City Manager’s Report

Our new website went live Friday! Kim shepherded this effort with our consultant and deserves all the credit for this improvement in our ability to communicate and share information with the public.

Denise Duffy and Associates submitted the preliminary draft Housing Element to the State of California Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department. HCD acknowledged receipt. We anticipate comments from HCD and hope to bring the final Housing Element to Council in November.

I attended a Marina Coast Water District Board meeting last Monday night at the request of the General Manager to address questions concerning development on our Fort Ord Property. The Board approved a contract with Whitson Engineers for the design of the potable water pipeline along South Boundary Road. Excellent news!

We sent a follow up note to the California Native Plant Society about a potential meeting in early October. The meeting is set for 2pm on October 11th at City Hall.

Three cannabis businesses have not paid their taxes and are on notice that their cannabis business permit will be suspended if their tax is not paid within two weeks.

We contacted the Airport concerning the removal of dead trees and brush along the fence line with Rosita based on input from our residents.

Staff followed up with CalTrans regarding a sign to be added to Canyon Del Rey Blvd indicating the General Jim Moore Blvd turn is coming. The sign has been ordered for manufacture.

Public Works prepared the park for the picnic by placing new trash and recycling containers in the park, filling the playground area with new safe woodchips, checking electrical connections for the band, and completing the work around Old Town Hall that a solid group of volunteers had started!

Public Works also cleared rain gutters of overgrown grass and weeds in preparation for rains, and did some weeding along certain streets.

Public Works continued to make improvements to the baseball field, including aerating the outfield and placing yellow fence guards on the outfield fence. Ron repaired yet another break in our aging water pipeline infrastructure to our park.

Staff signed the engagement letter with Hdl for Cannabis compliance inspections and audits and provided business information to Hdl for analysis and scheduling. Staff will send a letter to our Cannabis businesses notifying them of upcoming inspections in the weeks ahead.

I held a Coffee with the City Manager at City Hall on September 5th. It was attended by a half dozen residents including the Mayor. We toured City Hall and described staff functions, covered the Strategic Plan, the news of FORA’s imminent sunset in 10 months, and answered questions about the Airport road. Our next Coffee is December 5th at Starbucks.

The Citizen’s Action Group (CAG) “Let's Plant 100 Oaks in Del Rey Oaks” program is a huge success. The City has given away over 90 oak tree vouchers in the past several weeks!
I met with Karen Harris and Kim Shirley at the tennis court to see where they would like to plant a butterfly garden. They have submitted a sketch and written description so we have a common understanding of what the garden will entail. It is another wonderful example of resident engagement helping beautify the City.

Council held a very productive strategic planning session on August 27th. Staff will recommend amendments to the plan based on FORA sunsetting on June 30, 2020.

Staff met with a CalOES official to provide documentation needed to receive FEMA reimbursement funding for storm damage repair resulting from the storm in February. Thanks to the hard work of Karen Minami and Ron Fucci, CalOES informed us that the City will receive approximately $63,000 in storm damage reimbursement.

Staff attended an AMBAG planning director’s forum last week where the new Local Government Planning Support Grants Program was discussed. The program is meant to help us meet our affordable housing requirements through one-time planning grants. The work we are doing on our Housing Element will help make us eligible for the grant funding. AMBAG still has much to do to implement the program and we will track the process closely to submit our application by the July 1, 2020 deadline. The potential exists for us to receive $65,000 in grant funding through this program.

Staff participated in a meeting of Chief Information Officers (CIO) at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) where cyber security and potential collaboration was discussed. The NPS CIO and I are going to discuss ways NPS may be able to help us with our cyber security vulnerabilities and other technology related issues.

Staff attended the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. MRWMD consultants provided a status of the cost based readjustment (CBR). Green Waste Recovery (GWR) has been late providing information to the consultant, which has delayed the CBR and therefore any change in rates. GWR has been put on notice that any change in rates will only be retroactively applied if it is a rate reduction. Any increase in rates will only apply from the time they are adopted by Council. The consultants anticipate that the earliest a rate change will be agreed upon is January 2020. Causes for the delay include inadequate staffing at GWR and the recent retirement of key personnel. The TAC approved sending a notice to GWR that jurisdictions may seek liquidated damages under the franchise agreement if progress is not made on the CBR.

The Citizen’s Action Group (CAG) organized another wonderful City event! Seaside Fire, DRO PD and Public Works attended. The weather was fantastic for what proved to be fun day for all. Thanks to the DRO CAG and the many volunteers who made this event happen!

The Association of Defense Communities will hold a two day conference at the Monterey Conference Center Monday and Tuesday of next week September 30th and October 1st. Topics of discussion will relate to base redevelopment.