



## **Town Council of Mammoth Lakes**

### **Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**August 20, 2025, 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 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes.

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

Councilmember Truax led the flag salute.

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

Brianna Goico, President & CEO of the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, gave an update regarding current Chamber activities.

Kim Anaclerio, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR), introduced her two new MLR board members, Darlene Pascua and Heidi Kuznitz.

**4. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions to the agenda.

**5. TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Recognize retirement of Building Inspector/Plans Examiner Ron Haskins.**

Community and Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff thanked Mr. Haskins for his years of service.

**6. INTRODUCTIONS**

**6.1 Introduce new Police Officer James Clark.**

Police Chief Dan Casabian introduced new Police Officers Clark, Leach, and Madera to the Council and the community.

**6.2 Introduce new Police Officer Emily Leach.**

**6.3 Introduce new Police Officer Rodolfo Madera.**

**7. WORKSHOP**

**7.1 Joint workshop with the Board of Mammoth Lakes Tourism to discuss the Economic Impact Study, Summer Stewardship, and Winter Air Service.**

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) Board Members Cristi Quesada-Costa, Marybeth Ericson, Kirk Wallace, John Wentworth, and Chairman Pat Foster were in attendance.

Betsy Truax, MLT Vice President of Community Engagement, outlined information in the Economic Impact Study. There was discussion among members of Council, staff, and MLT staff.

Sarah Winter, MLT Vice President of Marketing, outlined information in the Summer Stewardship campaign. There was discussion among members of Council, staff, and MLT staff.

John Urdi, President & CEO of MLT, gave an update regarding air service. There was discussion among members of Council, staff, and MLT staff.

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

There were no reports given at this time.

## **9. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

### **9.1 California Department of Fish and Wildlife Summer Update.**

Town Manager Rob Patterson introduced Michael Brown, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Scientist and Bear Researcher. Mr. Brown gave a presentation regarding black bears in the Eastern Sierra.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Eastman asked about the disappearance of the bears in Old Mammoth. He suggested that the Town Council form a working group to recommend actions to the Town Council regarding bear and wildlife management tactics.

Erin O'Malley said that tourism impacted wildlife. She asked questions regarding the use of traps and bait this season, the release of bears to local tribes, dumpster fines, and issuing fines at campgrounds.

Sumner Sole spoke about communication issues.

Dawn Vereuck asked about what prompted Fish and Wildlife to set bait and traps on private property. She read a portion of the General Plan and said that fines and penalties needed to be increased to deter human behavior.

Jennifer Valent asked about the relocation of bears and the monitoring of campgrounds in the evening. She said that the Town needed a wildlife officer.

Connie Moyer said that bear and wildlife issues should be addressed locally and not with Fish and Wildlife. She suggested that the Town hire Steve Searles.

Julie Rolfe said that Steve Searles was offered a contract by the Town for 6 months of work per year instead of 12 and he did not take it. She said that we needed better education when backpackers got their permits, from camp hosts at campgrounds, from hotel employees telling people to take food out of cars, and from condos managers managing their dumpsters.

Code Compliance Officer Richard Bellis, Mr. Brown, Russell Black, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Program Manager – Wildlife, Hatcheries & Fisheries, Town Manager Rob Patterson, and Office of Outdoor Recreation Manager Lawson Reif responded to questions from

members of the public during public comment. There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:30 p.m. and the Council reconvened at 7:46 p.m.

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Bill Sauser

Seconded by Councilmember John Wentworth

Approve the Consent Agenda.

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

Carried (5 to 0)

**10.1 Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 6, 2025.**

**10.2 Cancel the October 1, 2025 Town Council meeting, and direct the Town Clerk to notice such cancellation.**

**10.3 Accept the 2024 Community Indicators Report.**

This item was continued to a future meeting.

**10.4 Approve the resolution authorizing the temporary closure of Town roads for special events.**

**10.5 Approve findings to continue the authorized emergency replacement of the Whitmore Pool roof as provided for in Resolution No. 25-47.**

**10.6 Approve findings to continue the authorized emergency installation of an aboveground waste oil tank as provided for in Resolution No. 25-48.**

**10.7 Accept Check Register 7/31/25 in the amount of \$1,644,127.31. Accept Check Register 8/6/25 in the amount of \$9,251.00. Accept Check Register 8/7/25 in the amount of \$780,279.33.**

**11. POLICY MATTERS**

**11.1 Approve the letter of public comment from the Town Council regarding the proposed Reorganization of the United States Forest Service.**

Town Manager Rob Patterson and Office of Outdoor Recreation Manager Lawson Reif outlined the information in the staff report. There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sandy Hogan thanked the Council for sending the letter and said she would be sending one as well.

Moved by Councilmember John Wentworth

Seconded by Councilmember Bill Sauser

The Town Council provided edits and feedback to be used to provide Council approved 'public comment' on the proposed reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, with a focus on the US Forest Service.

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

Carried (5 to 0)

**11.2 Consider the second amendment to the professional services agreement with DTA for the preparation of a Development Impact Fee and Housing Fee Nexus Study.**

Community and Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff outlined the information in the staff report. There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

Moved by Councilmember Bill Sauser

Seconded by Councilmember John Wentworth

Approve the resolution authorizing the second amendment to the professional services agreement with DTA to increase the agreement amount by \$25,000 to \$195,000, extend the term to June 30, 2026, and to make minor revisions to the scope of work.

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

Carried (5 to 0)

**11.3 Ordinance to Renew the Town's Military Equipment Use Policy.**

Town Attorney Andrew Morris outlined the information in the staff report.

Moved by Councilmember John Wentworth

Seconded by Councilmember Brent Truax

Waive the reading and introduce by title only the ordinance renewing the Town's Military Equipment Use Policy pursuant to Government Code Section 7071 (AB 481).

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

Carried (5 to 0)

**11.4 Rescission of the approval of UPA 23-002 for the construction of an 80-foot tall "stealth monopine" cell tower located at 1574 Old Mammoth Road.**

Community and Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff outlined the information in the staff report. There was discussion among members of Council and staff.

Moved by Councilmember John Wentworth

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Rice

Adopt a resolution rescinding the approval of Use Permit (UPA) 23-002 and vacating the CEQA Notice of Exemption for the construction of an 80-foot tall "stealth monopine" cell tower located at 1574 Old Mammoth Road.

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

Carried (5 to 0)

**12. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Councilmember Sauser attended the Town County Liaison Committee meeting, the Local Transportation Commission meeting, and the Town employee appreciation barbeque at Whitmore Pool.

Mayor Pro Tem Rice announced that school started today.

Councilmember Wentworth announced the upcoming Sierra Institutes Shindig and upcoming meetings regarding Sierra Jobs.

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

**13.1 Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6.(a), Conference with Labor Negotiators, the Town Council will meet with its representatives, Town Manager Rob Patterson, Community and Economic Development Director Nolan Bobroff, Human Resources Manager Amanda Pelham, and Jack Hughes, Partner with Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, with respect to the following Employee Organizations: Mammoth Lakes Police Officers Association.**

This item was continued to a future meeting.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN AFTER CLOSED SESSION**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Council adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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Jamie Gray, Town Clerk