



CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE

For Week Ending February 13, 2015

Steven M. Salomon, Interim City Manager



ADMINISTRATION

A Message from Interim City Manager, Steve Salomon

It has been my honor to serve as Interim City Manager since July 21, 2014, and I would like to thank the Mayor and City Council Members, and the community for the opportunity to serve the City. I would like to highlight some items that were accomplished during the last seven months, they are:

- 1) The City Council hired a recruiting firm, interviewed six candidates and selected Gustavo "Gus" Vina to serve as the next City Manager for the City of Brentwood; he will begin his employment with the City on February 17, 2015;
- 2) The Finance Department initiated and completed two refinancings of existing debt to lower the interest rate and save over \$21 million over the term of the debt;
- 3) The City initiated a review of its special events permit process. The City Council gave direction to streamline the process and move it from the Community Development Department to the Parks and Recreation Department. City staff plans to bring recommendations to the City Council in March or April;
- 4) Due to retirements and resignations, restructurings have been initiated which have the potential to save the City in excess of \$800,000 a year;
- 5) The City Council initiated a process to change the way 911 service is delivered;
- 6) Side letters were negotiated with all six bargaining groups which conclude negotiations through June 2017; and
- 7) The City Council gave direction to work with the community to update the City's economic development strategy, its downtown plan and its agricultural enterprise activities.

At the City Council meeting of February 10, 2015, I gave an informational report to the City Council which highlighted the accomplishments listed above, and in addition provided an overview to Council of items they may want to consider as goals and objectives for the future. Those items included the following:

- 1) A review and potential direction on the unfunded pension and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) obligations. The City of Brentwood is in a better situation than most, but a review and potentially more aggressive approach can be considered. Between 2010 and 2012 the City implemented reduced pension benefits for new employees and the 2013 adoption of the PEPPA legislation will further reduce costs in the very long-term. The City of Brentwood has also established an OPEB trust with CalPERS and has an adopted plan to increase pre-funding contributions over the next several years. In addition, the City adopted second and third tiers of OPEB benefit levels for current and future employees;
- 2) A status report and discussion on police dispatch;



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- 3) A discussion on the library project. Since the City Council endorsed the project, a number of things have happened including the decision to move forward with dispatch options, which would cost more dollars annually. There are a number of options available, stretching from putting the project on hold for a while to moving forward with the plan, which has escalated to a cost of \$14.6 million plus an increase of ongoing costs to at least \$500,000 annually;
- 4) A discussion on water. The State is in the fourth year of a drought and is also moving forward with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which has the potential to reduce the quantity and quality of water available to the City at Rock Slough. The City and its residents have the potential to be affected. Also, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is considering expanding the capacity of the Los Vaqueros reservoir. The City currently has no capacity in this facility, which is just south of the city limits. It may be worth considering partnering with CCWD to provide storage capacity as well as the potential to use stored water to improve water quality at certain times when Delta water is stressed; and
- 5) Discuss Marsh Creek State Historic Park. This site is adjacent to the city limits on the southwest side of the city. It represents a huge opportunity from a historic, recreational and economic development perspective. John Marsh was a significant player in the early settlement of California from a number of perspectives. The park is not developed but there is currently structural work taking place at the historic John Marsh Stone House as a result of local fundraising and a State grant. A number of things are happening. As the State emerges from the recession there will be efforts to spend more money on the State Park system, which has languished for many years. The Marsh Creek trail will soon extend south and will connect to the State Park. On the west side of Marsh Creek State Historic Park, it is relatively easy to see how the trail could be extended further to connect with Round Valley Regional Park and the Los Vaqueros open space. The Foundation, which has raised money for a number of years for the project, has also been working to raise the visibility of the site.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge what a pleasure and honor it has been to work with the City Council, the staff and members of the community. I have received the utmost cooperation from everyone. It has been a privilege to get to learn about the City that is now my home. I wish the City Council, the community, the staff and Mr. Vina continued success in making Brentwood an even better place to live than the great place it is today.

FINANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Credit Rating Upgrade

Last week Standard and Poor's (S&P) informed the City that it has increased the City's bond issuer rating from "AA" to "AA+." The upgrade does not have a fiscal impact to the City in regards to the current interest rates being paid by the City or the repayment terms of outstanding bonds; however, this will improve the City's already strong position in the bond market and will provide us access to more competitive interest rates in the future. As a result of this action, the rating on the 2009 Civic Center Bonds was also raised, increasing from "AA-" to "AA." S&P released the following press release to announce the upgrade:

SAN FRANCISCO (Standard & Poor's) Feb. 6, 2015--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its long-term rating to 'AA+' from 'AA' on Brentwood, Calif.'s issuer credit rating (ICR). At the same time, Standard & Poor's raised its long-term rating and underlying rating (SPUR) to 'AA' from 'AA-' on Brentwood



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Infrastructure Financing Authority, Calif.'s existing lease revenue bonds issued on behalf of the city. The outlook is stable.

"The raised rating reflects our view of the city's rebounding local economy, as well as its very strong management practices and budgetary flexibility," said Standard & Poor's credit analyst Jaime Trejo. "Further supporting the rating is our view of the city's very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity," Mr. Trejo added. Brentwood is located in Contra Costa County, approximately 45 miles northeast of San Francisco, and encompasses about 15 square miles. Historically agriculturally oriented, the city has transformed into a residential, suburban community with pockets of older farming and retail districts and expanding residential neighborhoods. The city participates in the broad and diverse San Francisco Bay Area regional economy.

Video Storage

In an effort to protect its citizens, employees and property, the City of Brentwood has deployed video surveillance cameras in a number of City facilities. These facilities include the Brentwood Police Station, City Hall, Civic Center Parking Garage, Community Center, Veterans Park, Skate Board Park, Aquatic Park, Senior Center, Public Works cardboard drop-off area and the Solid Waste Transfer Station. The State of California mandates that City surveillance cameras must retain one year's worth of recording. The Police Department's system currently meets the one year requirement, but it is over 9 years old and needs replacing in order to keep pace with modern technologies that provide better quality and a high level of reliability. The remainder of the City's systems record video for approximately one month. Information Services staff has created the Surveillance Camera and Storage System Upgrade 2015/16 CIP project to replace the Police surveillance system and upgrade the storage capacity of all other equipment to meet the State's one-year retention requirement.

PARK AND RECREATION

Youth Sports Registration

Next Friday, February 20, is the last day to sign up for Girls Fast Pitch Softball (ages 6-15) and Pee Wee Baseball (ages 5-8). Practices will begin the week of March 16 and the first game will be played on March 28. Registration can be taken over the phone or in person. Contact Parks and Recreation at 516-5444 for more information.

Blue Goose Park Improvements

The parking lot expansion portion of this project is currently out to bid. Bids will be opened on February 26 at 2 p.m. This portion of the project will add an additional 14 parking spaces to accommodate park users at this heavily utilized park. This will not affect the functionality of the playground, and the water features are slated to open as regularly scheduled on April 1, 2015.

Youth Commission Open Mic Night

The Brentwood Youth Commission will be hosting their first Teen Open Mic Night on Thursday, February 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. Poets, actors and singers are invited to share a 1 to 4 minute performance at Willy's Bagels and Blends (390 West Country Club Dr., off of Balfour Rd.). The event is geared for 8th-12th



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graders who want to share their creative side with other teens. Show up a few minutes early to save your place in the line-up.

PUBLIC WORKS

Upcoming Earth Day Compost Giveaway for City Residents

Earth Day, April 22, is an annual occurrence with events held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. In honor of Earth Day's 45th anniversary, the City will be offering approximately 100 cubic yards of compost, free of charge, to Brentwood residents. Once the date approaches, more detailed information will be made available on the locations and times.

Compost bins can be purchased through the City, for a cost of \$55, by contacting Solid Waste Operations at (925) 516-6090. More information regarding compost bins and free composting classes can be found on the City's website at the following link: [Composting Information](#).

Water Conservation and the Drought

According to the [California Drought](#) website, "While much of California has so far endured an exceptionally dry 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board announced that the statewide urban water conservation rate climbed to 22 percent in December, aided by a very wet end of 2014. Additionally, total water use by individual Californians continued to decline in December, another positive development as the state is threatened by a fourth consecutive dry year. Encouraged by the newest data, State Water Board officials called on Californians to continue conserving as the drought persists."

On Friday, February 6, 2015, Governor Brown stressed the need for continued conservation efforts. Here is a [video](#) of Governor Brown speaking about conservation and our need to keep up the effort to conserve water.

Visit the [Save our Water](#) website for more water saving tips.

Distribution: City Council, Arts Commission, Park & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, BANC, Department Heads, Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Coalition, Brentwood Press, Contra Costa Times

TEEN

THURSDAY FEB. 19

OPEN

4PM-6PM

MIC

* 8TH-12TH GRADE

* APPROPRIATE 1-4 MINUTE PERFORMANCES

* ARRIVE AT 3:45 IF YOU WANT TO PERFORM

*Willy's Bagels
and Blends*

390 WEST COUNTRY
CLUB DR.
BRENTWOOD

Presented by The City of Brentwood Youth Commission