

DRAFT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Fortuna City Council

Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.

621 11th Street, Fortuna

Zoom Option: 1-669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 880 5183 3435 Passcode: 053024

I. CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE / ROLL CALL

Mayor Long called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., and led the flag salute.

<u>Council</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Council Member Mike Johnson <i>Absent</i>	City Manager Merritt Perry
Council Member Mike Losey	Deputy City Clerk, Buffy Gray
Council Member Jeremy Stanfield	
Mayor Pro Tem Tami Trent	
Mayor Sue Long	

II. ORAL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There being no public comments, Mayor Long closed the public comment section.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Direction for future of Fortuna Business Improvement District (FBID)

STAFF REPORT:

City Manager Merritt Perry presented options for Council to consider regarding the future of FBID.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeffrey Durham, Owner of Redwood Riverwalk e-mailed a public comment to the Deputy City Clerk, City Manager, and City Council. Mr. Durham explained he has been a member of the Chamber, paid into the FBID assessment, and participated with the Tourism Committee and believes the entities should remain separate.

Marilyn Strehl, Owner of Strehl's Family Shoes & Repair spoke in support of keeping FBID. Ms. Strehl also expressed concern about how much time it takes to obtain insurance for each event, she explained, in the past FBID would help obtain the insurance.

Monica Martinez, Owner of Fresh on Main Street explained she thinks the City should take control of FBID. She supports the option of hiring a part-time person to take on the tasks of FBID. Ms. Martinez explained that she believes the businesses would be more accountable and the City should keep the money and get rid of the assessment.

Kathy Comerer, Owner of Fortuna Fabrics & Crafts explained that she is closing her store in a couple of months to be an at home business. She believes that there needs to be oversight with whatever decision is made by Council. Ms. Comerer explained she is ok with the assessment and spoke in support of the Downtown Merchants.

Amber Woodward, Owner of AP Property Management spoke in support of keeping FBID.

Emma Coleman, Owner of Gold Leaf Media spoke in support of having the Fortuna Chamber be the support for FBID.

Jenn Brown, Member of the Fortuna Chamber spoke in support of having the Fortuna Chamber take over the FBID as outlined in the proposal dated July 5, 2022. She also spoke in support of keeping the assessment.

Walt Wilson, resident of the City of Fortuna asked if the events could go under the City's insurance.

Renee Lindsay, President and CEO of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce answered questions from City Council and clarified that the Downtown Merchants wouldn't be a part of the list of FBID items being taken on by Chambers.

Marilyn Strehl, Owner of Strehl's Family Shoes & Repair confirmed that the Downtown Merchants were their own entity.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Long Closed the public comment section

CITY COUNCIL ACTION: City Council provided direction to staff to go with the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce's summary dated July 5, 2022 and to work out the details on what the City's responsibilities will be.

IV. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Trent moved, seconded by Council Member Stanfield to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Submitted by,
Buffy Gray, Deputy City Clerk