



## Town Council of Mammoth Lakes

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

December 18, 2024, 4:00 p.m.  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes

Members Present: Mayor Chris Bubser, Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Rice,  
Councilmember Bill Sauser, Councilmember Brent Truax,  
Councilmember John Wentworth

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#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes.

#### 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Betsy Truax led the flag salute.

#### 3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments given at this time.

#### 4. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

#### 5. **COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS**

##### 5.1 **Recognition of retiring Senior Accounting Assistant Renee Hallum.**

Accounting Manager Stephanie Trujillo and Town Manager Rob Patterson thanked Ms. Hallum for her years of service.

**6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONS AND/OR DEPARTMENTS (AS NEEDED)**

Parks and Recreation Director Stuart Brown gave an update regarding current parks and recreation activities.

Community and Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff announced that he had received notice that Phase 1 of The Parcel was fully occupied now.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism Board Chair Pat Foster said that the Board would now have representatives attending the Town Council meetings on a more regular basis to provide updates. Mr. Foster spoke about the recent Police Chief's Advisory Committee meeting.

Police Chief Dan Casabian provided additional information about the Committee meeting.

Mammoth Lakes Recreation Executive Director Kim Anaclerio provided an update on the Measure U Allocations Program.

Public Works Director Haislip Hayes provided an update on the Town's snow removal program.

Town Manager Rob Patterson read a letter that he had received from a member of the public complimenting the high level of service received from Hot Creek Aviation. Mr. Patterson announced that this quarter's employee Spirit of Mammoth Award was awarded to Assistant Clerk Angie Plaisted.

There was discussion among the Councilmembers, Mr. Foster, Ms. Anaclerio, and staff.

**6.1 December 2024 Office of Outdoor Recreation Update.**

**7. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

**7.1 Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) Annual Recap presented by MLT Executive Director John Urdi.**

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) President and CEO John Urdi outlined the information in the MLT Annual Presentation, MLT Deliverables Recap, and MLT Fiscal Year 2023/24 Annual Wrap Report.

MLT Vice President of Community Engagement Betsy Truax spoke about the monthly Free Community Skate Nights and discussed the partnership with the Town for the tree lighting event.

There was discussion between members of the Council and MLT staff.

**7.2 Broadband Update presented by Scott Armstrong, Regional Broadband Coordinator.**

Regional Broadband Coordinator Scott Armstrong outlined the information in the 2024 Winter Mammoth Broadband Update.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brianna Goico, Executive Director of the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, said that many local businesses had discussed internet service issues in Mammoth with Chamber representatives.

There was discussion among members of Council, Mr. Armstrong, and staff.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

Town Manager Rob Paterson requested that Agenda Item 8.4 be removed from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion.

Councilmember Truax announced that he needed to recuse himself from Agenda Item 8.5 due to a conflict of interest.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Rice  
Seconded by Councilmember Bill Sauser

Approve the Consent Agenda, with Councilmember Truax recused on Agenda Item 8.5.

For (5): Mayor Chris Bubser, Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Rice, Councilmember Bill Sauser, Councilmember Brent Truax, and Councilmember John Wentworth

Carried (5 to 0)

**8.1 Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 4, 2024.**

**8.2 Accept and File the SB 165 Tax Accountability Report for CFD 2001-1 (North Village), CFD 2004-1 (Fractional), CFD 2005-1 (In Lieu), CFD 2013-3 (Transit Services), and CFD 2023-1 (Maintenance Services).**

**8.3 Accept the Project Closeout Report for 2024 Road & MUP Rehabilitation Project.**

**8.4 Adopt a resolution authorizing the vacation of an existing slope easement along Canyon Boulevard.**

This item was removed from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Town Manager Rob Patterson and Public Works Director Haislip Hayes outlined the information in the staff report. There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

Moved by Councilmember John Wentworth  
Seconded by Councilmember Brent Truax

Adopt the resolution vacating an existing slope easement granted to the Town and recorded as Document No. 2003007395, in the Office of the County Recorder, County of Mono, State of California.

For (5): Mayor Chris Bubser, Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Rice, Councilmember Bill Sauser, Councilmember Brent Truax, and Councilmember John Wentworth

Carried (5 to 0)

**8.5 Adopt the resolution declaring the Council's intention to annex territory into the Community Facilities District No. 2023-1 (Maintenance Services), levying a special tax in connection therewith, and setting the time and place for the public hearing on February 5, 2025.**

**8.6 Accept Check Register 12/5/24 in the amount of \$4,182,998.32. Accept Check Register 12/10/24 in the amount of \$197,571.53.**

**9. POLICY MATTERS**

**9.1 Approve the plan for collection of additional Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) from Measure L.**

Town Manager Rob Patterson outlined the information in the staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Morris, Lodging Association Chair, thanked the Town Manager for attending the Association meeting to discuss this issue. He said that he appreciated the Town's amnesty and understanding with pre-existing reservations.

There was discussion among members of Council, Mr. Morris, and staff.

Moved by Councilmember Bill Sauser  
Seconded by Councilmember John Wentworth

Approve the plan for implementation of the 2% rate increase for Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), starting with all transactions booked on or after 1/1/2025 and requiring staff to provide a tax return to facilitate collection of both tax rates for up to six months.

For (5): Mayor Chris Bubser, Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Rice, Councilmember Bill Sauser, Councilmember Brent Truax, and Councilmember John Wentworth

Carried (5 to 0)

**9.2 Strategic Planning Series - Presentation of major policies, projects, planning efforts, and workplan items for 2025.**

Town Manager Rob Patterson and Assistant to the Town Manager Pam Kobylarz outlined the information in the staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Janet Hatfield, Whitebark Institute Forest Health Program Manager, spoke about the continued wildfire crisis and said that it should be included in the planning.

Ales Tomaier, Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District Fire Chief, spoke about the potential upcoming challenges with Federal partners and the need to work together.

There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

**10. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Councilmember Sauser attended the Local Transportation Commission meeting, the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Board meeting, the dedication of the McCoy highway section, and the grand opening of the Eastern Sierra Small Business Resource Center.

Councilmember Truax attended the Local Transportation Commission meeting, the Tree Lighting Ceremony, and the Night of Lights.

Mayor Bubser attended the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meeting and the grand opening of the Eastern Sierra Small Business Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Rice attended the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Councilmember Wentworth attended the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meeting.

There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

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Jamie Gray, Town Clerk