

**MINUTES
PARADISE TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING – 5:30 P.M. – July 22, 2010**

The Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Paradise was called to order by Mayor Lotter at 5:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve “Woody” Culleton, Frankie Rutledge, Alan White, and Scott Lotter, Mayor.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe DiDuca

STAFF PRESENT: Town Clerk Gutierrez, Town Manager Rough, Finance Director Will, Acting Police Chief Buzzard, Acting Fire Chief Jensen and Dennis Ivey.

2. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Town Manager Rough stated that the action before the Council tonight is to discuss and consider taking necessary action(s) to withdraw the November 2, 2010 ballot measure requesting voter approval of Ordinance No. 500 adopting a special police/fire tax.

Town Manager Rough stated that this proposed action does not in any way change or diminish the fact that this Town needs additional police and fires protection services, and that he wished to underscore that this Town does a lot with its small staff. The economic climate has not improved and in many ways has gotten worse as represented by a huge number of foreclosures and short sales, with unemployment a serious problem. He stated that although the \$110 proposed parcel tax many not seem like a lot, to many citizens it makes a big difference. Therefore, based on discussions and feedback from citizens, he is asking that the Town Council consider not going forward with the parcel tax and withdrawing the measure from the ballot. Manager Rough further stated that irrespective of tonight’s action, the Town is committed to public education about the lack of police and fire protection services in the community.

Council Member Culleton stated that he has been a strong proponent about telling the truth about the Town’s situation, that he has received the same feedback from citizens as the Town Manager discussed, and that although citizens understand the need for additional public safety services, they probably will not support the measure. He agrees with a comment made by Council Member

White that the measure would have been more effective if it had come from the citizens and that perhaps it can be addressed at another time.

Council Member Rutledge stated that she is a strong proponent of letting the people vote and that when Council decided to put the matter on the ballot, it was with the hope that things would get better. However, the economy has gotten worse since May, and she does not want citizens on fixed incomes or who are unemployed to feel threatened. She further stated that it important to let the people know that the Town is struggling to provide minimum public safety services.

Council Member White stated that Council Member Culleton's comments expressed his concerns, and that he believes this matter would have been more effective had it been initiated by the citizens.

Mayor Lotter stated that he is disappointed but sees that the reality of the lack of support for the ballot measure, as there are no people coming forward to write arguments for or against the measure, including proponents who have since changed their opinion. Mayor Lotter stated that he agrees the matter would have had a better chance if it had been brought forward as a citizen initiative and that it is better, at this time, to save the Town the cost of putting the measure on the ballot.

Council Member Culleton stated for the record that as elected officials they do listen to the people and practice common sense.

Agenda Item 2(a-1): MOTION by Culleton, seconded by Rutledge, adopted Resolution No. 10-23, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Paradise Amending Resolution No. 10-10, and Calling for the Holding of a General Municipal Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, for the Election of Certain Officers as Required by the Provisions of the Laws of the State of California Relating to General Law Cities for the Election of Two (2) Town Council Members. Roll call vote was unanimous with DiDuca absent and not voting.

TC (RES) [ADOPT] Res No 10-23, Amending Res No 10-10 (removes ballot measure) and calling for election of two Council Members. (530-10-43)

Agenda Item 2(a-2): MOTION by Culleton, seconded by Rutledge, adopted Resolution No. 10-24, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Paradise Amending Resolution No. 10-11 and Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Butte to Consolidate a General Municipal Election to be held on November 2, 2010 With the Statewide General Election to be held on that Date for the Election of Two (2) Town Council Members. Roll call vote was unanimous with DiDuca absent and not voting.

TC (RES) [ADOPT] Res No 10-24, Amending Res No 10-11 (removes ballot measure) and requesting consolidation of election. (530-10-43)

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Town Council Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED: August 10, 2010


SCOTT LOTTER, Mayor


JOANNA GUTIERREZ, CMC, Town Clerk