

**CAPITOLA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019 - 6 PM**

1. ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Sam Storey: Present, Council Member Ed Bottorff: Present, Vice Mayor Kristen Petersen: Present, Council Member Yvette Brooks: Present, Mayor Jacques Bertrand: Present.

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A. Item 6.A – 15 public comment emails

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

5. CITY COUNCIL / CITY TREASURER / STAFF COMMENTS - None

6. GENERAL GOVERNMENT / PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Consider a Homeless Shelter Crisis Declaration

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Council discretion to consider a resolution declaring a Homeless Shelter Crisis within Capitola.

City Manager Jamie Goldstein presented the staff report, including a review of how the \$9.6 million already allocated to Santa Cruz County for homeless support projects is divided by uses. He noted the County moved its deadline up for declaring a crisis and becoming eligible for certain categories of grant money.

The following people spoke during public comment:

- Mark Kane, resident, asked Council not to make the declaration.
- Chris Irving, resident and business owner, opposed the declaration and doubts the city homeless count meets the significant level.
- Paul Robinson, 38th Avenue homeowner, opposed the declaration.
- John Griffith, resident, opposes the declaration for quality of life concerns.
- Stephen Cramer opposed the declaration and believes donations by the City made to the greater area are sufficient.
- Jeff Watts, resident, expressed concerns about the impact the homeless have already caused on the rail corridor area.
- Neil Goldstein, resident homeowner and former homeless veteran, said he made his transition by working, not handouts.
- Todd Butka, business owner, heard rumors that a location has been identified and asked for an explanation of that process.
- Daniel Fries, resident, opposes the declaration and said the process seemed to be rushed.
- Bruce Dunn, resident, said he hopes the larger countywide effort will distinguish

between the three types of homeless and take different approaches: families, addicts and mentally ill, and homeless by choice.

- Nels Westman, resident, also questioned if the City meets the crisis standard and the speed of the process. He supports contributions to other agencies.
- Laurel LeBaron, county homeowner and homeless volunteer, shared recent experience in New York City and said it seems to have successful outreach.
- TJ Welch, resident, praised Mr. Goldstein's hand-up-not-handout approach. He feels this is a divisive topic. Police have studied calls related to homelessness and he is concerned that services may result in more, especially with an impact from adding cannabis sales.
- Marie Martorella asked who would be served if housing is planned.

Mayor Bertrand explained he called a special meeting because this issue is important to the community.

Council Member Storey clarified that the City has no plans to build a shelter and this is a question of funding eligibility. He agrees with commenters that there has not been adequate due process. He said Capitola is surrounded by a homeless crisis and he supports continuing cooperation. He noted a recent court decision that sleeping ordinances cannot be enforced when there is no alternative available. He would welcome further discussion following the point-of-time homeless count later this month.

Council Member Petersen agreed this is an emotionally charged issue. She prefers to meet the homeless where they are to provide support and made a motion not to declare a crisis, but to direct staff to address the issue regionally. She noted the City can continue to work through its seats on the Housing Action Partnership and Community Action Board as well as other regional programs.

Council Member Bottorff apologized for bringing the community out for a last-minute discussion. He acknowledged there is a homeless crisis in the county, but noted that Measure H failed. He thinks the City and region can learn from that process to build community support.

Council Member Brooks agrees that this issue needs to stay on the Council's radar and noted she had been approached with the possibility of a youth day shelter, which she felt is compelling. She asked the community to stay involved as well.

Mayor Bertrand does not support declaring an emergency, but supports discussion of difficult issues. He praised Capitola's support of regional programs.

MOTION:	DO NOT DECLARE A SHELTER CRISIS BUT INSTEAD DIRECT STAFF TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE HOMELESS PROBLEM REGIONALLY
RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kristen Petersen, Council Member
SECONDER:	Ed Bottorff, Council Member
AYES:	Bertrand, Bottorff, Brooks, Petersen, Storey

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.



Jacques Bertrand, Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Fridy, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED FEBRUARY 14, 2019