

Fortuna City Council Special Meeting
March 28, 2006 6:00 PM
City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Odell Shelton
Councilwoman Debi August
Councilman Mel Berti
Councilman Dean Glaser
Councilman Doug Strehl

STAFF

City Manager
City Attorney
Deputy City Clerk

STUDY SESSION BUSINESS

EXPLORE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR WATER & SEWER RATE PROPOSAL

Mayor Shelton said this is not a protest hearing, this is a workshop for the City Council and they will be exploring options.

Mayor Shelton then read a prepared statement regarding an approach and options for the rate increases.

Councilman Mel Berti spoke in defense of the City Manager and City Staff and said there are people in this audience that owe our staff an apology.

Councilwoman August questioned if Council can take a vote to stop the 45-day time clock for the Public Hearing notice.

City Attorney Dave Tranberg assured Council they have the power to stop the process and if they adopt a motion it goes back to square one.

Councilwoman August moved, seconded by Councilman Strehl to stop the 45-day period for the Public Hearing. Councilman Strehl said that he was assured the notice we were sending out about the rates was not the bottom line.

Councilman Berti questioned if this action will jeopardize our ability to pay the bills and City Manager Rigge responded that we could complete construction on the wastewater treatment plant. He said there has been a lot of turmoil and misunderstanding and if Council stops the notice, staff can come forward with another option on April 17th.

City Manager Rigge said Council has two options, stop the process tonight or continue the protest period and ask staff to work on other options.

The motion was carried 5-0 in favor of stopping the 45-day Public Hearing process.

Mayor Shelton said he would like to form an ad hoc committee to work with the numbers.

Councilman Mel Berti said there will be a new City Council coming up in a couple of weeks and he suggested the decisions should be made by the people sitting here after the election on April 17th.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting to public comments and Sandra Morgan, Rene Imperial, Robert Upton and Margaret Nelson spoke in favor of Council's action.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.