



ORLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Chris Dobbs at 6:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present:

Councilmembers Bruce T. Roundy, John McDermott, Jeffrey Tolley, Vice Mayor Matt Romano and Mayor Chris Dobbs

Councilmembers absent:

None

Staff present:

City Manager Pete Carr; Director of Administrative Services Rebecca Webster; City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke; City Attorney Greg Einhorn; Police Chief Joe Vlach; Interim Public Works Director Zach Barber

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION – NONE

MEETING ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:04 PM

CLOSED SESSION ENDED AT 6:28 PM

RECONVENED TO REGULAR SESSION - Called to order by Mayor Chris Dobbs at 6:32 PM.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION – Direction was given to City Staff.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Warrant List (Payable Obligations)
- B.** Approve City Council Minutes for May 21, 2024

Councilmember Tolley requested to address item B, noting that a vote had been recorded incorrectly. City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke confirmed that the correction had already been made and the minutes would be posted with the accurate vote.

ACTION: Councilmember McDermott moved, seconded by Councilmember Roundy, to approve the consent calendar with the noted corrections. Motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Annual Financial Audit Report FY23

Mr. Carr presented the fiscal year 2023 annual independent financial audit report for Council acceptance. Mr. Carr presented some highlights from the report and answered questions from Council.

Orland resident Byron Denton emphasized the importance of saving money and referenced his past contributions to the City in reducing sewer system expenses.

Action: Councilmember Tolley moved, seconded by Councilmember Roundy to accept the annual financial report and the City Manager's management letter. Motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

B. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Adoption

Mr. Carr presented the fifth and final proposed draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2024/2025, starting on July 1. He explained the changes made since the last meeting, including the addition of the Carnegie project, and provided an overview of the department pages. The Council then asked questions and discussed various budget items.

Councilmember Roundy acknowledged that the City is in a good place but expressed concerns about the low amount being added to reserves. He suggested that the City continue to prepare for a future need for more reserve funds.

Councilmember Tolley emphasized the importance of clearing all debt obligations and suggested that the City should prioritize paying off its debts as soon as possible.

Orland resident Byron Denton thanked the Council for their work for the community and expressed his satisfaction that the City is successfully keeping the budget on target.

Action: Councilmember Tolley moved, seconded by Councilmember McDermott to adopt the proposed budget as presented for fiscal year 2024/2025. The motion carried by a voice vote 5-0.

C. Carnegie Center Facility Concept Options

Mr. Carr announced that the City Council will temporarily relocate its meetings to facilities with better ADA access while staff obtain cost estimates for upgrading the Carnegie facility. He outlined necessary and potential improvements for the building and requested Council's guidance on objectives before proceeding with the cost analysis. The improvements fall into three categories: Necessary for Facility Viability, Necessary for ADA Compliance and Potentially Desirable Improvements.

The Council asked questions and discussed various concerns and possible updates to Carnegie Center.

Councilmember Roundy requested that staff investigate the implementation of energy-efficient lighting solutions for the building.

Councilmember Tolley expressed that updating the ramp seemed the most practical option for the City and recommended obtaining price estimates before making a decision. Additionally, he proposed seeking community donations for an elevator installation if the Council chose that route, suggesting it could be dedicated in memory of people like his mother.

Mayor Dobbs emphasized the importance of addressing the roof, exterior, and windows first to prevent outside elements from entering before working on the interior.

Councilmember Romano emphasized that Carnegie is the town's most important building and suggested that the City hire an architect or request bids to ensure the project is completed properly.

Councilmember McDermott shared he had been doing research on renovating the building and proposed additional uses for it, such as a library, reading room, or chamber of commerce office. He concurred that hiring a professional would be the best approach.

Councilmember Roundy emphasized the need to address ADA issues first and suggested reducing the kitchen size and reorganizing the room layout.

Orland resident Carolyn Denton mentioned that Corning's old library added an elevator and suggested the Council visit to see the addition.

Orland resident and Economic Development Commissioner Brandon Smith supported the idea of hiring a professional to assist with the plans and upgrades.

Orland resident Earl Megginson stated that a professional's plan would help the Council make better decisions regarding upgrades and updates.

The Council agreed to have staff issue an RFP for professional services for Carnegie's upgrades and decided to remove the option of lowering the floor, with Mr. Carr concurring to exclude that from his options.

D. Update on Measure J

City Attorney Greg Einhorn provided the Council with background on Measure J, which proposes increasing the tax rate from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cent if passed in November. He also discussed a potential initiative measure, the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, which could impact Measure J as currently written if it passes. Mr. Einhorn noted that while local sales taxes do not require a sunset clause, he recommended adding one to Measure J to ensure its validity if the initiative passes. Councilmembers asked questions about the sunset clause and discussed additional information that needs to be included in the measure.

Mr. Einhorn informed the council that he will present the Ordinance for Measure J with updated language to be adopted and resubmitted. He also mentioned that he will monitor the State Supreme Court case and keep the Council informed about the initiative.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Denton expressed gratitude towards the City Council and shared his sentiments regarding the Carnegie building. Mayor Dobbs informed Mr. Denton that the next meeting will take place at the Glenn Success Square Conference Center on June 18th.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Tolley:

- Attended the City of Willows visioning meeting on May 15th;
- Attended the Every Child Swims program for 2nd graders at the Pool May 31st, sharing it was nice to see such a successful program in the community.

Councilmember Roundy:

- Shared that there will be an Art show June 7th;
- There will be a wildlife animal show at the Library;

- Will be attending the LAFCo meeting;
- Will be attending the Glenn Groundwater Authority Meeting.

Vice Mayor Romano:

- Thanked the Public Works Department for helping to resolve issue with the industrial brine system at West Coast Products.

Councilmember McDermott:

- Planning Commission meeting was cancelled for May 16th.

Mayor Dobbs

- Attended the closing ceremonies programs for the baseball & softball program;
- Will be attending the fire department meeting this week.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 PM

Jennifer Schmitke, City Clerk

Chris Dobbs, Mayor