



CITY NOTES

January 14, 2016

2016 New Year's Resolutions>> 1) Inform community about City activities via this column, City website, social media, PEG, and other channels. 2) Celebrate our successes. 3) Obtain and respond to community feedback regarding City services. 4) Prioritize excellent customer service. 5) Complete Summers Lane Reservoir project and expand City's water supply. 6) Maintain high employee morale. 7) Secure \$9M to upgrade Wastewater Treatment Plant. 8) Move mill site redevelopment process forward by continuing to engage with GP and regulatory agencies. 9) Invigorate City's economic development, promotion and marketing programs. 10) Work with community partners to tackle issues associated with homelessness and mental health.

Water Supply Workshop>> In early January, the City Council received an informative presentation regarding the City's water supply. The Council confirmed that the City's top priorities for immediate improvements to the water system are constructing and filling the Summers Lane Reservoir in summer 2016 and securing funding for installation of a new 1.5 million gallon water tank. For future water source development, the Council agreed with staff that groundwater resources should be tapped to augment the City's water supply. Test wells will be drilled on City property at the Water Plant and at the CV Starr Center. Other potential groundwater sources are also being investigated. The Council directed staff to evaluate the feasibility of using the Pudding Creek reservoir for water storage and to develop more information on technological options and costs associated with construction and operation of a desalination facility to treat brackish water. A follow-up workshop will be conducted in March.

FY 2014-15 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)>> The financial statements and audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 (FY15) have been compiled into a CAFR that was reviewed by the Finance & Administration Committee and then approved by the City Council earlier this week. The City ended FY15 in a stable financial position with revenues that slightly exceeded budget projections and expenditures that were lower than projected. For FY15, new government accounting standards require the City to report its long-term pension liabilities on its financial statements for the first time. Actuarial studies prepared by CalPERS show the City's long-term pension liability at approximately \$6.8M. Fortunately, the value of the Coastal Trail project and several loans issued in FY15 provided an offset to this liability; thus the City's Net Position increased ever so slightly. The CAFR is posted on the City's website.

New K-9 Unit Coming to FBPD>> For several months, the Fort Bragg Police Department has been doing the legwork to establish a K-9 unit. A suitable dog has been identified and, next week, Chief Lizarraga will select a K-9 Officer to assign to the program. The dog is a friendly, young German shepherd which has been trained to detect narcotics and to apprehend suspects. While the K-9 unit's primary purpose is to enhance public safety, the dog and its handler will also be available for demonstrations at our schools and other community events. Funding for the K-9 program will be provided by the Mendocino County Public Safety Foundation and the City's asset forfeiture funds.

Phone System Upgrade>> In December, a lightning strike took down the telephone system at the Fort Bragg Police Department. Since then, the City's IT staff have worked with our phone system service agents to implement a series of temporary fixes, but the system is so antiquated that it cannot be fully restored. The City had planned to replace its phone system this year—but the damaged system makes it necessary to speed up the process of selecting a new phone system vendor. The City Council has authorized staff to conduct an informal bid process, and negotiate and enter into a contract with a vendor, with the goal of getting the Police Department's telephone system fully functional within the next couple of weeks while implementing a comprehensive replacement of the phone system that will serve the City for years to come.

2016 Street & Alley Repair Project>> At the January 25th City Council meeting, the Council will identify priority streets and alleys for repair in this summer's Street & Alley Structural Repair and Resurfacing Project. The Public Works Committee discussed a preliminary list in October and directed staff to prioritize streets by pavement index and neighborhood complaints. At this time, the priority list includes North Sanderson Street, South Franklin Street, Starbucks alley, Sears alley, and a variety of other residential streets. The list exceeds available funding and will be prioritized based on need and greatest benefit to the general public. Regularly scheduled street and alley repair projects should quickly whittle down the list in upcoming years.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day>> Martin Luther King Jr. was a brilliant and inspirational civic leader. On Monday, January 18th City offices will be closed in commemoration of his birthday. A community event to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King is planned at Trinity Lutheran Church (620 E. Redwood) starting with a march at 11 AM, lunch at noon, and a program from 1-2 PM. All are welcome.

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>. The following public meetings are coming up:

- Monday, January 25th at 6 PM – **City Council Meeting** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda includes: Acceptance of public access easement at Harbor Lite Lodge; Direction Regarding Priority Streets and Alleys for 2016 Street & Alley Rehabilitation Project; Adoption of Athletic Fields Master Plan.
- Tuesday, January 26th at 3 PM – **Community Development Committee Meeting** – Fort Bragg City Hall Conference Room. Tentative agenda includes: Proposed Mural Competition; Review bid proposals for Fort Bragg Welcome Sign; Mid-Year Progress Report from Fort Bragg Promotion Committee.
- Wednesday, January 27th at 6 PM – **Planning Commission Meeting** – Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda includes: Modification of non-conforming sign at Speedex.
- Thursday, January 28th at 10 AM – **Special Oversight Board Meeting** – Fort Bragg City Hall Conference Room. Agenda includes: Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule for July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

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.