



MINUTES

*Regular Board Meeting
September 8, 2020
5:30 p.m.*

Location: Remote Via Zoom

Board of Directors

*Nicole Johnson (Division 2) - President, Randy Mendosa (Division 3) - Vice-President,
Rene Campbell (Division 1) - Director, Elena David (Division 4) - Director
David Rosen (Division 5) - Director*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Nicole Johnson at 5:34 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance has been suspended during Shelter in Place.

3. ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum and the following were present remotely via zoom: President Nicole Johnson, Vice President Randy Mendosa, Director Rene Campbell, Director Elena David and Director David Rosen.

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Justin McDonald, and Board Secretary Becky Schuette.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no comments from the public or the Board.

It was moved to approve the agenda.

Motion: Campbell; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; Campbell, David, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.1 Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting

6.2 August 2020 Finance Report

6.3 Approve Exemption and Outstanding Payment Write-Offs to Specific Parcels for the 1997 Special Tax and 2006 Benefit Assessment

Upon the request of Director Mendosa, President Johnson read the consent calendar items aloud.

There were no comments or questions from the Board or the public.

It was moved to approve the consent calendar.

Motion: Campbell; Second: David

Roll Call: Ayes; Campbell, David, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

7. PUBLIC HEARING

7.1 Consider Adoption of Resolution 20-226 Finalizing the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21: President Johnson requested the staff presentation and recommendations and Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note.

President Johnson called for questions from the Board and Director Mendosa inquired about the 29% increase in the liability insurance and for any effects from Covid on the current or future rates.

There were no further questions from the Board and President Johnson opened the hearing to public testimony

A chat comment was received from William B. with a question regarding money savings with the stations brown outs, which was answered by the Chief.

Being that there was no public testimony in favor or opposition of the item, President Johnson closed the hearing.

There was no further Board deliberations or questions and a motion was made.

It was moved to adopt the Resolution 20-226, the budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21.

Motion: Mendosa; Second: Rosen

Roll Call: Ayes; Campbell, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson. **Abstain;** David

Motion Carries

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Measure F Update: Chief McDonald began by reviewing the meetings, service group presentations and media activity for the funding measure.

Director Mendosa advised the plywood signs were completed and have been placed. Yard signs are now available as well. He also complimented the group of approximately 35 people who make up Friends of Measure F. He thanked them and advised they have been working hard and doing a great job.

A chat comment from William B regarding the CalFire consideration and President Johnson advised that the topic has been addressed several times previously and it is not a direction the Board is choosing to go at this time.

There was no further discussion or comments from the Board or public.

This item was information only, no action was taken.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Consider New Account with Coast Central Credit Union: Chief McDonald reviewed the staff note and made his recommendation.

There were no comments from the Board or the public.

It was moved to open the additional account with Coast Central.

Motion: Campbell; Second: David

Roll Call: Ayes; Campbell, David, Mendosa, Rosen and Johnson.

Motion Carries

9.2 Consideration of Petition for Adjustment of Fire Assessment Fees: Chief McDonald reviewed the staff note and made his recommendation.

Director Mendosa queried if there was still a business active at this location. He then asked about the precedents that might be set, which the Chief mentioned in his report, was a concern.

Parcel owner George Green spoke to the Board at this time, emphasizing the small size of the commercial unit, comparing it to the size of the barn fire and how much larger the barn was as opposed to the 300 square foot barber shop. In Mr. Green's words, 22% of the parcel is has commercial use. His request was for the Board to consider a multi-family land use code instead of commercial.

Chief reviewed the Land Use Codes (LUC) and explained that historically the District has made decisions on reductions, based on circumstances surrounding the parcel use and the request.

There was a lengthy discussion, back and forth and questions from the Board to Mr. Green and Chief McDonald. Ultimately, the Board and staff agreed that the parcel is a pre-existing, non-conforming property and there is likely no other commercial property like it in the District.

Director Mendosa queried the Chief as to a recommendation on the Board's options in this particular situation. Chief McDonald advised that the Board cannot adjust the parcel based on a percentage of the commercial use, as there is no mechanism in place within the ordinance. He went on to inform the Board that they had the option to reduce the entire parcel to residential or decrease the use to the commercial office land use code, rather than the larger commercial that it is currently.

There were multiple attempts at a motion by Director Rosen, however Director Mendosa requested specific language be included in the motion. Director Rosen asked the Board clerk to craft the motion. Instead, Chief McDonald made an attempt with the language, which was restated by the Board Clerk to include the size of the commercial structure, again on the request of Director Mendosa.

It was moved to reclassify parcel #503-224-007 from a Land Use Code 5201 to Land Use Code 1100 based, on the extremely small size, 300 square feet, of the commercial building, based on the that fact that it is grandfathered in under the zoning ordinances of the City of Arcata.

Motion: Rosen; Second: Mendosa

Roll Call: Ayes; Campbell, Mendosa and Rosen. **Noes;** Johnson. **Absent;** David

Motion Carries

There was no response from Director David for the roll call vote and it was unclear if she was present for the remainder of the meeting or at what point her "electronic" connections may have been lost. She had reported, prior to the meeting, that her Zoom was not working and that her phone continued to be "unavailable" and kick her off.

9.3 Status of Repairs Needed for Fire Apparatus: Chief McDonald reviewed his staff note.

There were no comments from the Board or the public.

This item was for information only, no action was taken.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

President Johnson reviewed the correspondence aloud.

There were no comments or questions from the Board and no public comments.

11. MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS

11.1 Chiefs Report - Chief McDonald reviewed his staff report aloud and had nothing new to add.

11.2 Committee Reports - There were no committee reports.

11.3 Director Matters - President Johnson thanked Paul Nicholson for all of his work on the Friends of Measure F campaign and added birthday wishes to several career fire staff.

11.4 Bargaining Group & Association Reports

Local 4981 - James Sakkis, Secretary/Treasurer offered reiteration of thanks, in addition to the letter sent by their President, to the VLU members who helped in support of the Barn fire. He also thanked the career staff for their local coverage of CalFire Trinidad, Captain Finen and Firefighters Kadle and Sutter.

Senior Management Group - No report.

Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association (AVFA) - Rob Cannon, President reviewed his report.

12. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session scheduled.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Campbell; **Second:** Mendosa

Meeting adjourned by President Johnson at 7:03 pm

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **October 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Schuette

Clerk of the Board