



## MINUTES

**Subcommittee:** Cloverdale Fire Protection District/City of Cloverdale  
**Meeting Date:** Monday, June 8, 2020  
**Meeting Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Meeting Location:** Teleconference

### **Subcommittee Members – City Staff – CFD Board Members:**

Councilmember Mary Ann Brigham, Chair	Fire District Board Member Nancy Avansino
Vice Mayor Jason Turner, Vice Chair	Fire District Board Member Carol Giovanatto
Police Chief Jason Ferguson	Fire Chief Jason Jenkins
City Manager David Kelley	

1. **Call to Order** Vice Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. He explained the COVID19 protocol for meetings and explained the procedure for participating and submitting comments. Present: Fire District Board Member Carol Giovanotti, Fire Chief Jason Jenkins, Police Chief Jason Ferguson, Chair Turner, David Kelley. Councilmember Cruz sat in for Councilmember Brigham. Introductions were made. Fire District Board Member Nancy Avansino joined later in the meeting.
2. **Communications:**
  - a. Letters of Support for Permanent Bridge on Russian River at Asti City Manager Kelley noted that City Council unanimously approved to send this letter to Supervisor Gore. The goal is to find a permanent solution to access in the area to provide effective ingress and egress for residents in case of fire or emergencies.
3. **Public Comment:** Leland Yates, local resident, grazes sheep and goats at Sea Ranch to provide vegetation management and recommended the same practice for the Cloverdale area. Grazing reduces fuel, is environmentally safe, and is an effective tool to manage grasslands. It links communities and is good for the landscape. Fire Chief Jenkins stated it could be a good practice for grassland areas that border residential areas. Mr. Yates offered to extend his services to the Cloverdale area.  
Public comment: None.  
Recommendation: Assistant City Manager/CDD Thompson will meet with Parks & Maintenance Lead Galvan and bring something back for discussion. Cost analysis will also need to be done.
4. **Minutes Approved:** August 18, 2018
5. **Current Items for Discussion**
  - a. Update on Vegetation Management Activities in the City and District City Manager Kelley reviewed the vegetation management maintained by the City (cemetery, river park, airport area, Porterfield Creek open space) and is working to develop of a fire management plan for the City and surrounding areas that will include collaboration with the Fire District and the County. Best management practices could include goats and sheep to manage vegetation as a valuable way to manage weeds. The plan needs to include environmental consideration and good fire management practice and regional planning. Fire Chief Jenkins stated it is a good idea, and updated the subcommittee about weed abatement inspections, letters sent for non-compliance, and upcoming inspections. Compliance has been good. The Fire District also inspects parcels outside the City limits and will continue to partner with CalFire to target high fire areas further out.

Public comment: Bob Cox, Cloverdale resident, mentioned that the convict crew did not provide vegetation management across from Ranch House Road this year, and would like the weeds cut. He supported Mr. Yate's proposal.

Leland Yates indicated he would need property identified and acreage quantified to establish the grazable area and built a plan. Ingress and egress also need to be mapped out for trailer access. They utilize transportable electric fencing, and all is removed when grazing is complete. Councilmember Cruz indicated that an estimate of cost per acre would be needed.

Recommendation: No action taken update only.

- b. Update on preparation for the upcoming Fire Season City Manager Kelley noted that this year, lacking the convict crew, less vegetation management was done. Fire Chief Jenkins indicated that the Fire District is staffed and ready for a normal fire season and have been doing inspections and public outreach. Wind is the primary dominant factor in fire spread. There are no further vegetation burns scheduled for this year.

Public Comment: None

Recommendation: Remain as a standing item on the agenda.

- c. Planning for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities and Fireworks City Manager Kelley stated that TNT Fireworks had submitted a management plan for fireworks use and distribution that includes education about safe use and COVID19 protocol. Police Chief Ferguson stated the Police Department will use NIXLE 360 to provide community updates to the community and the departmental priority is public safety. Designated times and places for sale and discharge of fireworks will be placed in NIXLE, as well as park rules. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> is on a weekend this year, people may come in from other areas. The department will be fully staffed. Chief Jenkins indicated that the Fire District plans to have extra fire patrol and the launch area at the baseball field will be cordoned off. Plans are subject to change by the County. Vice Chair Turner was pleased at the collaborative effort and the effort to ensure safe practices, which could be a benchmark in the future decision whether to continue or stop safe and sane fireworks. Councilmember Cruz asked to keep Council informed as plans develop.

Public comment: None

Recommendation: A meeting will take place with the City Manager and stakeholders to get the message out to the community.

- d. Debrief on March 2020 Fire Tax Ballot Measure City Manager Kelley, referring to the measure that failed to pass, noted that there is critical need for additional revenue for citywide functions. Discussion ensued that the measure did not provide governance structure to support tax measure of that magnitude. Other ways need to be found to increase revenue for the District. The City may bring back the utility user tax, however, the voters are the ultimate decision makers. Fire Chief Jenkins added that the ballot measure had challenges and hurdles and did not allow Cloverdale to have a voice in how the funds were used. The money could be used outside the community. Local control is needed for effective local fire protection, and our elected officials need to decide what is best. There are plans in place for the District to partner with Geyserville in a Joint Protection Agreement, and a Sphere of Influence study is taking place to annex the Geysers Area. Currently all that revenue goes to the south. If successful, the ½ cent sales tax increase will not be needed. The Northern Sonoma Fire District will have name branding and imaging and the focus will be on how to

best serve the north county. If the JPA fails, Cloverdale could consider increasing assessments, which are the lowest in the County.

Public comment: None

Recommendation: Keep collaborating, possibly put something on ballot, avoid tax fatigue. Encourage partnership. Keep collaborative communication regarding tax measures as a standing item on the agenda.

- e. Discuss Future Meeting Schedule Discussion ensued that quarterly meetings would continue to be scheduled.
6. **Information Only Memos** - None.
7. **Future Agenda Items (subject to change):** Councilmember Cruz would like to establish children youth activities that involved the fire district.
8. **Pending Items** - None.
9. **Good of the Order** - None.
10. **Adjournment:** Chair Turner adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m. to Monday, October 12, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., or alternate date as requested.