

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ETNA CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015**

Members of the Etna City Council met this 20th day of July, 2015, in the Etna City Council Chambers. Mayor Marilyn Seward called the meeting to order and led in the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

Council Members Diana Callahan, Lori Fleck, Chuck Jopson, Mitch Trost, Marilyn Seward were present.

Oral Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Gareth Plank noted information regarding Dollar General. Chet Eastlick stated his concerns regarding the two day watering schedule. Che'usa Wend read a letter regarding Rays Market closing two previous businesses, and thanking Sarah Griggs for accepting the City Clerk position. Linda Moak inquired about our current water levels, and a city ordinance regarding dog leash requirements. Michael Stapleton expressed his concerns about the direction our city is headed.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 6, 2015 and Special Meeting of July 15, 2015, and Check Register, were presented for approval. Callahan moved to approve the consent calendar. Fleck seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with Callahan, Fleck, Jopson, Seward, and Trost voting yes.

Current Business:

Public Hearing: Tentative Parcel Map 2015-01

Mayor Seward opened the public hearing at 7:45pm. Many community members spoke regarding the tentative parcel map. Trost requested more time to read the information. The remaining council felt the time given was sufficient enough. Mayor Seward closed the public hearing at 8:20pm.

Approve Parcel Map of APN: 056-274-100 and 056-274-160, Resolution 875-15, Conditions of Approval, and Maps.

Jopson moved to approve Parcel Map of APN: 056-274-100 and 056-274-160, Resolution 875-15, Conditions of Approval, and Maps. Callahan seconded, and the motion passed 4-1, with Callahan, Fleck, Jopson, and Seward voting yes, and Trost voting no.

Approve/Discuss Clean-Up of Johnson-Joss Park, Etna City Pool, and Main Street Businesses.

Janice Gaynor requested to table this item to the next meeting. No action taken.

Discuss Drought Condition Requirements.

Che'usa Wend stated that Governor Brown's Executive Order was not put in the city's newsletter. Wend further discussed other state's measures/methods/alternatives for conserving water, mentioning drought tolerant plants, drought tolerant landscapes, and state funding for water conserving landscapes. New water and sewer hook-ups should not be allowed due to current water and drought conditions. Wend requested that her letter be entered in the minutes. Wend would also like additional/more detailed information be given to the public. Wend also feels we need more discussion on this issue, and actively prepare for this drought to continue.

Wend's letter entered in the minutes, as requested.

“Governor Brown stated in his Executive Order B-29-15 dated April 1, 2015 Newsletter: *‘there is a distinct possibility that the current drought will stretch into a 5th straight year in 2016 and beyond’*.”

This Executive Order, was not mentioned in the City of Etna's June 30, 2015 Newsletter; however, I presume it IS the reason for our 2 day per week watering restrictions, as new state regulations require a reduction of 25% of the 2013 usage amounts through February 28, 2016.

Every household and business who receives a water bill should take the time to read the Executive Order in order for the people of Etna and the city Council to have a more in depth discussion about these issues.

The City's Newsletter only stated: “The City may have to put into place more strict regulations but for now we are fortunate that there is still ‘water over the dam’.”

Businesses and households should be informed as to WHAT those ‘stricter regulations’ actually are, in order to prepare.

The Executive Order points out drought measures that many of us have suggested to the Council in the past, without avail. (ie: replacing lawns, with drought tolerant plantings, greywater usage, storm water capture, rain harvesting).

In regard to greywater usage, I sent an email to Greg Plucker at the County; Ray Haupt our Supervisor and the CA. Waterboard.

Mr. Plucker wrote this back:

“The issue is that the plumbing code contains specific regulations on how you can use grey water – which in most cases makes the use impractical.

Hopefully the State will come up with some new regulations as a result of this order that will make the use of grey water feasible.”

The City of Etna and Siskiyou County are at least 6 years behind in implementing some of these measures and 20 years behind States such as Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas who figured out years ago that water is precious and must be ‘harvested/collected’ by many different methods.

The little house I bought on Fredrick Street in Aug. 2009 was surrounded by lawn.

On Sept. 5, 2010 I wrote this on my blog site:

"I was telling a friend I wanted to do the front and side lawns into more Xeriscape with lavenders and ornamental grasses... and she mentioned that the local greenhouses in Ft. Jones, who have been growing perennials for the past eight years, were closing those out and would only be doing their ever popular succulents from now on."

Obviously 'Mountain Crest Gardens' (Mr. Jopson's business) saw this coming, back in 2010, when they changed from selling perennials and annuals to solely succulents!

I don't know which Council person is in charge of 'drought issues'. Perhaps it should be Councilman Jopson.

The Executive Order specifically states: *"The Dept. of Water Resources shall lead a statewide initiative, in partnership with local agencies, to collectively replace 50 million square feet of lawns and ornamental turf with drought tolerant landscapes. The Dept. shall provide funding to allow for lawn replacement programs in underserved communities, which will complement local programs already underway across the state."*

This past weekend, I emailed Council Members and others a link to my Blog Posting of July 18th, showing the Xeriscape project Eb and I embarked on in Spring of 2010. It was completed via 'sweat equity', without any funding from the State or Local Programs.

Note: While writing my July 18th Blog I found this information: *"The word "Xeriscape," was coined by the Denver Water Department in 1981 to help make water conserving landscaping an easily recognized concept."*

Most places where rain is (in our case, was) plentiful have not fully considered preparing for drought conditions. This should certainly be a focus of study here in the Elementary, Jr. high and High school Curriculum.

Being in the 4-1/2 year point of very serious drought SHOULD send up a red flag: *Re-instating existing, already in places meters (yet turned off for whatever reason), is one thing, but allowing new hook-ups to further tax our water and sewer system is not acceptable in these drought conditions.*

I feel the City should not grant any new water/sewer hookups on parcels that were undeveloped as of the June 30th inception date of Water Usage Restrictions.

If this issue is not taken seriously and immediate measures discussed and implemented, the Council is doing a grave injustice to the citizens and existing businesses of this City.

The Etna City website states under the Mission Statement: “*The City Council will work toward enhancing the quality life for all residents through actively serving them, pursuing excellence in all areas, and maintaining a high level of accountability.*”

I urge you, as our City Council, to come together and find ways to excel in your mission to serve us.

Thank you.”

Signed: Che’usa Sienna Wend, Etna Resident July 20, 2015

No action taken.

Gareth Plank is concerned about the water supply and new construction.

Chet Eastlick stated that there is a water leak at the cemetery and has been a continued issue for several years. Eastlick also stated that a greywater sewer system is efficient.

Jill Beckman is requesting that the water pressure be measured, and would like to see water reports.

Jamie Tarne asked if the churches, schools, and the cemetery are under the same water restrictions.

Approve Request to Change watering days for Etna Mobile Village.

George Workman is concerned about how long you can water on your specific days, and felt there should be more instruction on specifically how long you should water. Workman requested to have his watering section changed. Jopson moved to approve Etna Mobile Village switching watering sections from C to B, Trost seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 with Callahan, Fleck, Jopson, Seward, and Trost voting yes.

Approve Rate Increase for Ambulance Services, Purchase of an iPad for one ambulance, and Pay Wes Dunkin \$300.00 for covering the Ambulance.

Approve Rate Increase for Ambulance Services.

Doug Blangsted proposed a rate increase for ambulance services of \$1,000.00 for BLS response, and \$1,200.00 for ALS response. Callahan moved to approve the proposed rate increase for both categories of ambulance services, Jopson seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 with Callahan, Fleck, Jopson, Seward, and Trost voting yes.

Approve Purchase of an iPad for the Ambulance.

Doug Blangsted requested approval for the purchase of an iPad for the ambulance to be utilized to track all resources responding to an incident, among other critical features pertinent for efficient ambulance and crew functions. Fleck moved to approve the purchase of an iPad for one ambulance, Callahan seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 with Callahan, Fleck, Jopson, Seward, and Trost voting yes.

Approve a Payment of \$300.00 to Wes Dunkin for Covering the Ambulance.

Doug Blangsted requested approval for \$300.00 to pay Wes Dunkin for covering the ambulance while Carrie was on vacation. Callahan moved to approve the payment of \$300.00 to Wes Dunkin for covering the ambulance, Trost seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 with Callahan, Fleck, Jopson, Seward, and Trost voting yes.

Ambulance Department- No Report

Police Department – No Report

Fire Department Report- We are under a Red Flag Warning, Shepard of God is flooding due to thunderstorms, and also there are several fires in the area. We have pressure gauges to measure water pressure for fire hydrants.

Public Works Department- No Report

City Clerk Statements and Requests- None

Council Statements and Requests-
CORRESPONDENCE

Trost would like the pictures of the burning buildings removed from the website. Concerns that if we had more water, we may have been able to save one of the buildings that burned, Jopson disagrees.

Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Griggs
City Clerk