

**PORTOLA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 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, Public Works Manager Todd Roberts and Administrative Assistant Julie Rizzo were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Water Bill

Sunrise River Park owner Brad Bauer explained that his water bill is too high and he would like to be billed the same amount as his neighbor. He noted that his rate goes up and down continually and that he would be contacting the California Public Utilities Commission. He suggested the City should start charging him correctly.

Economic Development

Portola resident Larry Douglas explained that he had been out of town and attended Economic Development meetings in Sonoma, California and Pueblo, Colorado. He noted that the City's goal should be to attract businesses.

Condition of Walkway and Stairs

Meeting attendee Dennis Doyle noted that the walkway and stairs to City Hall were icy.

Ice Fishing Derby

Portola resident John Pato reported that the Ice Fishing Derby was a great success with \$4,000 in proceeds being donated to the Cancer Society; he thanked the City council for the use of the trailer and thanked his wife, Kellie, for her support.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS

LAFCo – Mayor Larrieu reported that most items had been tabled to the next meeting.

Transportation Commission – Councilmember Mark reported that they are moving forward with transit and the budget.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Tigan reported on the following; the jetter trailer will be delivered and personnel will be trained on Thursday; wind damage to the Landfill tarp; close of the City Manager recruiting period; Public Works crew responded to 42 call outs for broken/frozen pipes in January; David Wade had sent a new Woodbridge brochure; there are still two vacancies on the Planning Commission; and the Sign Ordinance revisions will be scheduled for the March 13, 2013 agenda.

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 special meetings held on January 22, January 28 and January 30, 2013 and the regular meeting held on January 23, 2013.
- B. Claims – Adopted Resolution No. 2155 authorizing payment of claims for the period January 19, 2013 to February 22, 2013.

Accounts Payable:	\$ 223,350.52
Payroll:	\$ <u>51,694.31</u>
Total:	\$ 275,044.83

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. City Web Site

Administrative Assistant Julie Rizzo reported that the new City web site was ready to “go live” and presented the web site to the City Council and public. She reviewed all the pages and the links associated with the pages and explained that making revisions was a simple process. She thanked Audrey Ellis and Richard Scully of the Chamber for making the transition so easy.

- B. Prayer Policy

Councilmember Mark who requested this agenda item explained that she really was not asking for a prayer policy but an invocation invitation policy. She explained that she felt the country's founding fathers had included prayer and references to religion in many of the documents that continue to guide the country and felt the City Council should consider allowing some type of religious payer at the start of meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Oels noted that the country was founded with the intent to separate church and state and he felt any type of policy regarding this would open the City up to litigation.

Mayor Larrieu explained that the issue is very controversial and he did not see the need for the City to take on any issue that would set it up for someone to attack it. He noted the City has plenty of other issues to deal with.

Councilmember Gault noted that development and implementation of a policy would take up valuable staff time and open the City up to litigation.

Councilmember Gault and Mayor Pro Tem Oels each noted that a moment of silence may serve the same purpose with less controversy.

Portola resident Larry Douglas supported the development of a policy; he explained that although prayer can not happen in schools it is fine in a government setting.

Following a brief discussion it was moved by Councilmember Gault, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Oels to have 60 seconds of silence called for by the Mayor prior to calling the meeting to order. All members present voted in favor.

C. City Council Vacancies

Councilmember Gault who requested this agenda item explained that she would like to see the City Council adopt a policy that would outline the procedure for appointing a Councilmember when there is a vacancy. She noted that she felt there should be consistency in the process.

Mayor Larrieu explained that any policy adopted now could be revised by a future Council and since vacancies don't occur very often he felt it would be better to let the Council seated at the time of the vacancy determines the process they would use. He noted that he did not see the need to spend time on the issue.

Portola resident Larry Douglas thanked Ms. Gault for changing the process for the recent appointment.

After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Council not to address the issue at this time.

D. Sanitary Sewer Risk Management

Public Works Manager Todd Roberts reported on a recent class he attended relating to risk management for sewer issues. He explained that the City's force main that goes under the river transporting sewage from the north side of town to the sewer ponds was very old and the City does not know its condition. He explained that the force main is a very vulnerable portion of the entire sewer system and suggested that by developing an emergency plan to be used if it fails and conducting an inspection of the force main the City would be able to mitigate some of the risk.

Following a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Council to investigate the options of and inspection of the force main.

E. Discontinuing the Emergency

City Manager Leslie Tigan reported that the Colorado Street Sewer Main had been repair and the emergency was over, she reported that the total cost of the repair was \$56,647.50.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss Mayor Larrieu adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Leslie Tigan, CMC
City Clerk

Regular Meeting
February 27, 2013