



## CITY NOTES

December 8, 2016

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**Farewell to Councilmembers Doug Hammerstrom and Scott Deitz>>** The City will hold an informal reception before next Monday's City Council meeting to honor outgoing Councilmembers Doug Hammerstrom and Scott Deitz. Everyone is welcome to come to Fort Bragg Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. for light refreshments and an opportunity to thank Doug and Scott for their service to our community. The first item on the "Conduct of Business" part of the Council's agenda will be the reorganization of the Council. First, the Council will certify the results of the November 8, 2016 election. Then, Councilmembers Hammerstrom and Deitz will be formally recognized for their service on the City Council. After that, newly-elected Councilmembers Will Lee and Bernie Norvell will be sworn into office. After they are seated at the dais, the new Council will elect a Mayor and Vice-Mayor and the Council will launch into its regular business.

**We Welcome Councilmembers Will Lee and Bernie Norvell>>** Last week, the County Elections Office released the final tally of votes cast by Fort Bragg voters in the November 8, 2016 election. Fort Bragg had a 76.8% voter turnout in the election—the highest rate in the County and significantly higher than the national average (under 60%). Will Lee and Bernie Norvell received the highest number of votes and thus were elected to serve on the City Council. Serving on the Council is a lot of work, a big time commitment, and at times, it is a thankless job. Next time you see one of our Councilmembers- take a moment to thank him!

**Voters Approved Measures AA and AB>>** Fort Bragg voters approved Measure AA, increasing the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) rate in Fort Bragg from 10% to 12% effective April 1, 2017. Measure AA required a simple majority to pass and received 59.5% of the vote. It will generate approximately \$400,000 per year in additional revenue. Measure AB, the companion advisory measure which identifies how the money should be spent, received 69.6% of the vote. Consistent with Measure AB, in the coming months, the City Council will consider the mechanics of how to disburse funds to the Noyo Center for Marine Science and the Fort Bragg Unified School District. The City Council will also make decisions regarding appropriations for promotion and marketing of Fort Bragg and for maintenance and security of the Coastal Trail.

**City Council to Tackle Big Topics in 2017>>** The City Council has an interesting array of issues to grapple with in early 2017. While the timing of these items is still a little fuzzy, the following matters are in the Council's queue for the first few months of the new year: remediation of the central area of the Mill Site including the Mill Pond; rezoning all or a portion of the Mill Site for future development; increasing the City's water supply and storage to accommodate future growth; creating new zoning regulations for cannabis retail uses; 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget Review; City Council Goal-Setting; and labor negotiations with all of the City's employee groups.

**2017 Infrastructure Projects>>** Public Works Director Tom Varga and his staff have an ambitious line up of capital projects that will be put out to bid this winter and spring. Repair and maintenance projects include: a new roof for the Guest House Museum, repainting the Guest House Museum and City Hall, and repairs to the Glass Beach staircase. A new influent flow meter will be installed at the

Wastewater Treatment Facility. Phase 2 of the Coastal Trail is expected to be constructed next summer, connecting the north and south segments of the trail. The 2017 Streets and Alley Rehabilitation project will include structural repairs and resurfacing of South Franklin Street (Oak St. to North Harbor Dr.), Boatyard Drive, North Sanderson Street, Starbucks alley, Sears alley, Portuguese Hall alley, and the residential alley south of Chestnut between Whipple and Corry Streets. We are also continuing to assemble funding for the \$11M Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade project. It is expected to be bid next fall and implementation will span two construction seasons.

**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>.

- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Topics include: Proclamation Recognizing Fort Bragg High School’s Champion Varsity Football Team; Recognition of Public Works Maintenance Worker II Tom Mitchell for 30 years of Service; 2016 City Council Reorganization; Report from Fort Bragg-Mendocino Coast Historical Society; First Quarter Financial Report.
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Topics include: Zoning Code amendments for cannabis manufacturing; Permits for parking lot and other improvements at 627 North Main St.; Permits for art gallery and residence at 369 Cypress Street; Permits for expansion of service station at 863 North Main St.
- **City Council Meeting** – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in December is cancelled.
- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda topics include: Appointments to City Council standing committees, ad hoc committees and interagency assignments; report from Visit Fort Bragg; Report on Coastal Trail Phase 2.

*City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this column or any matter of City business, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at [LRuffing@fortbraag.com](mailto:LRuffing@fortbraag.com) or (707)961-2829.*