

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2013
TO: City Council
FROM: John Pietig, City Manager 
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES

City Council 2013 Priorities – Attached are the City Council’s priorities from the retreat held on January 26, 2013.

Police Department Hires Two New Officers - After a lengthy selection process the Police Department has hired two new officers: Michael Lee who has worked for the department as a booking officer and jailer has demonstrated his enthusiasm and adaptability in a difficult position. Michael completed his basic police academy training in 2011 at Golden West College and his time has come to take on a greater challenge as a police officer. Carrie Kaster served as both a police officer with the Monterey Police Department and for the State Parks Department. She holds her Masters degree in Exercise Physiology and a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts from Humboldt State. The City of Monterey shares many of the same policing issues as Laguna so Carrie should be a good fit.

Rockledge Sewer System Improvements - The City’s contractor, Orion Construction, is using open excavation and slip lining methods to reconstruct the gravity sewer lines in Rockledge Road and Rockledge Terrace over the next two weeks. City staff and the contractor have met with the neighbors and will be working closely with them to arrange access to homes during the construction. This project will progress to completion by April 2013.

Main Beach Lifeguard Headquarters Update - The installation of a small area of sheet-pile shoring should begin on today. Noise and vibration associated with this work is un-avoidable, but has been mitigated to the extent feasible by pre-drilling the area to receive the pilings. The noisy work could continue for three days from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Neighbors have been notified by flyer and mail of the work.

Attachment

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City Council Priorities for 2013

The following are the City Council priorities identified during the City Council retreat on January 26, 2013.

City Council Priorities for 2013

#1 Priority: Village Entrance - The City Council established this as the highest priority for the next year and requested a special City Council meeting that will be held March 26 to receive presentations from the subcommittee of Councilmembers Pearson and Iseman regarding the project.

View Preservation Ordinance - The City Council has requested a status report within three months regarding the options to improve view preservation ordinances.

Economic Development - The City Council subcommittee regarding Business Assistance is to provide the City Council with options to retain and attract businesses and further develop the City's economy.

Parking Management Plan - The plan should be completed this year and be incorporated into efforts to revise the Downtown Specific Plan.

Increase and Improve Community Based policing efforts – The City will consider reinstating full-time downtown/beach foot patrols.

Laguna Canyon Road Analysis - Staff will work with Councilmember Whalen to present an agenda bill to the City Council regarding an analysis of possible future improvements to Laguna Canyon road in coordination with Caltrans and other agencies. The report will also consider the benefits of such an analysis to coordinate future Laguna Canyon Road improvements with other improvements in the downtown and to identify future funding opportunities.

Transit Financing Program – Report back to the City Council regarding options to fund transit and trolley programs while reducing the impact on the Parking Fund.

Disaster Preparedness - Continue to identify projects and programs that improve the ability of the City and the community to prepare for, and respond to, future disasters.

Budget - maintain a balanced budget with adequate reserves to continue the stable provision of City services.

City Council Priorities for 2013

Other Items In Process Emphasized by the City Council:

Open for Business Programs - Continue the "Open for Business" program.

Committee Reports - The City Council would like to continue having the following committees make five-minute reports at a City Council meeting once a year: Environmental; Heritage; Housing and Human Services; Parking, Traffic and Circulation; Recreation; and Telecommunications.

System to View City Records On-line - Replace the system by June 2013.

Review of Vision Laguna 2030 Plan - Councilmember Dicterow was appointed to the subcommittee along with Councilmember Pearson. A report is expected within a few months.

Forest/Third Intersection - Analyze the effectiveness of the pilot program to use of part-time personnel to direct traffic during high impact weekends.

Complete Streets - Continue efforts to improve streets in a manner which encourages the use of the streets by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users.

Maintain and Enhance the Infrastructure - Ensure that priority is given to maintaining and enhancing the infrastructure.

Sidewalks along Coast Highway and Laguna Canyon Road - Continue the efforts to develop plans to create contiguous sidewalks along these major points of ingress and egress to the community.

Animal Shelter Parking Lot - Pursue the replacement of the chain link fencing around the parking lot with a more aesthetically pleasing alternative to deter pets from running on to Laguna Canyon Road. Bring forth proposals to replace the parking lot with permeable paving in conjunction with the project to permanently improve the creek in front of the animal shelter.

Transfer from Parking Fund to General Fund - Strive to reduce the transfer from the Parking Fund to the General Fund.

Undergrounding Utility Poles and Lines - Identify programs and funding to underground utility poles lines on Laguna Canyon Road, Coast Highway, and other arterial and collector streets necessary to service or evacuate the community in a timely manner during or following a disaster.

Aliso Creek - Continue to work on solutions to improve the water quality at the end of Aliso Creek and identify additional options to discharge recycled water.