

City of Blue Lake Public Safety Commission Meeting

March 3, 2024

Commissioners Present: Crews, Nava, Warvi, Dickinson (arrives late)

Council Liaison: Edgar

City Staff: City Manager Mager

1. Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

Motion: Nava

Second: Warvi

Vote: Crews, Nava, Warvi

Absent: Dickinson

Motion Passed

2. Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Recommends recording the meetings; received letter from Mitchell Law Firm regarding potential threats to staff; comments that he did not threaten staff or threaten to burn down City Hall.

Lin Glen: Attending as a CERT representative; available to answer questions from the commission; appreciates the after-action report on the flood; still questions accessibility of sand and sandbags.

Erin McClure: Supports Kent's statement that he did not threaten to blow up City Hall.

Kim Warvi: Comments that the school now has crossing guards.

3. Approval of the meeting minutes from February 12, 2024

Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes: Crews

Second: Warvi

Vote: (Ayes) Crews, Warvi, Nava

Absent: Dickinson

Motion Passed

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Comments that he did ask if the meeting was being recorded; states that he's not a member of the Sinaloa Cartel; considers that the Mexican people are his people and that he'll be going to Mexico. States that if you're doing business in Mexico, the first thing that you do is work with the cartel and law enforcement.

Erin McClure: Comments on Kent Sawatzky's comments.

4. PSC Annual safety meeting discussion: Commissioners discuss various ideas for the annual meeting. Commissioner Dickinson arrives at 7:16PM

Lin Glen/CERT: Comments that timing is important - Annie & Mary Day was successful in past - City wide garage sale may not be due to spread out nature of the event.

Commissioner Crews: recommends bringing the item back at their regular meeting in April.

Commissioner Dickinson: Likes the idea of having the meeting at Annie and Mary Day.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Comments on CERT working at Annie & Mary Day; comments that information is important and need a way to get information to the community.

Lin Glen: Reports that the school did a preparedness event that was well attended.

5. Humboldt County Sheriff Call Data Review

The Commission discusses the data and whether the data can be received in a format that can be analyzed, and how the commission would like to see the data presented for analysis purposes.

City Manager: Comments that the data does not show any special concerns or trends.

Commissioner Dickinson will rework the latest call data version and distribute.

Humboldt County Sheriff Contract: City Manager explains that the City is waiting on a revised draft for review.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Comment's on the City Manager's packet having highlighted call data; comments on Measure Z funding being a big part of the contract negotiations.

6. HCAOG TDA Project Grant

City Manager Mager provides an overview of the funding and proposes ideas for the Commission's consideration. Ideas include ADA parking, mini-roundabouts, street lighting and art-based traffic calming. The grant is due at the end of April.

The Commission discusses options and recommends ADA parking, art cross walks and a mini-roundabout near the post office. Street lighting considered as a back up project.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: States he's in favor of function rather than form; comments on safe routes to school and does not support roundabouts; he will be talking to HCAOG about the City of Blue Lake's projects.

7. Red Cross update - no update.

Commissioner Dickinson: Will contact Red Cross to see if they have any updates that can be shared at future meetings.

8. Agency Check-In:

Humboldt County Sheriff: The City Manager states that she received a report from Lieutenant McCall; states that he did not have anything additional to report and after review of the call data, he did not have any specific concerns.

Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department: Commissioner Crews provides a call data report for the month of February:

- 24 medical calls
- 5 traffic
- 9 fires
- 4 medical rescues

Blue Lake Rancheria: No representative. City Manager states that Andrew Bogar (previous Red Cross liaison) is now the Emergency Services Coordinator for the Rancheria; the City reached out to the Rancheria to invite them to participate in the monthly meeting; staff is waiting on a response.

Public Comment:

Lin Glen: She is happy that the City is reaching out to the Rancheria

Kent Sawatzky: Would support parcel tax increase for Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Erin McClure: Asks if the Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department is audited.

9. City Council Liaison & Staff Report:

Liaison Edgar: Reports that the Council received a flood event report, including preparedness actions and sandbag availability.

City Manager Mager: Provides an overview of the Powers Creek Restoration Project, and the Greenwood Lateral Replacement Project. The City Manager will look into the off-ramp closures for the Caltrans work taking place on the 299.

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky: Comments on sandbag availability and functionality of Powers Creek.

10. Future agenda items:

- Annual Meeting
- Rancheria Representation
- Red Cross Update
- Powers Creek information regarding vegetation

Public Comment:

Kent Sawatzky - Questions landowners needing permitting for creek mitigation

11. Motion to Adjourn at 8:18PM: Nava

Second: Warvi.

Vote: Consensus

