



CITY NOTES

October 13, 2016

Measures AA & AB>> Earlier this year, the Council established an ad hoc committee comprised of Mayor Dave Turner and Vice Mayor Lindy Peters to explore the possibility of a ballot measure to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) rate to generate revenue for activities that will help expand Fort Bragg's slice of the California tourism business. TOT is a tax imposed on visitors staying at lodging facilities. The ad hoc committee met with owners and/or operators of nearly all of Fort Bragg's 24 lodging establishments to receive feedback on the possibility of a TOT increase. The feedback was surprisingly supportive and a considerable amount of advice was provided regarding how the City could use the new funds to support our tourism industry. Subsequently, the Council placed two measures on the November 8, 2016 general election ballot. Measure AA is a general tax measure that increases the TOT rate in the City of Fort Bragg from 10% to 12% effective April 1, 2017, and Measure AB is a companion non-binding advisory measure that informs the Council, if the voters approve the general tax measure, about how the revenues generated by the TOT increase should be used.

A 2% increase in the TOT rate will generate nearly \$400,000 per year in additional revenue collected from visitors to Fort Bragg. If used for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the advisory measure, this would mean an additional \$200,000 per year for marketing, special events and promotion, \$100,000 per year to enhance Coastal Trail maintenance and security, \$50,000 per year to support establishment of the Noyo Center as a premiere visitor destination, and \$50,000 per year for special projects that support tourism and benefit the community, including (as a priority project) repair and maintenance of the school district's athletic fields.

Body Worn Cameras>> The Fort Bragg Police Department was notified last week that it has been awarded a \$25k grant from the federal Department of Justice to purchase Body-worn Cameras for use by the Police Department. It will take several months for the City to actually deploy the cameras as there are a number of matters including data storage technology and internal department policies regarding their use. Chief Lizarraga will keep the Council's Public Safety Committee apprised of progress in the deployment of body-worn cameras.

Noyo Harbor Commission>> The City is accepting applications from persons interested in serving on the Noyo Harbor District Board of Commissioners. Two positions are eligible for four-year appointments which run from November 14, 2016 to October 31, 2020. One position is a City-appointed position; the other is a joint City/County position that will serve as the Chair of the Noyo Harbor Commission. To be eligible for appointment, you must reside within the boundaries of the Noyo Harbor District. Interested persons can contact City Clerk June Lemos at 961-2823 ext. 104 to obtain an application form. Applications are due no later than Tuesday, October 18, 2016 by 5:00 PM. The Council may interview applicants at the October 24 City Council meeting or set a special meeting, depending on the number of applications received.

Noyo Center for Marine Science Visitor Center Roof>> The Noyo Center for Marine Science "Crow's Nest" Visitor Center on the south Coastal Trail is in need of a roof replacement. Dunlap Roofing submitted the winning bid of \$12,970 to complete the work. Next week they are expecting to remove the existing wood shingles and replace them with an asphalt shingle that will withstand the severe

coastal weather and marine environment. With the lifetime warranty of this roof, future generations will have the opportunity to visit the Crow's Nest and learn about the challenges facing our coast and the amazing life within our ocean.

New Welcome Sign>> The City is planning to replace the existing 22 foot high Welcome Sign with a beautiful new sign which is 16 feet in height and will be relocated 450 feet north of the existing sign. The new sign depicts the ocean, a colorful sunset, a fishing boat and redwood trees. It was carved and painted by local sign-maker Rick Sacks of The Sign Shop. The new sign will not accommodate special event signage or service club signs due to Caltrans' requirements. The City is creating pages on the Fortbragg.com website to help advertise special events and to provide information about local service clubs. The City hopes to relocate the old sign to the north side of town or to the Noyo Harbor jetty to welcome people who enter the harbor by boat. The existing sign will be taken down this month and the new eye-catching sign will be installed in November.

Water Supply Update>> In response to four years of extended drought conditions, the City Council declared a Stage 2 Water Emergency effective October 1st. This was a precautionary measure acknowledging the fact that the start of rainy season is expected in October but comes of its own accord and may happen later than we wish. The rainy weather last week brought approximately one-half an inch of precipitation to our area. It is hopefully the harbinger of more to come soon. The mid-range weather forecasts are now predicting more rain to follow and perhaps it is already raining as you read this. However, the City will not change its water conservation efforts until winter rains have reliably started. Even with another wet winter, California's drought is not expected to end. Being mindful and careful with our most precious resource should become a way of life into the future.

Bee Friendly City>> Fort Bragg's status as California's first official "Bee Friendly City" was heralded by the League of California Cities in this month's issue of the League's Western Cities magazine. The article was prepared by Administrative Services Director Scott Schneider and can be read online at:<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/October-2016/Fort-Bragg-Makes-Bees-a-Priority/>

Mark Your Calendars>> Information on upcoming public meetings can be found on the "Upcoming Agenda Items" pages on the City's website or by signing up for meeting notifications using the "Notify Me" feature at <https://city.fortbragg.com>. The following public meetings are planned in the near future:

- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, October 24th at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Topics include: Appointments to the Noyo Harbor Commission, report on transition to brief summary minutes, introduction of Ordinance amending Fort Bragg Municipal Code Chapter 6.14 (Licensing of Tobacco Sellers) and Chapter 6.18 (Smoking Pollution Control and Health Protection Regulations), introduction of Ordinance adding Chapter 9.33 (Cannabis Manufacturing) to Title 9 (Public Peace, Safety and Morals) of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code.

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.