



CITY NOTES

November 9, 2017

City Receives Award for FY 2017/18 Budget>> The Government Finance Officers Association has awarded the City its "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award." This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement. Finance Director Victor Damiani is recognized as the individual primarily responsible for achieving this award. Well done, Victor!

Establishing a Storm Drain Enterprise Fund>> During this year's budget discussions, the City Council set aside funds for a study to investigate the possibility of establishing a Storm Drain Enterprise similar to the City's water and wastewater enterprises. Storm drains are an essential part of our infrastructure, just like our water and sewer utilities- however, after Prop 218 passed (1996), the City has not been able to utilize wastewater funds for storm drain costs and the City's General Fund has absorbed all storm drain-related costs. Governor Brown recently signed SB 231- a statute that clarifies that Prop 218's voter-approval requirement for new taxes does not apply to storm drain improvements (just as it does not apply to water and wastewater utilities). While this is helpful, the quibbling has already begun over what costs can be included in the exemption. The City Council will consider moving forward with establishment of the Storm Drain Enterprise, as a means of addressing increasing costs relating to storm drainage and reducing the structural deficit in the General Fund.

Mistrial Declared in Murder Case>> Last month, jury selection was completed and the trial began for Caleb Silver- the man accused of murdering Fort Bragg resident Dennis Boardman in January 2016. Unfortunately, when the Redwood Valley and Potter Valley fires broke out, several jurors and alternates were unable to attend the proceedings. Subsequently, Mendocino Superior Court Judge Behnke declared a mistrial and new proceedings must now be scheduled.

Uncertainty Regarding who will Operate Extreme Weather Shelter (EWS) this Winter>> Last week, Board members and staff from the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) met with members of the faith-based community and City representatives to explain that MCHC will not operate the EWS this year. The EWS has operated for many years with MCHC providing intake, transportation and staffing and local churches providing shelter on a rotating basis. The County has allotted \$50k towards the operation of the EWS this year. MCHC reported that running the EWS last year proved to be too difficult on top of their other functions. They indicated that the single most challenging aspect of running the EWS is staffing, as the positions are low-paid, high stress, and there is frequent staff turnover. In addition, since the Hospitality House will not participate in the EWS, a new pick-up and drop-off location will need to be identified. MCHC recommended that the community establish a new organization to run the EWS and they offered to help with the transition.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Up and Running in City Hall Parking Lot>> The Mendocino Land Trust secured a grant from the California Energy Commission to install 12 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in public parking lots along the Mendocino Coast. A two-charger unit is now operational in the City Hall parking lot. Another two-charger unit will be up and running in the City's Laurel Street parking lot within the next couple of weeks. These are just two of nearly 8,000 EV charging units that the CEC is funding throughout the state. The program is intended to promote consumer confidence in

the availability of charging infrastructure to help California meet its energy, clean air, and climate change goals.

City Enters into Two-Year Labor Contracts with Employees>> The City has concluded labor negotiations with its two employee organizations- the Fort Bragg Employee Organization (FBEO) and the Fort Bragg Police Association (FBPA). Both contracts include a 3% cost-of-living increase in FY 2017/18 and a 2% increase in FY 2018/19. Both contracts also require employees who were hired prior to January 1, 2013 and are in the "Classic" CalPERS pension plans to make an increased contribution to PERS premiums starting in FY 2018/19. Many thanks are due to the negotiating teams on both sides of the table who worked long and hard to reach agreements that help our employees keep up with inflation while respecting the City's budgetary constraints.

It's Not too Late to Provide Input for City Manager Recruitment Process>> While the recruitment for Fort Bragg's next city manager is well underway, there is still time to offer your thoughts on what challenges face Fort Bragg and what qualifications and skills the City's top administrator should possess. A link is available on the front page of the City's website where comments can be sent directly to Phil McKenney, the executive recruiter selected by the City Council. Comments will be accepted until Monday, November 20th.

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, November 13, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Agenda includes: Presentation from Students Participating in Otsuchi Cultural Exchange; Update on Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project; Approval of CDBG Grant Application; Project Completion and Budget Amendment for 2017 Streets and Alley Rehab Project; Recommendation from Community Development Committee regarding Vacant Residential and Commercial Properties.
- **City Council Meeting** – Monday, November 27, 2017 at 6 PM, Fort Bragg Town Hall. Tentative agenda includes: Historic Landmark Status for Dry Shed #4; Resolution Regarding Community Preference for Mill Pond Clean-up; Affordable Housing Incentives for DANCO project; Fee Schedule Update.

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.