



## CITY NOTES

March 1, 2018

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As we transition to a new City Manager, Staff is busy with a multitude of ongoing projects and initiatives.

Finance is preparing the Mid-Year Budget Workshop – an opportunity for Council and the public to hear where we are in terms of this year’s fiscal budget. This update is not only about dollars and cents, but also about the planned Capital Improvement Projects and other slated expenditures approved last June. C.V. Starr will present its Mid-Year Budget to the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District Board and as well as City Council. Both workshops are scheduled for Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. at Town Hall. The C. V. Starr presentation will begin at 1:30 p.m. The workshops will be live-streamed on the City’s website and shown on the PEG (Comcast, Channel 3).

Shortly after presenting the Mid-Year Budget Workshop, the Finance Department, in collaboration with all other City departments, will start on the FY 2018/2019 Budget. This is a 2-3 month process where each department works within the Council’s goals and priorities as well as other Council direction to prepare departmental work plans and budgets which fit within the scope of available funds and resources. All Staff work diligently to accomplish as much as possible with the available funding and must work within the limitations of where and how funds can be spent.

For example, funds received through the Enterprise Funds (Water, Wastewater, C. V. Starr, etc.) may only be spent on projects and activities within each of those areas. This is the same for special tax measures (Measure AA, Street Sales Tax, etc.). The General Fund, with most of the money coming from Sales Tax and Transient Occupancy Tax, can be spent on any area of the City’s budget. These funds are quite limited and Staff must figure out how to keep, or even improve, the current level of service while dealing with increased costs in all areas of the budget.

A budget and work plan will be drafted by May 22<sup>nd</sup> when the Budget Workshop is scheduled with City Council (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Town Hall). At the workshop each department, with Finance taking the lead, will present its plan of work and related budgets to the Council for review and direction. Traditionally, departments have worked well together complementing each other’s needs and missions while working within the proposed budget limitations. 2018/2019 will be no different.

Both the Mid-Year and Budget Workshops are great opportunities to dive into the City’s finances and work plans, and learn how your tax dollars are working for you. Providing input to Council before and/or during these workshops is an ideal avenue for sharing your ideas, concerns and goals for Fort Bragg. The reports and other relevant information will be available several days prior to each workshop. If you do not already receive email or text alerts for when the City publishes Council packets, please visit our website to sign up.

In other areas of the City:

Aside from the exciting news of our new City Manager beginning work on March 5<sup>th</sup>, you may have noticed a new smiling face in the Finance Department. Janet Ferraiolo has joined our City Team from a local accounting firm bringing with her extensive experience in many areas of finance. Make sure to stop by and say hi the next time you are in City Hall.

The Fort Bragg Police Department welcomed the newest member of its department, a Community Service Officer, who began on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Katelynn Holloway is a graduate from Fort Bragg High School, and will be in training for a few months before setting out on her own. Katelynn will fill the vacancy created when CSO McLaughlin left to work for Mendocino County's Children and Family Services.

In other news from the Police Department, three Cadets received their Cadet badges at the February 26<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting during an impressive presentation, and were assigned their Call Signs for the first time. Maria Ramirez, Matt Lizarraga and Analiese Keaton have put in over 250 hours of training and patrol activities and have earned this special honor for their efforts. Congratulations to our new Cadets!

The final piece of the financing puzzle for the Waste Water Treatment Upgrade Project was put into place at the City Council meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> with their authorization of up to \$5M for a loan from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Total financing of approximately \$15,500,000 is available for construction, inspection and other related work. The project will start advertising for bids March 1<sup>st</sup> with bids opening on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Construction is expected to begin later in the spring and will take two construction seasons with the goal of the plant going online in the fall of 2019.

A new 1.5 million gallon water storage tank is under construction across the street from the City's corporation yard at the east end of Cedar Street. The site work is mostly done and the hole for the foundation has been dug. Tank construction is expected to happen during the month of April and will be ready for use in June. This new tank will give the City new water security in providing reliable water service to the community and make maintenance of the existing water tanks much easier.

Join us! Tabatha Miller will join the City's Team as our new City Manager on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Join us prior to the next City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall to meet Tabatha and celebrate her arrival. Cake and refreshments will be served.

*If you have questions regarding this column or any matter of City business, please feel free to contact Interim City Manager Scott Schneider at [sschneider@fortbragg.com](mailto:sschneider@fortbragg.com) or (707) 961-2843.*