



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 5, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 12, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 13, at 6:30 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, June 11, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Suspicious circumstances, 5/10/12 A 14-year-old girl walking home after school became suspicious when a red car passed her, then made a u-turn and tried to talk to her. She sought the shelter of a neighbor's porch. The girl said there were two men in the car. The driver was described as having "spiked" dark hair; the passenger wore his hair in short dreadlocks. "Hi, how are you doing?" said Dreadguy. They didn't stick around.

Grass makes you sleepy, 5/7/12 Grazing in the grass was no gas for one 36-year-old male, whom Orinda police found catching 40 winks alongside Camino Pablo. Police also found the man, who was on probation in Alameda County, in possession of a prescription drug. The man was searched, transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked.

Cat burglar? More like a clumsy dog... 5/7/2012 The fog may come in on little cat feet, but one burglar was anything but cat-like. An Orinda Sleepy Hollow resident was awakened in the middle of the night after hearing a crash and sounds of movement in his house. He found a male burglar lying face down inside his home next to a broken window. The burglar fled, leaving his screwdriver, wire cutters and baseball cap behind. Police brought a K-9 in to search the area, but couldn't find him.

Warrant time, various dates: Three warrant arrests are on the books; the first on 5/7 when a 32-year-old male driver was pulled over. He had an outstanding warrant issued in LA and earned a visit to Martinez Detention Facility. Number two was a 56-year-old male who on 5/10 was arrested and booked into Martinez Detention Facility. The last guy got lucky – a 26-year-old male was cited and released after a traffic stop 5/15.

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Fee Hikes in Orinda's Future

Orinda City Council learns of latest budget headaches

By Laurie Snyder

The May 15 Orinda City Council meeting began on a somber note as participants were informed of the passing May 9 of Orinda's first mayor, Dick Heggie. A Rotarian and former Orinda Citizen of the Year, Heggie also co-founded the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation and served as director of the Orinda Community Foundation.

Council members adopted the evening's agenda in his honor before proceeding on to the latest round of budget and infrastructure project discussions in front of a large crowd, which included a significant number of students from Miramonte High School.

One of those students whistled in surprise as Mayor Steve Glazer explained – during the portion of the meeting devoted to the latest news about the Glorieta Storm Drain Project – how the cost of this one project relates to the small number of homes it will impact versus the size of Orinda's approximately \$10 million overall budget.

A budget buster, the project is under review yet again because only two of the roughly 10 firms anticipated to express interest in the project actually submitted bids by the May 1 deadline. Both bids came in well above what the Council and staff were expecting.

The lower of the two – \$1,484,430 – was submitted by Bay Pacific Pipelines, Inc., and "exceeds the approved Capital Improvement (CP) Budget of \$1,254,308," according to the staff report for this meeting.

The bid submitted by K.J. Woods Construction, Inc., the second firm competing for the project award, was \$1,688,000. At first blush, the City Engineer initially thought the project would cost even less – \$1,016,772.

Council Member Dean Orr asked why only two bids were received, and was advised by Public Works Director Chuck Swanson that several of the other companies expected to bid were already booked to work on other projects, had issues with subcontracting, or felt they would not be able to make enough profit. Additionally, the project's complexity and risk may have also factored into their decisions.

The Council touched briefly on the viability of re-opening the bidding process, but ultimately opted not to do so. The project is time sensitive due to obligations incurred by the City under a related settlement with the Robles family, as well as the expiration dates on the environmental permits and easements, which have already been obtained in order to expedite the project.

When Orr pointed out a potential \$200,000 discrepancy on line 14 of the budget submitted by the winning bidder, Swanson observed, "That's where we speculate the savings is." He and City Manager Janet Keeter also stated that Public Works personnel are confident that they will be able to reduce the projected budget even further "through value engineering and recommendations from the low bidder regarding alternative construction methods." As a result, the Council agreed that the project should move forward, and directed staff to negotiate aggressively with Bay Pacific Pipelines to reduce the project's overall cost.

In addition, Council members held a public hearing regarding the City's plans to charge more for many of the services it delivers. According to the staff report, the hikes are being implemented – for everything from administrative operations to recreation programs – because the City's fees "have not been adjusted for overall changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since July 1, 2008," and "to comply with the Council's policy that charges be set to recover the actual cost of providing certain services."

Planning Department fees, already restructured in 2010, will increase by three percent. Fees for non-planning items will rise roughly 7.9 percent, based on the compounded Bay Area CPI (percentages for 2009: 1.2, 2010: 1.8, 2011: 1.7, 2012: 3.0). And, new fees will be introduced, including a Police services "fix-it ticket" fee of \$10 to compensate the City for the time it takes an officer to check and sign-off on the correction of the violation of the vehicle.

Council members and staff anticipate that these fee changes will bring in an additional \$25,000 in revenue – deemed critical in light of the latest budget updates showing that the City's property tax revenues will be roughly a quarter of a million dollars less than originally anticipated.

Pinching Pennies

Orinda City Council and staff roll up sleeves at budget workshop

By Laurie Snyder

The week of budget woes continued as Council members and staff reviewed the City of Orinda's current and projected finances in painstaking detail at a morning budget workshop May 17.

The City's General Fund Operat-

ing Revenues will be \$236,045 less than first estimated for Fiscal Year 2013 – the lion's share of the loss attributed to declines in property tax revenues and the "In lieu of Vehicle License Fees" line item – reductions of \$182,733 and

\$73,642, respectively.

In addition, according to the City of Orinda Management Summary: Tax Year 2011-12 prepared for City leaders by MuniServices, "The secured and unsecured assessment rolls for 2011-12 show that the assessed value of taxable properties within the City of Orinda decreased by -3.18 percent over the previous year, 2010-2011." And, an "analysis of sales occurring within the City of Orinda since the 2011-12 roll year release (July 2011) indicates that 162 sales resulted in a decline in value of approximately \$10,000,000."

As a result, City Council members probed the nooks and crannies of each City department's budget, balancing the desire to reduce operational costs with the need to deliver mandated and vital services. The City

Clerk's budget will increase by roughly \$30,000 from Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 to FY 2013 due to biennial statewide election costs while City Manager Keeter's budget will decrease by approximately \$20,000 due largely to cuts in Keeter's salary and benefits.

The Planning Department anticipates saving roughly \$40,000 due to staffing adjustments while Parks and Recreation estimates that it will be able to reduce its budget by \$141,584 due to savings derived from lower salaries for the new Parks and Recreation Director and certain temporary staff positions, along with the transformation of a full-time Recreation Supervisor II job, through attrition, into a full-time Recreation Coordinator position.

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Buckle Up!

The Orinda Police Department will be joining other state and local enforcement officers for Click It or Ticket enforcement from May 22 through June 1. "Too many drivers and passengers on the road at night are not wearing their seat belts, and it all too often ends in tragedy," says Chief Jeffrey Jennings. "Our goal is to save lives, so the Orinda Police Department will be enforcing seat belt laws around the clock." According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2010 nationally, 61 percent of the 10,647 passenger vehicle occupants killed in nighttime automobile traffic crashes were not wearing seat belts versus 42 percent killed during the daytime. L.Snyder

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday June 16th 3pm-5pm

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living lean.
by Sheena