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Public Comment 2013/2014 Budget Preparation

City Manager Leslie Tigan explained that preparation of the 2013/2014 Budget were underway and at this time the City would receive comments from the public relating to things to include, increase or remove from the budget.

Portola resident Kim Tibbedeaux indicated that she didn't think the City had any money to spend.

Portola resident Larry Douglas suggested that the City did not need to hire a City Manager and should attract business and follow the general plan.

- B. A15 Phase II Improvement Project

City Engineer Dan Bastian explained that work on planning of the A15 Phase II project had begun. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) had been prepared for the project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and had been distributed to the appropriate agencies for comments. Mr. Bastian noted that the only comment received was from the Air Quality District. He explained that Resolution No. 2161 had been prepared to adopt the MND.

Mr. Bastian responded to questions regarding the project including bike lanes and traffic calming issues.

City Attorney Steve Gross recommending the Council consider adding a finding #4 to the Resolution stating that the adoption represents the independent judgment of the City Council.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Councilmember Mark, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Oels to adopt Resolution No. 2161 with the addition of finding #4 as recommended by the City Attorney. All members present voted in favor.

Resolution No. 2161

*A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Portola
Approving Mitigated Negative Declaration #2013-1 For A-15 Phase II
Reconstruction/Rehabilitation Improvement Project*

C. Sign Ordinance

City Manager Leslie Tigan explained that following a request from the City Council the Planning Commission had developed proposed changes to the City's sign ordinance. These revisions had been presented to the City Council on March 13, 2013 and since that time a public meeting had been held on April 1, 2013 to allow for public comments. Ms. Tigan explained that the public who attended the April 1st meeting were all supportive of the proposed changes.

Audience members Mike Matus, Ken Tibbedeaux, Larry Douglas and Dick Beever all voiced their support of the proposed changes noting that allowing increased signage for advertising would help the business community.

Councilmembers Mark and Gault each expressed their support of the changes as they would make Portola a more business friendly community.

Ms. Tigan explained that following the introduction of the ordinance tonight it would be scheduled for adoption on April 24, 2013 and take effect after 30 days.

It was then moved by Councilmember Gault, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Oels to introduce Ordinance No. 339. All members present voted in favor.

Ordinance No. 339

*An Ordinance of the City of Portola, County of Plumas,
Approving an Amendment to the City of Portola
Zoning Ordinance Regarding Signs*

D. Utility Billing Policy

City Manager Leslie Tigan presented a draft utility billing policy for discussion. She noted that this had been discussed at the last meeting, at that time the City Council directed staff to work on refining the policy.

Councilmember Gault noted that the draft policy included billing the two solid waste charges to owners when there is no waster use and stated that she would not support that aspect of the policy.

Ms. Tigan indicated that the Council was free to remove those charges and only charge the water and sewer availability charge when there was no water use. It was the consensus of the City Council to move forward without the inclusion of those charges.

Ms. Tigan continued to explain that the draft policy let water consumption be the factor that converts an account from regular billing to the availability charge, when there is a zero meter read the rate will change automatically.

Councilmember Gault questioned how many properties would receive the rate and how vacant apartments would be handled.

Audience members Larry Douglas and Kelly Griffith expressed their opposition to the fees, they noted that it would discourage new businesses, be a hardship on landlords and violate the General Plan.

Mayor Larrieu requested a listing of other agencies that charge this type of fee.

Following further discussion it was the consensus of the City Council to direct staff to return with answers to their questions and move forward with refining the policy.

E. Continuing Emergency

City Manager Leslie Tigan explained that the emergency action relating to the Landfill Cover repair continued and the repair work should be completed on Thursday.

It was moved by Councilmember Gault, seconded by Councilmember Mark to continue the emergency approved in Resolution No. 2157. All members present voted in favor.

Mayor Larrieu recessed the meeting to closed session at 8:04 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

- A. Public Employee Appointment – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 City Manager
- B. Existing Litigation – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 City of Portola vs. State of California Department of Fish & Game Case No. CV09-00065

Mayor Larrieu reconvened the meeting to open session at 9:05 p.m.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was no action reported from the Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss Mayor Larrieu adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Leslie Tigan, CMC
City Clerk

Regular Meeting
April 10, 2013