



Agenda Item No. 10g.

Staff Report

Date: August 11, 2022

To: Mayor Kuhl and Councilmembers

From: Christa Johnson, Town Manager

Subject: Consideration of Resolution No. 2264 Declaring June 19th (Juneteenth) a Holiday in the Town of Ross.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Town Council consider adopting Resolution No. 2264 declaring June 19th (Juneteenth) a Town holiday.

Background and Discussion

The attached resolution, if adopted by the Town Council, would make June 19th a holiday every year in the Town. The resolution describes the origin and significance of Juneteenth, as well as its importance to the community. President Biden signed a bill on June 17, 2021 to create Juneteenth Independence Day commemorating the end of slavery recognizing June 19th as a federal holiday. The majority of cities in Marin County have already declared Juneteenth as a holiday and most of the remaining cities and the County of Marin are planning to consider the action in the coming months.

Fiscal Impacts

Holidays officially adopted by the Town are days when most Town employees take the day off of work with pay. Although there are opportunity costs associated with the Town's employees not working an additional day, the hard cost to the Town would be the required payment of holiday pay to the members of the Ross Police Officers Association that are eligible to receive holiday pay because they work on holidays. The direct annual cost for the payment of additional holiday pay would be approximately \$3,700 assuming all of the police officer positions are filled. No additional appropriation is requested for FYE23 due to projected salary savings in the Police Department. Beginning in FYE24, the budget would be increased to reflect the additional holiday pay for police officers.

Attachments

- Resolution No. 2264

TOWN OF ROSS

RESOLUTION NO. 2264

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROSS DECLARING JUNE 19TH (JUNETEENTH) A HOLIDAY IN THE TOWN OF ROSS

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, or Juneteenth Independence Day, commemorates the traditional observance of the end of slavery in the United States and is observed annually on June 19; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that “all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free;” and

WHEREAS, more than two years would pass before the news reached African Americans living in Texas, when on June 19, 1865, Union Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston and spread the word that slavery had been abolished; and

WHEREAS, the following year, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas and have continued across the United States throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery and is celebrated annually as a historical and memorable tribute to our country’s African American Heritage; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is an important opportunity to honor the principles of the Declaration of Independence and celebrate the achievements and contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, across the United States; and

WHEREAS, President Biden signed a bill on June 17, 2021 to create Juneteenth Independence Day commemorating the end of slavery recognizing June 19th as a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ross is proud to honor Juneteenth in an effort to promote and enhance the unity and spiritual strength that brought African Americans out of slavery and sustained their dignity and prosperity to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ross Town Council adopted Resolution No. 2205 on June 10, 2021 revising the Ross Personnel Manual which includes Section 7.4 that lists the days

recognized by the Town as official Town holidays and, with the exception of Public Safety employees, Town offices shall be closed and eligible non-emergency employees shall be given the day off with pay; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Resolution will also amend the aforementioned list of official Town holidays listed in Section 7.4 of the Town of Ross Personnel Manual.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Ross that June 19th, also known as Juneteenth, is hereby declared a holiday in the Town of Ross.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Ross Town Council at its regular meeting held on the 11th day of August 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

P. Beach Kuhl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Lopez, Town Clerk