



San Anselmo News

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June 17, 2009

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, June 9, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Approved resolutions setting the 2009-10 tax rates for the Municipal Services Tax, Pension Override Tax, Measure G Debt Service Tax and the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority.
- Appointed Linda Henley to the Arts Commission.
- Received a presentation from the Finance and Administrative Services Director on preparations for the 2009-10 budget. More on this below.
- Continued a discussion of the overnight parking ordinance to the meeting of **Tuesday, June 23, 2009**. Under consideration is a request to review the parameters of the ordinance with the possibility of allowing permitted parking overnight on streets that are a minimum of 36 feet wide.
- Introduced an ordinance that provides for a temporary one year extension of the expiration for currently valid Planning approvals due to the difficulty in getting financing.
- Continued discussion of an ordinance providing for an affordable housing requirement for residential and non-residential development projects per State law. This ordinance will be on the Tuesday, July 14, 2009 agenda.

With respect to planning for the **2009-10 budget**, Finance and Administrative Services Director Janet Pendoley reported that the Town is in a stable position going forward into the new budget year. This is because in the last six years the Town Council took action to reduce Town staff from 63 to 52 employees, instituted two-tiered retirement plans for all employees and planned carefully to ensure sufficient revenues to cover expenditures.

When revenues (and the economy) increased briefly in 2007-08, the Town continued on its careful path of fiscal conservatism in the wake of the devastating flood of December 31, 2005. In light of the enormous budget difficulties the state is facing and the significant Town take-aways that are being proposed, the Town has developed a bare-bones, status quo budget for 2009-10, setting aside as much as possible to deal with this uncertainty.

Roses

With the Town Hall flood proofing project nearly complete, the roses have been returned to their garden in front of the Police Department.

Volunteer rose tender Marilyn Girodo took the roses home last November in preparation for the project. She has cared for them in pots since the fall, and Marilyn tells us that they were impatient to get back to their garden. Many, many thanks to Marilyn for her care of the Town roses.

Country Fair Day

Country Fair Day was a traditional event in San Anselmo until several years ago, when the economy and fiscal hard times intervened. Country Fair (also called Community Fair some years) is a local event that features a parade, music, games for kids and booths sponsored by local groups, all held in the downtown.

Community Services Director Dave Donery is working to gather volunteers to bring Country Fair back to San Anselmo. Many hands are needed to pull this off. Committees are forming and help is needed to organize the parade, solicit music groups, handle publicity, coordinate with local schools, and much more.

If you can help make this much-loved tradition come back to San Anselmo, please let Dave know at 258-4661.

Greenfield Undergrounding Project

Much work has been completed on the Greenfield Avenue utility undergrounding project underway by PG&E. The conduit is in for the utility lines, the sidewalk and other hardscape work has been completed and the new street lights are scheduled to be installed in the next month. The street lights, which will be similar to those on San Anselmo Avenue, cannot be energized, however, until the end of the project.

The next step is to install the cables in the underground conduit. The phone and cable companies will be doing this in the summer and fall. PG&E will not begin that work until January 2010, due to funding difficulties. When that work is done, the existing poles can come down. PG&E projects that their work will be completed by April 2010. At the end of the project, the Town will pave Greenfield Avenue.

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