PORTOLA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 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 Weaver, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu and Mayor Mark responded to the roll call. Councilmember McBride was absent. City Manager/City Clerk Leslie Tigan, City Attorney Steve Gross, Finance Officer Susan Scarlett and Planner Karen Downs were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Council Meeting Time

Portola resident Jeanne Rowden-Dansby requested the City Council consider changing the time of the City Council meetings to start with the closed session at 5:30 p.m. and open session items starting at 6:00 p.m. She suggested this would result in the meetings ending earlier.

Property owner David White noted that moving the meetings to an earlier time would impact the attendance of individuals that work out of town.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS

LAFCo – Mr. Larrieu reported that they were continuing discussions relating to the consolidation of Quincy and East Quincy CSDs and starting discussions of the spheres of influence in Eastern Plumas County specifically the Fire Districts.

Transportation Commission – Mr. Wilson reported that the only projects being funded are bridge repairs.

Mayor Mark indicated that she would be leaving the meeting early in order to attend the Economic Forecast session in Oroville the next day. She requested moving item C to the start of the Order of Business to allow her to participate in that discussion before leaving. She also thanked everyone for attending the meeting and would like to see more people come.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Tigan reported on the following; a 36% increase in the City's cost for the State required permit for the landfill; the lack of snow is allowing Public Works to finish up the Gulling Street Improvements by adding new horseshoe pits next to the basketball court; City Manager and Planner met with John Benoit of LAFCo; and the 2011 Volunteer of Year was awarded to Curt McBride with the 2011 Employee of the Year being awarded to Leah Turner.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

A. Minutes – Adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 14, 2011.

B. Claims – Adopted Resolution No. 2110 authorizing payment of claims for the period December 10, 2011 to January 6, 2012.

Accounts Payable:	$ 109,734.15
Payroll:	$ 57,440.51
Total:	$ 167,174.66

C. City Utility Rates

Mayor Mark explained that she had placed this item on the agenda to make a formal request of the group reviewing the utility rates to provide their list of questions to the City.

Jeanne Rowden-Dansby and Earl Morrison each presented a list of questions to the City Council and staff.

Portola resident Larry Douglas explained that he didn't see any need for Lake Davis water and would like that to be at the top of the discussion.

Property owner David White commented that he felt the cost of water should be separate from the utility bill allowing the utility bill to go to the owner and the water usage to the tenant.

Mayor Mark excused herself from the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

A. General Plan Update/Mitigated Negative Declaration, Public Hearing

Planner Karen Downs explained that the public comment period for the General Plan update was now complete. She presented comments from Caltrans and the Fire Safe Council that the City has received following the last meeting. She noted that those comments would be addressed in the final document. She requested the City Council receive any additional public comment tonight and the consider adoption of Resolution No. 2111 approving the mitigated negative declaration and the General Plan review.

Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu opened the public hearing at 7: 20 p.m. There were no comments from the public. The public hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

It was then moved by Councilmember Weaver, seconded by Councilmember Wilson to adopt Resolution No. 2111. All members present voted in favor. Councilmember McBride and Mayor Mark were absent.

Resolution No. 2111

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Portola
Approving the General Plan Review 2011 Mitigated Negative Declaration
And Approving the General Plan Review 2011

B. Code Revision, Excess Inoperable Vehicles

Planner Karen Downs explained that this ordinance had been introduced on December 14, 2011 and was ready for adoption at tonight's meeting. She noted that once adopted the ordinance would take affect in 30 days.

Property owner Lori White asked for a definition of excess. It was explained that more than one inoperable vehicle would be considered excess.

Portola resident Larry Douglass commented that he is concerned with over regulation.

Property owner David White noted that there are rusty inoperative vehicles all over town and he for one doesn't want to live in a City that has them all over town. He suggested a sure way to get people to leave town was to allow for more rusty inoperative vehicles. He applauds the City Council for trying to take control.

It was then moved by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Weaver to adopt Ordinance No. 338. All members present voted in favor. Councilmember McBride and Mayor Mark were absent.

Ordinance No. 338

An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Portola
Amending the City of Portola Municipal Code Chapters 8.20, 10.04, and 17.106
Pertaining to Inoperable Vehicles

D. Fire Protection Services

City Manager Leslie Tigan explained that this item had been placed on the agenda to allow for discussion regarding various concerns that had been brought to the attention of the City following the recent string of fires in town. She outlined three areas of concern; 1) Response time; 2) Fire Susceptibility and 3) Improvement of Fire Safety.

1) *Response time*

Ms. Tigan explained that if the Council wished to gain an understanding of the Fire Department's response time they would first need to provide a clear definition of a time from one action to another, would you start with the time the call came to dispatch, the time the Fire Dept. was paged, or something else and would the other end by the time firefighters arrive at the station, or the time someone is on scene. She also explained that the only way to gather factual data would be to have someone listen to the actual 911 calls; this would be time consuming for staff. She requested direction from the City Council if they wished to pursue this research.

Councilmember Weaver questioned what was being done about asbestos removal from the burn sites. It was explained that the responsibility for this was imposed upon the property owner and the contractor performing the clean-up.

Property owner Lori White asked if there was anything the public could do to assist with response times.

2) *Fire Susceptibility*

Ms. Tigan explained that she felt this issued could be incorporated within the preparation of the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). She noted that City staff had discussed the issue with the consulting firm that would be completing the LHMP and they are willing to include this issue in the plan. When developing the plan the consultants will be holding public meetings allowing ample time for the public to comment and make suggestions. The outcome could include some type of fire inspection program.

3) *Improvement of Fire Safety*

Ms. Tigan explained that she had earlier meetings with Beckwourth Fire Chief Greg McCaffrey to discuss the possibility of some arrangement that would allow the two departments to work together in an effort to provide better service to both districts. She requested the City Council consider authorization for staff time, including that of the City Attorney to move forward with these discussions. She also requested one member of the City Council be appointed to attend the discussions and suggested Councilmember Weaver.

After further discussion it was the consensus of the City Council to direct staff to move forward with discussion and for Councilmember Weaver to be included in the meetings.

E. Special Recall Election

City Clerk Leslie Tigan explained that following the adoption of Resolution No. 2109 on December 14, 2011 it had been determined that the nomination period for the special recall election should be extended to January 26, 2012. She presented Resolution No. 2112 for consideration.

It was then moved by Councilmember Wilson, seconded by Councilmember Weaver to adopt Resolution No. 2112. All members present voted in favor. Councilmember McBride and Mayor Mark were absent.

Resolution No. 2112

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Portola, California, Extending the Declaration and Candidacy Period for the April 10, 2012 Special Election

F. Coffee Klatch Visitations

The City Council requested to have this item placed on the agenda for the next meeting to allow Mayor Mark to participate.

G. Mayor's Committees

Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu explained that the only change being made by Mayor Mark was to appoint Leslie Tigan to the Integrated Waste Management Board with Todd Roberts as the alternate.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pro Tem Larrieu recessed the meeting to closed session at 8:10 p.m.

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

The meeting was reconvened to open session at 8:15 p.m.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was no action reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business it was moved by Councilmember Weaver, seconded by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. All members present voted in favor. Councilmember McBride and Mayor Mark were absent.

Leslie Tigan, CMC
City Clerk