



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 09-19-14

Planning Department/Code Enforcement – Abandoned Vehicles

The abandoned vehicle round up began last weekend. We are following the Administrative Policy reviewed by the City Council and whose guidelines are driven by our Municipal Code. City Code Enforcement have begun "Green Tagging" vehicles (such as the one pictured, below) that meet the guidelines for removal. Vehicles that have visible identifiers such as license plates or VINs were sent out registered letters today notifying the last known owner their vehicle will be removed. The letter also outlines the appeal process should the owner wish to exercise that right. For vehicle owners who would like to voluntarily surrender their vehicles for removal, we will be offering an amnesty program of sorts. The theory behind this is non-operational vehicles on private property quite often end up on our public streets. It is hoped that assisting in the removal of these vehicles will eliminate the volume of junked and non-operational vehicles on the streets. The target dates for the actual removal will be October 8-9, 2014. A public service announcement about the abandoned vehicle effort will be published in the local newspapers next week and posted on the City website.



Fire Department

A small campfire constructed in a brush area by three juveniles on a hillside east of Avalon was quickly controlled on Thursday September 11, 2014. The juveniles were detained by LASD and released to their parents following the law enforcement and fire department administrative procedures. A kitchen fire at 118 Catalina Ave. was quickly controlled by AFD and LACoFD on Sunday September 14th. The commercial area sustained significant damage with no extension into the attic or adjoining business occurred. On both incidents, no injuries occurred to firefighters or civilians.

Planning Department – Upcoming Meetings

The Planning Commission discussed the calendar for the remainder of the year. October 22nd, our regular meeting will include the Conservancy Trailhead project and any other applications that may submit in time for that agenda in the next few days. A special meeting is tentatively planned for October 30th exclusively for the proposed Vons project. November/December meeting (the two months the Commission is restricted from hearing new applications) will be combined to review the Growth Resolution and an Item of Discussion regarding Solar panels.

Planning Department – SCICo Golf Course

The Santa Catalina Island Company has resubmitted its Golf Course improvement application, which is currently being reviewed by staff for completeness.

Public Works Department – Irrigation during Phase 2 Water Rationing

The Public Works Department has found a way to continue the watering of our cemetery, and some park areas during this water rationing period through the use of desalinated water generated through the City's small unit in the Harbor. Non-potable water from the unit is used to fill containers, which are then transported for irrigation purposes. It is only a small amount of water that is available for this use, but it allows the cemetery and some of the park areas to remain presentable without drawing from the island's freshwater supply.

Public Works Department – Hurricane Marie Surge Damage/Insurance Adjuster

On Thursday, several City Department Heads met Diane Gordan, a claims adjuster for property insurance policies held by the City. We were able to show her the damages the City suffered as a result of Hurricane Marie, including damages to the Cabrillo Mole and Pebbly Beach Road.

Capital Improvement Projects – Pebbly Beach Road and Sewer Improvement Plan

Preparations are being made for a public bid on the Pebbly Beach Road rock fall mitigation project. The Coastal Commission has approved the work, and we are now preparing contract documents for the bids.

Phase 1 of our 20-year Sewer Improvement Plan (in compliance with the Cease and Desist Order) is being designed and detailed. Once all the data is accumulated, we will also send out contract documents for a public bid for this sewer repair project.

Recreation Department – 4th of July 2015/USC Marching Band

In preparation for Fourth of July 2014, Councilmember Cassidy, Jen Monroe and I met with USC Marching Band leader Art Bartner, Assistant Band Leader Tony Fox on Wednesday to discuss logistics for next year's parade. The Rotary Club would like to pass the torch of the logistics regarding bringing the band over to the City of Avalon as this long standing tradition does not fall within their organization's mission. USC Band was enthusiastic to embrace this change and brainstormed several ways to assist in offsetting cost, which included a new event on the 5th of July, as well as offering to play at public and private venues following the parade. This change in the Fourth of July Parade logistics is part of an overall review of the holiday's festivities, including the fireworks display and additional new elements throughout the holiday.

Recreation Department - Oktoberfest

Preparations continue for Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 25. New breweries are being added daily (North Co Brewery, Mission Brewery, and the German brewer Warsteiner!), and a complete list will soon appear on cityofavalon.com and catalinachamber.com. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber: (310) 510-1520.

Finance Department – California State Department of Finance Review of ACIA

This week we spent preparing for the California State Department of Finance auditors who will be on site next week conducting a review of ACIA activities from 2010 through ACIA dissolution on February 1, 2012. We were informed we are one of the last cities to undergo this review due to logistics. Their purpose is to see if the ACIA made any inappropriate transfers of assets. A significant amount of dated materials had to be rounded up to meet their requests before they would come into the field, which also required of us to reacquaint ourselves to speak to the actions taken back then. We do not anticipate any inappropriate transfers to be found.

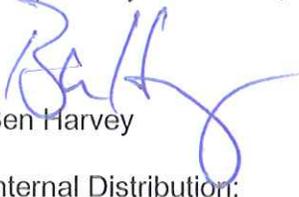
Finance Department - Annual Street Report

October 1st the Annual Street Report is due to be filed with the State summarizing our use of Gas Tax monies having been spent on appropriate projects for FY2014. Previously, the City has paid the State Controller's Office to complete this report for us. The cost to complete the report for FY2014 would amount to \$3,000, so we decided to look over the report to see if we could complete it ourselves. We spent time this week assessing what it would take to do so and made the decision that it is something we can do in house. Fortunately our financial records are in good order to allow for this. Additionally, this will represent another cross training exercise as staff will be the ones completing the report with the expectation that this continues going forward.

Finance Department - FY2014 Accounting

We continue to identify and post revenue and expense accrual activity applicable to FY2014. Next week we plan to resume updating our records with the Successor Agency and Housing Authority accounting, the last major areas to be completed for FY2014 accounting. We had to put this on hold as we needed to spend time on (1) working with RSG on completing the Annual Housing Report filed by the Housing Authority this week, (2) working on the Successor ROPS accounting to determine January-July 2015 expenditures, and (3) updating our internal lists of TOT payers for the CUP analysis and identifying the properties that do not have business licenses which we are now pursuing for collection.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ben Harvey

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