



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 2-06-15

Planning Department – Proposed Vons Project Story Poles

Vons is installing story poles at the proposed location on Santa Catalina Island Company property today. The Planning Director and I met with the Richard Chavez, Vons Architect, Paul DeMyer, SCICo, and several adjacent property owners to go over the installation plan. It was jointly determined that three (3) additional story poles will be added to better represent the peak of three gabled areas of the roof along Beacon Street, Catalina Avenue and the area adjacent to the Miniature Golf Course. Once these additional poles are in place, we will review the installation again to ensure that it clearly represents the elevations of the proposed structure. As an FYI, The appeal hearing is tentatively scheduled for the second City Council meeting in March (Tuesday, 3/17/15 – St. Patrick's Day).

Planning Department – MyGov Software Update

It is our intent to go live with the first stage of MyGov software implementation - automated permits – during the week of February 16th. Pat Grady, our IT Consultant, will be onsite that week and will also install the desktop in the lobby for public use. During the first few weeks, the planning staff will be assisting applicants with the new permitting system at the lobby computer. Once the staff is comfortable with the new process, it is anticipated future applicants will have the option to apply for permits online. Once the permitting phase of the MyGov system is operational, the second phase is to set up the planning portion. We will keep you posted as we develop the timeline goals, etc. for the second phase.

Finance Department – HdL Companies Quarterly Sales Tax Data Analysis

Today the Finance Director met with Howard LongBallaa, Principal from Hinderliter de Llamas & Associates, the City's expert sales tax and property tax data analysis firm. Sales tax data reviewed was for the 3rd Quarter of 2014. Avalon's collected sales tax increment compared against the same quarter prior year was 7% higher (adjusted). In particular, the Casual Dining category of business in Avalon demonstrated impressive growth during this period. As far as trending upward, Avalon continues to compare favorably – and in most cases higher – than most cities in Los Angeles County, including many other coastal communities. An update flyer from HdL providing additional detail awaits you within your City Council inbox here at City Hall.

City Attorney's Office – Pursuit of Fresh Water Resources

The City has been monitoring the existing water situation, including any activities at the state level that may impact the City, and providing support to staff as necessary. Next week, Joe Byrne, water counsel at BBK will be testifying in front of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee to provide testimony in his capacity as Chair of the California Water Commission on the implantation of the recently passed Proposition 1.

City Attorney's Office – Administrative Citation Ordinance Implementation

The City Staff and Sheriff's Department meet with a Code Enforcement specialist from the City Attorney's office to discuss the implementation of the Administrative Citation Ordinance. Code Enforcement officials will be obtaining a special Administrative Citation ticket book that will allow civil tickets to be issued for violations of the City's Municipal Code.

City Manager's Office – Classification and Compensation Study

The City's classification and compensation consultant provided an update to staff at the end of last month. Georg Krammer, Project Manager for Koff & Associates (the firm contracted to conduct the study), shared the final list of comparator cities which was the result of excellent feedback from staff. The comparator cities are: Hermosa Beach, Long Beach, Marina, Monterey, Morro Bay, Oceanside, Pismo Beach, Redondo Beach, Santa Barbara, Seal Beach, Seaside and the County of Los Angeles. Long Beach Unified School District will be used for benefit comparison only. Koff & Associates recently returned to do a ride-along with the Harbor Department so as to better understand operations and possible comparisons to other like agencies.

City Manager's Office – Vehicle Noise Testing

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, the Administrative Procedure regarding vehicle noise testing was updated. The City, with assistance from the Sheriff, will start issuing citations for excessively loud vehicles in accordance with AMC 4-4.1713. This is a correctable violation and requires the vehicle to be tested by the City, in the same manner which we have been, to conclusively prove the violation. This is an infraction with increasing fines from for each violation within one year.

Since we are taking enforcement to the streets, literally, we are holding off on systematically testing vehicles for noise as part of the annual vehicle registration, which starts Tuesday February 10 and goes through April 1, 2015. This means there is no noise testing requirement to register a residential autoette; however, all residential autoettes are still subject to the noise ordinance and can be ticketed.

The City is offering scheduled testing appointments. Simply call or check in at City Hall, and schedule an appointment with Jordan Monroe, Management Aide to have your vehicle tested. This is strongly advised especially for anyone looking to purchase an autoette, as once it is in their name, they are responsible for the vehicles compliance with the noise ordinance. This testing will be available to help owners better gauge and understand the status of their vehicle regarding noise, and is offered at no charge.

The major contributors to vehicle noise, as experienced from last years testing are: 1) the type of engine, 2) the size of the engine, 3) the overall configuration of the vehicle, and 4) the maintenance of the vehicle. Deferred maintenance is the most consistent factor, which fortunately is a manageable condition with regular check ups.

City Manager's Office – Newly-elected State Senator Ben Allen's appointment to the California Coastal Conservancy

Newly-elected State Senator Ben Allen, (D - Santa Monica), who represents Catalina Island within his district, has been appointed to the State Coastal Conservancy. His term on the committee is a pleasure term and there is no compensation. The California Coastal Conservancy, established in 1976, is a State agency that uses entrepreneurial techniques to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources, and to provide access to the shore.

Recreation Department – Falconry/Nuisance Bird Abatement Contract

In light of recent concerns regarding level of service and effectiveness, the Recreation Director convened a candid conversation with Rocky Post of On The Wing Falconry today. Items discussed included hours and days of service, geographic area served, and strategy. A follow-up conversation with Mr. Post is scheduled for Tuesday, and we will continue to keep you posted. The contract with On The Wing Falconry extends through June, 2015. Any of the contract participants has the ability to separate from participation with a thirty (30) day written notice.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk – A Message from the Vehicle Clerk

Vehicle registration starts for all Avalon residents on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Vehicle registration hours are 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 pm. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Wednesday and on Friday. No vehicle permits will be issued on Thursdays. The cost for autoette and full size vehicle permits is \$30.00.

Harbor Department - Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber ~ Dr. Jeff Sipsey 1946 – 2015

It saddens us to report the death of Dr. Jeff Sipsey on Thursday January 29th. Dr. Jeff Sipsey was the Medical Director of the Chamber for most of its history. He started with the Chamber in 1976, during his residency at LAC+USC Department of Emergency Medicine, and eventually moved into the Chamber's Medical Director position until his retirement last year. Armed with a truly dry sense of humor he would sometimes quip, "I got the position because I was willing to leave a date at dinner or a movie." He had a wonderful bedside manner and could put an injured patient at ease within moments of their meeting. A non-diver himself, Dr. Sipsey had more "dive" time, from examination dives he did in the Chamber, than many of the patients he treated. He brought his expertise in diving medicine to hundreds of ER residents and EDAM students over the years. When he wasn't working at the Chamber or the hospital he would be taking pictures. As an avid photographer Jeff would shoot for local collegiate gymnastics and soccer teams at home and at international meets (with some shots ending up published in sports magazines), and was sought out by models looking to expand their portfolios. Jeff was a wonderful and gifted man who we will all miss greatly. Services will be held graveside at Forest Lawn Glendale on Saturday February 7th at 9:30 am.



Harbor Department - Casino Dive Park Clean Up

Catalina Divers Supply invited divers from the mainland today to help clean up the boat wreckage left in the dive park from the December 30th storm. Catalina Divers Supply is supplying the scuba tanks, weights and lunch for all participants. The Harbor Department

supplied a stake bed truck for the debris and the SCICo waived the permit fee to place the truck at Casino Point for the clean up.

Harbor Department/Public Works Department - Gas Line for Pier Generator

While digging a trench at the Crescent and Catalina intersection, Public Works crews uncovered possible remains from a Native American Burial Ground. All work has stopped pending investigation from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

Public Works Department – Tree Trimming

The PWD crews are currently tuning/trimming the trees around the Mole area, working towards Crescent Ave. These trees create safety issues when they are not properly maintained, and it is our desire to remedy the situation with these actions during the off-season, in an effort to augment safe passage of pedestrians along the sidewalk areas.

Public Works Department – Watering on Crescent Ave.

The PWD is proud to announce that we have been able to water our lawn areas around Crescent Ave. with water captured in cisterns/totes during rain events. Recently installed cisterns/totes at our maintenance facility enable us to catch run-off water from our roofs. While we are pleased that our efforts have been productive and beneficial to the community, our work is not completed. We need more time, effort and rainfall. Consequently, we are acquiring more cisterns and making plans for future run-off spouts at different locations. These actions will continue in order to fully reap the fortunes of our anticipated coming rainfall (yes, we are optimists).

Public Works/Capital Improvements- Desal Permitting Process

Staff has been making progress on resolving the issues relating to adopting private RO Units (Desalination) for the public, to be used in homes or businesses. Although this process may seem simple, careful examination and effort needs to be implemented due the additional brine that accumulates as a result of RO processing. This situation creates hardships at our waste water treatment plant, as the salinity inhibits the proper cleaning of the discharge waters. We anticipate that the permitting process could be available for review and proposed implementation by as early as mid-March.

Public Works/Capital Improvements- Professional Structural Evaluation – Fuel Dock

As authorized by the City Council at a recent meeting, the Fuel Dock structural evaluation commenced this week, with divers spending a few hours taking pictures and checking out the conditions of this facility. The formal report is scheduled to be submitted next week. We will report out after receiving and reviewing the report.

Animal O2 Masks:

The Avalon Fire Department was recently able to purchase two animal oxygen mask kits for both ambulances. These kits contain a small medium and large reusable mask to administer oxygen to animals in an emergency. This is merely an additional tool that if presented with a situation to assist with an animal in distress we might be able to do so. Department members have begun training with the devices, and I have included a link to a short demonstration video for those that are interested:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drs0yZxcpoE>



Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager, City of Avalon