



CITY NOTES

December 29, 2016

With 2017 right around the corner, it's an opportune time to reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of the City over the past year. Not surprisingly, many of the City's noteworthy accomplishments relate to actions taken to address our biggest challenges.

Challenge: Ensure an adequate water supply for existing and future development. The City constructed the Summers Lane Reservoir last summer and, by the end of October, it was full. The reservoir holds about 15,000,000 gallons of water which is enough to meet the demands of City water customers for about six weeks. The reservoir will make it easier for the City to manage its water supply in the late summer months and during periods of extended drought. The City is exploring possible augmentation of its water supply through groundwater development. Two test wells were drilled on city-owned properties this summer, but unfortunately neither yielded sufficient flows to warrant further development. We are continuing to investigate other potential well locations. In addition, City staff continues to investigate desalination technologies which may present a viable option for future water source development. The City was awarded a \$1.4 million Community Development Block Grant to install a new water tank near the Water Treatment Plant on Cedar Street. This new tank will add a million gallons to the City's treated water storage and make it possible to replace the existing Cedar Street water tank which was built in 1955. The City discovered a new vulnerability in its water system in mid-December when the Pudding Creek dam was severely eroded by a flooding event thus exposing the water main serving north Fort Bragg to potential failure. Work is in progress to define solutions and funding options for repair or relocation of the line.

Challenge: Help local businesses thrive. Over the past year, the City's Community Development Department (CDD) and Public Works Department have established new checklists to help inform people seeking permits about the process and timeframes. In general, the City's permit-processing timeframes are extremely short compared to those of Mendocino County and most other cities in the state. The CDD has been working on a comprehensive update to the City's zoning regulations to make them both simpler and more flexible in order to accommodate a broader range of business opportunities. The City Council has provided direction on these changes at numerous meetings and the process will conclude over the next several months. On a separate, yet parallel track, the City Council adopted new regulations for cannabis manufacturing use types. Measure AA, a ballot measure to provide funding for a variety of economic development initiatives, was passed by Fort Bragg voters in November.

Challenge: Inform and engage the community in civic matters. In 2016, the City began livestreaming all City Council and Council Committee meetings on our website. Meetings are also broadcast on the Comcast Channel 3. Our livestreamed meetings attract approximately 2,500 viewers each month. In addition, the City has continuously upgraded its website, increased the number of subscribers to the "Notify Me" lists, and we recently hit the 3,000 fans mark on our Facebook page! The City works to engage youth in local government. Last summer, we hosted six high school interns as part of the Mendocino Coast Children's Fund Bridge Internship program. Additionally, our Police Department

launched a Cadet Program for local youth between the ages of 14 and 21. The program provides an inside view of the law enforcement profession and provides opportunities for cadets to participate in community service activities and other police operations. The City held two elections this year, including an election for two new Councilmembers. A new Council Candidates Handbook and a Councilmembers Handbook were prepared to help new officials learn the ropes. The City's Finance Department received two distinguished awards from the Government Finance Officers Association: one for the FY 2014/15 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, and another for the FY 2016/17 Budget Presentation.

Challenge: Ensure that our police officers are well-equipped to protect our community. Over the past year, the Fort Bragg Police Department has implemented a number of new programs to enhance its services to the community. The most visible additions to the force are our two new K-9s. Takoda is a 2-year old German Shepard who is a K-9 team with Officer Brendon McGregor. Maverick is a German Shepard who is a K-9 team with Sergeant Drew Kendl. The Department obtained three electric motorcycles this past summer for use on patrols throughout town and on the coastal trail. The Department also secured grant funding for the acquisition of two ATVs to assist in a variety of efforts. The Department's drone recently proved its worth while surveying damage to a City water main during the Pudding Creek dam flooding event. The federal Department of Justice recently awarded Fort Bragg a grant to acquire Body-Worn Cameras for all of its officers. The Body-Worn Camera program will be implemented in 2017. The Fort Bragg Police Department has shown itself to be very motivated and resourceful in keeping our officers outfitted with top-notch technology to perform their jobs.

Challenge: Maintain and upgrade infrastructure serving our community. In 2016, the City installed a public wifi system in downtown Fort Bragg. The Council recently approved the installation of 4 Electric Vehicle charging stations in downtown parking lots. The central segment of the Coastal Trail was designed in 2016 and is slated for construction next summer. Work is underway on the Chestnut Street multi-use trail project. Lots of projects are queued up for construction in 2017 including: the 2017 Streets & Alleys rehab project; new roofs and paint jobs for the Guest House Museum and City Hall; improvements at Bainbridge Park, repairs to the Glass Beach stairway, and more.

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, January 9th at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda topics include: Appointments to Standing Committees; Appointments of New Planning Commissioners, Resolution Proclaiming Support for Immigrants; Update from Visit Fort Bragg; Coastal Trail Phase 2 Status Update..
- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, January 23rd at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda topics include: Presentation of FY 2015-16 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report; Report on Oversight Process for Measure AA Revenues; Ordinance Amendments for Cannabis Retail Uses.
- **Council Standing Committee Meetings** – The dates and times of standing committees may change after appointments are made on January 9th.

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@fortbragg.com or (707)961-2829.