

Civic News

Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission Tuesday, February 8, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission
Wednesday, February 9, 6:30 pm
Community Room, City Hall, 22 Orinda Way

Tri-City Meeting Thursday, February 10, 7:00 pm
Joint meeting with Lafayette and Moraga at Saint Mary's College, Soda Center

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
City of Orinda: www.cityoforinda.org
Chamber of Commerce: www.orindachamber.org

• Police Report •




Attempted break in, 1/18/11 A Canon Drive resident reported that someone attempted to break into her home via the side door. Apparently the unknown suspect huffed and puffed and attempted to bust open the door. But he or she only succeeded in causing damage to the door frame.

Drunk driving, 1/13/11 A car was observed making a sudden lane change near Camino Pablo and Highway 24. Concerned officer on duty pulled the driver over, who showed obvious signs of intoxication. Wouldn't

you know it, he flunked his field sobriety test and was arrested for D.U.I. He also had possession of controlled substances, Ritalin and Tramadol in unlabeled bottles.

Warrant arrest for coke, 1/21/11 Not the soft drink. Contra Costa Sheriff's Office picked up a fellow on Brookwood Road on an outstanding \$50,000 warrant for California Health and Safety Code 11351.5 Possession of cocaine for sale.

Warrant arrest for tail lights, 1/19/11 An Orinda resident was arrested on an outstanding \$1199 warrant for tail lights. Should have gotten those fixed, would have been way cheaper.



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Orinda's Budget on Target

By Andrea A. Firth

The City Council's midyear review of Orinda's budget found the City's fiscal planning essentially on target. The summary of revenues and expenditures through the end of December 2010 revealed no major surprises, but a couple of line items were cause for a raised eyebrow.

Property tax revenue, which constitutes the lion share of Orinda's income, was projected to increase by 1% but final numbers from the County Assessor's Office indicate property tax revenue will decrease by 0.25%. This represents about \$40,000 to Orinda's bottom line, and according to Finance Director Emily Hobdy, this is the first decline in property tax revenue that Orinda has experienced.

While sales tax revenue is down approximately 17% from the previous fiscal year, the most recent quarter's decline was only 6%. "I expect the rate of [sales tax revenue] decline has slowed," said Hobdy. Investment income also declined significantly as compared to the prior year. This was largely due to the fact that a number of investments were sold; and the lost interest income was offset by the gain on sale for the current fiscal year. On a good note, revenue tied to recreation fees continues to rise and will add an additional \$50,000 to the City's coffers.

On the expenditure side of the balance sheet, Vice Mayor Steve Glazer was wary of a couple of proposed appropriations and asked City staff to provide further information

before moving forward.

A traffic study to address the snarls on Moraga Way is estimated to cost \$120,000 over the next two years. "This is a significant amount of money," said Glazer adding that he wanted to establish a high bar for justification of this expenditure. Council Member Amy Worth recommended that a public meeting be held to ensure that all sides of this issue are heard and addressed. The item will be brought back to the Council with more detailed information.

Glazer also balked at a \$60,000 appropriation for an ADA Transition Plan to develop an analysis of improvement to City facilities to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). "The City is commit-

ted to improving access," said Glazer. "I know this is a touchy subject. But I don't know what the transition plan is, and this is a lot of money," he added requesting staff to provide more information. Worth concurred, reiterating the request for more data regarding the cost and components.

The Council did approve spending up to \$30,000 in insurance funds or waiving up to \$30,000 in processing fees associated with repairs to be undertaken as part of a settlement agreement associated with an ADA non-compliance suit. "The improvements for access for disability are required," stated City attorney Osa Wolff.

"It's not a question of if but when," she added, "It's a pretty big universe of issues the city has to study and address."

Bike, Trail, Walkway Plan Put in Place

By Andrea A. Firth

Over two years in development, the Orinda Bicycle, Trail and Walkway (BTW) Master Plan was unanimously approved for adoption by the City Council at its January 18th meeting. The BTW Master Plan provides a long-term vision for the development of bike facilities, trails, and walkways taking a twenty-year look forward at

the potential infrastructure improvements that could be made throughout the City. Consultants from Alta Planning + Design in Berkeley developed the 82-page plan with extensive input from the Council, city staff, and a resident advisory group.

The BTW Master Plan identifies 43 bike, trail, and walkway projects representing

11.6 miles of bicycle lanes and routes, 12.2 miles of walkways, 4.1 miles of natural surface trails, along with 13 intersection improvements. Total cost for these capital improvements tops \$5.5 million (in 2009 dollars). "We did a lot of field work. The projects that are presented in here should be feasible," said Lauren Ledbetter of Alta Plan-

ning + Design. Council Member Dean Orr commended the comprehensive nature of the project list, but he acknowledged that given the City's scarce resources, the City would not be likely to fund any of the projects in the short term. City Manager Janet Keeter concurred adding, "This plans sets us up to pursue grants."

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