



## CITY NOTES

May 28, 2015

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**CITY OF FORT BRAGG'S PROPOSED FY 2015/16 BUDGET>>** The Fort Bragg City Council conducted a lengthy Budget Workshop last week to review the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/16 Budget. The final Budget will be presented for adoption at the June 22 Council meeting.

The proposed FY 2015/16 Budget may be reviewed on the Finance page of the City's website <https://city.fortbragg.com/207/Finance-Utility-Billing>, at City Hall, and at the Fort Bragg Library. The document presents proposed operating budgets for the General Fund, Water Enterprise and Wastewater Enterprise, and a Capital Projects Budget that addresses critical infrastructure repair and maintenance needs. Total FY 2015/16 appropriations are approximately \$24.9 million and total revenues are projected at approximately \$23.1 million. The FY 2015/16 Operating Budget is balanced—expenditures for ongoing operations are funded by recurring revenues. To the extent that unrestricted fund balances are expended, uses are restricted to one-time expenditures.

The City Council's conservative and prudent fiscal decisions have helped the City maintain a solid financial footing. In Fort Bragg, the Great Recession resulted in plummeting General Fund revenues towards the end of 2009. In 2010, the Council responded by restructuring and downsizing the City's workforce and renegotiating its employee contracts. For the last seven years, the Council has adopted very lean budgets. The proposed FY 2015/16 Budget is no exception.

Over the past several years, the Council has prioritized the establishment of reserves to ensure the continued financial wellbeing of the City by planning for unanticipated emergency and contingency needs. Four reserves are established in the General Fund: an Emergency Contingency Reserve, and an Economic Stabilization Reserve, an Operating Reserve, and a Litigation Reserve. In FY 2015/16, the General Fund reserves total \$2.94 million (33% of budgeted appropriations). The Water and Wastewater Funds have reserves that are established to help fund necessary capital improvements. In FY 2015/16, the Water Enterprise Reserves total \$1.13 million and the Wastewater Reserves total \$622.6k.

The FY 2015/16 Budget presents an ambitious work plan for the coming year. The work plan was developed keeping in mind the Council's goals as identified through two Goal-Setting sessions and a Mid-Year Budget workshop. In addition to the day-to-day services provided by every department in the City, the Budget identifies the following activities and projects as key FY 2015/16 priorities:

- ✓ Continue efforts by Police Department to address public safety issues by increasing downtown foot and bike patrols, supporting Coalition for Gang Awareness & Prevention, Neighborhood Watch and Coast Action Group for Homelessness, maintaining and growing partnerships with schools and social service organizations, assigning Officer to Major Crimes Task Force, completing Emergency Operations Center upgrade project.
- ✓ Resume work on rezoning the Mill Site to accommodate future development.
- ✓ Implement FY 2015/16 tasks identified in the City's Economic Development Strategy.

- ✓ Complete conceptual planning processes for: School Fields Master Plan; CV Starr Center Gymnasium; City Surrounded by a Park; Noyo Harbor Bicycle & Pedestrian Access Plan; Bainbridge Park Enhancement Project.
- ✓ Continue to plan for funding of City's long-term liabilities by updating actuarial reports for retiree health benefits, and by preparing Fleet & Equipment Replacement Plan and Facilities Maintenance & Repair Plan.
- ✓ "Spin off" the Noyo Center for Marine Science to the Noyo Center non-profit organization. The Noyo Center will serve as a catalyst for future development on the Mill Site, create jobs, attract visitors, educate our youth, and increase revenues for local businesses and the City.
- ✓ Complete construction of the south portion of the Coastal Trail in 2015, and continue to assemble funding and plan for the central segment of the Coastal Trail in 2017.
- ✓ Initiate construction of Summers Lane Reservoir project to be completed in summer 2016. This project will greatly improve the reliability of the City's water supply in the late summer months.
- ✓ Design the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project. Seek grants and other low-cost financing for construction in 2017.
- ✓ Initiate construction of a Street Repair and Resurfacing project (including repair of three alleys) to be completed in summer 2016.
- ✓ Design the Chestnut Street Multi-Use Trail. Bid project for construction in FY 2016/17.
- ✓ Replace Guest House roof and perform other repairs in preparation for repainting of the structure in FY 2016/17.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS>>** Check out the "Upcoming Agenda Items" pages on the City's website or sign up for meeting notifications using the "Notify Me" feature at <https://city.fortbragg.com>. Upcoming public meetings include:

1. **Community Meeting on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** - Tuesday, June 2 @ 5:30 PM, Town Hall - This meeting is sponsored by the Mendocino Council of Governments. They plan to install 18 EV charging stations throughout the County and are seeking input regarding locations.
2. **City Dialogue Forum** - Thursday, June 4 @ 5 PM, Town Hall - City staff from all departments will be on hand to provide updates on City projects and activities and respond to questions in an informal, roundtable setting.
3. **City Council Meeting** - Monday, June 8 @ 6 PM, Town Hall - Tentative agenda includes annual report from Mendocino Coast Humane Society, report from Public Safety Committee regarding "Social Host Ordinance"; report regarding Fire Sprinkler Ordinance.
4. **Public Safety Committee Meeting** - Wednesday, June 10 @ 3 PM, Police Department Conference Room - Tentative agenda includes update on Emergency Operations Center Upgrade project.
5. **Planning Commission Meeting** - Wednesday, June 10 @ 6 PM, Town Hall - Tentative agenda includes Customer Satisfaction Survey results, updates to Planning Commission bylaws, and General Plan Consistency Determination for Capital Improvement Program.

*City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the column, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at (707) 961-2823, ext. 118 or [L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com](mailto:L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com).*