

Public Hearing. Mayor Chu suggested they switch the March 15th and April 5th agendas. The City Manager stated she would look at this and get back to the Council. The Council would hold a Special Fiscal Workshop Meeting on March 29th. She reported FEMA has been quite active in Larkspur and has been meeting with staff, property, and business owners. She discussed recent legislation (AB 1234) that was passed requiring all elected officials to undergo two hours of Ethics Training. Councilmember Arlas asked what would happen if someone did not attend. Councilmember Hartzell stated there was a fine involved for noncompliance. Councilmember Arlas asked if the training he undertakes as an attorney would suffice. The City Attorney stated there was nothing in the statute addressing that and they should comply. The City Manager stated the appellant for Public Hearing Item #1 has requested a continuance.

Councilmember Arlas discussed FEMA money (about 10%) that is set aside for Capital Projects and asked the City Manager to point out, to the FEMA representatives, the mud bars by the Bon Air Bridge. The City Manager stated 11% was set aside for “pre-hazard mitigation” but the amount of money would not be great. She would be happy to show the mud to the FEMA representative.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Councilmember Hartzell reported she attended a meeting with representatives from County Public Works and the Flood Control Board, Supervisor Hal Brown, and City Managers and Councilmembers to discuss the future of flood control efforts in the County. A protocol would be developed by April 20th on warnings to residents and all jurisdictions would be in the loop once there is an agreement on the basic design. She stated the County Public Works Director discussed the “NAPA” approach which is a regional, cooperative approach that includes the gathering of all parties to discuss expectations and demands. The County has committed \$200,000 for implementation of a short, mid, and long-range plan. They would be asking the four local government jurisdictions to come up with, collectively, the remaining \$100,000. The first step is to gather all relevant materials. They would be offering tours to local governments and a press release would be coming out soon. She stated public impression and opinion is vital to this effort. Councilmember Hillmer stated they should reconsider using the “NAPA” approach, as it might not be effective given the parties involved.

Mayor Chu stated the Marin County Transit District has designated the “Loop” (Tamal Vista, Tamalpais Drive, Magnolia Avenue, and Doherty Drive) as a Measure A priority project. A task force is being put together consisting of representatives of the City of Larkspur, the Town of Corte Madera, Larkspur School District, and the Corte Madera Chamber of Commerce. The next step is to identify other interested stakeholders. The next meeting would deal with policy and implementation issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM TOM BRADNER, LARKSPUR'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MARIN SONOMA MOSQUITO VECTOR ABATEMENT BOARD

The City Manager introduced Mr. Tom Bradner.

Mr. Bradner stated the past year was a milestone for the agency since they increased the size of the District from about 960 to 2,300 square miles. It now covers the entire area of Sonoma and Marin County. This has resulted in an increase in staffing from about 17 to 35. He discussed the use of certain pesticides and their effectiveness and the District's efforts in the fight against West Nile Virus and Western Equine Encephalitis. He discussed the Board's Annual Report and stated that District technicians reported to 730 service calls in Marin County last year. He stated the District provided some assistance with the work that was done on the Remillard Park pond. The District would like to be apprised of any new impoundments of water because there is a lot that can be done with the design to mitigate the attractiveness to mosquitos. He stated the District does a lot in terms of education and he encouraged residents to contact the District with any problems or questions.

Councilmember Arlas asked what agency would be handling the problem with Avian Flu. Mr. Bradner stated this was being dealt with through the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the District has not been asked to do any testing on dead birds. The District, however, is ready to assist.

The Council thanked Mr. Bradner for his service to the community.

2. REPORT TO COUNCIL FROM JOANNE WEBER, LARKSPUR'S REPRESENTATIVE ON MARIN COMMISSION ON AGING

The City Manager introduced Ms. Weber.

Ms. Weber stated the Commissions new mantra is "Live Long, Live Well" and this is their vision for planning, programs, and services. Their goal is to make life better for older adults. She discussed the composition of the Commission and stated they work with the County Division of Aging as an advisory group. She distributed a pamphlet to the Council and discussed the recent efforts of the Commission which includes advocacy against senior abuse, slip and fall workshops, and health insurance counseling including a workshop on the

Medicare “D” Program. She stated the full day symposium, “Aging in the New Millennium”, would be held on May 4th. She stated they do not fund programs directly but are a conduit for State and Federal funds. Their future plans include a continuation of the current activities, a Seniors Driving Workshop, Transportation Day, Disaster Preparedness for Seniors, and expanded benefits for In-Home Support Services.

Councilmember Hartzell stated the “NERT” program offered by various agencies might include a senior’s component. She asked if information regarding elder abuse was shared with the local Police Departments. Ms. Weber stated she did not think there was a lot of coordination within the County. Twin Cities Police Sergeant Smith stated the department has in-house training.

Councilmember Arlas stated he does a lot of litigation for a major mortgage bank and they are starting to see more and more incidents of abuse regarding loans. He stated he would be happy to be a resource to Ms. Weber and the Commission.

Councilmember Hillmer noted one of the Commission’s objectives was improved housing opportunities for the elderly. Ms. Weber stated this was a real problem due to the lack of available land. Much of the existing senior housing and assisted living arrangements are very expensive.

Mayor Chu stated he would like to meet with Ms. Weber and discuss the proposed shuttle since it is intended to not only decrease congestion but also increase mobility for residents.

The Council thanked Ms. Weber for her presentation and service to the community.

3. REVIEW OF TWIN CITIES POLICE AUTHORITY 2005 ANNUAL TRAFFIC REPORT

The City Manager introduced Twin Cities Sergeant Sean Smith.

Sergeant Smith discussed the figures in the report and stated the trends were positive. There was a tie for the most common collision factor between unsafe speed and red light violations. The traffic index is the number of hazardous moving violations divided by the number of injury accidents. An index of 20 is considered to be an effective enforcement program. The index increased from 12.73 last year to 21.45 this year. He stated there was an increase in enforcement and education this year and they continue to employ the pedestrian and bicycle stings.

Councilmember Arlas stated he was a big supporter of the bicycle sting and he asked them to include the North Magnolia Avenue area.

Mayor Chu asked if all the improvements were a result of higher enforcement or the fact they were back to full staffing levels. Sergeant Smith stated "both".

Councilmember Hartzell discussed the problem with convincing seniors to stop driving and asked if there was anything the community could do. Sergeant Smith stated friends and relatives need to get involved. The Department performs re-exams all the time. Twin Cities Police Captain Horn stated the department can follow-up with a knock on the door and then submit a form to the DMV notifying them of any potential problem.

Mayor Chu thanked them for their presentation and their good work.

M/s, Hillmer/Hartzell and approved 4-0 (Lundstrom absent) to accept the Twin Cities Police Department 2005 Annual Traffic Report.

4. TWIN CITIES POLICE FACILITY UPDATE

The City Manager presented the staff report. She thanked Twin Cities Police Chief Green and Captain Horn for helping in the selection process for the project manager.

Councilmember Hillmer discussed the continuing rise in construction costs. He stated he would speak to staff about ideas that could be explored regarding new materials that could cut costs.

5. CONSIDERATION OF TOT GRANT FUNDS FOR THE LARKSPUR THEATER STUDENT FILM PROJECT

The City Manager presented the staff report.

Councilmember Arlas stated he was disappointed that the applicant was not present tonight since he had questions about the salary for the administrator and the event planner and the screening costs. He stated this project is poorly planned and he did not want any public funds used for it this year. He would like to have the opportunity to look at the books for this year and then ask the applicant to submit another request next year. In addition, the Council has never funded any project retroactively.

Councilmember Hillmer referred to page 2 of the staff report and stated he was concerned that the budget includes almost \$10,000 for staffing for this one-day event. He stated there seemed to be a lot of redundancy in the operational side of the event.

Mayor Chu suggested they eliminate all the labor and allocate about \$5,500. He did not like the fact that the applicant was not at the meeting. However, this is a

community event for the kids and he would like to support it in some way. The applicant should be made aware of the fact that she could not run things in a haphazard manner.

Councilmember Hillmer agreed with Mayor Chu and stated he wanted to see this thing work but he could not justify the salary costs. He could support the allocation of \$5,500. To the extent possible, he would like to request that all applications clearly delineate personnel costs.

The City Manager stated the City has not received many TOT applications that included salary requests.

Mayor Chu asked the City Manager if they could request a closing Financial Statement. The City Manager stated staff would make it clear that the grant would either be a reimbursement for actual expenses or that the expenditures would be approved as they come in to make sure they were not salary related. Councilmember Arlas stated he would prefer the reimbursement approach.

Mayor Chu asked if the application was complete. The City Manager stated "yes". This situation would require more fiscal monitoring since it would be based on reimbursements.

Councilmember Hillmer wondered if the reimbursement approach would be a hardship for the applicant.

M/s, Arlas/Hartzell and approved 4-0 (Lundstrom absent) to grant \$3,000 in advance and allow reimbursements of up to an additional \$2,500 as receipts are submitted. The total TOT grant amount shall not exceed \$5,500.

6. ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07/06- DESIGNATION OF APPLICANT'S AGENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The City Manager presented the staff report.

M/s, Hartzell/Arlas and approved 4-0 (Lundstrom absent) to adopt Resolution No. 07/06.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. APPEAL OF DECISION BY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S REMOVAL OF ONE HERITAGE TREE AT 136 MADRONE AVENUE

This item was continued at the appellant's request.

ADJOURN MEETING

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary