The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
November 30, 2018

Upcoming Events

Sat., Dec 1
Shredding Event
Corporation Yard
592 Superior Ave.
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tue., Dec. 4
Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
6 p.m.

Dec. 6
Wake Up! Newport Guest Speaker Fire Chief Chip Duncan
Central Library Friends Room
1000 Avocado Ave
7:15 am – 8:30 am

Thurs., Dec. 6
Planning Commission Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
4 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 11
City Council Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Dr.
6:30 p.m.

Kurt Borsting Selected as City’s Harbormaster

Kurt Borsting has been chosen to serve as the City’s new harbormaster. Borsting emerged as the top candidate during the executive recruitment process due to his extensive managerial and operational experience and a track record of effectively developing and implementing programs and policies. He will join our staff on December 10.

Borsting is currently employed as the Marine Operations Superintendent for the City of Long Beach’s Marine Bureau and oversees three municipal marinas that serve more than 3,200 recreational, commercial and live-aboard boaters.

Renowned yachtsman and longtime Newport Beach resident Dennis Durgan served as the City’s first harbormaster and was instrumental in developing the vision and goals for the recently formed Harbor Department. Borsting will be responsible for implementing that vision and further developing the department’s services.

Autonomous Vehicles Are Coming!

Community Development Department staff attended several presentations on autonomous vehicles (AV) and their future impacts to our streets. Vehicle manufacturers, Silicon Valley, and major retailers are vigorously pursuing AV technology. Arizona allows testing on streets and highways today. It is not a matter of if but when these vehicles will dominate. “The timing is uncertain, but we should get ready,” was the message from several sessions.

What will the effects be? How does a community get ready? There is the potential that vehicle miles traveled will increase, vehicle ownership may decrease, ride sharing may increase all while improving overall safety. Parking demand should diminish and so will parking requirements. Curbside management and loading areas will be increasingly important to efficiently move goods and people. Storage and maintenance facilities for these
new vehicles may be necessary. Improved maintenance of “AV ready” roadways will be important and where will those funds come from. These issues and more await the City as it addresses the future of mobility in the upcoming General Plan update.

Coastal Permit Jurisdictional Boundaries
City staff have been in discussions with the Coastal Commission staff regarding how to determine the location of jurisdictional boundaries for coastal development permits. The issue arose when the Coastal Commission staff determined that a recent City approval of a coastal development permit for replacement bulkhead was invalid because the development was located within their jurisdiction. City staff conducted a conference call with Coastal Commission staff from the South Coast District Office in Long Beach and the Mapping Unit in San Francisco and Santa Cruz in order to prevent this from happening in the future. It was agreed that the certified Post-LCP Certification Permit and Appeal Jurisdiction Map is the most accurate depiction of the jurisdiction boundaries and should be used by the City for the day-to-day administration of the certified Local Coastal Program. However, there may be times when the Coastal Commission staff’s assistance is needed for clarification and information concerning the precise location of the jurisdictional boundary. In special circumstances, an applicant may need to obtain an official boundary determination from the Mapping Unit if a more in-depth analysis of factors used to determine jurisdictional boundaries is needed.

Lido Marina Village Farmers’ Market
Staff from Community Development and Recreation met with Lido Marina Village property owners to discuss next steps to implement a long-term license agreement to govern use of the public right-of-way on Via Oporto for a weekly certified farmers’ market. Staff expects to bring the license agreement forward for City Council consideration in early 2019. The market has been operating under a special event permit since its inception in May 2018. Designs for use of permanent removable bollards as traffic control measures were also discussed at the meeting.

Newport Crossing Study Session and Draft EIR
A study session on the Newport Crossings Mixed-Use Project will be held by the Planning Commission on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 4 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The project would redevelop the existing 58,277-square-foot commercial center known as MacArthur Square, 4251-5 Martingale Way, with a mixed-use development consisting of 350 residential dwelling units, 7,500 square feet of commercial space, and a 0.5-acre public park. The purpose of the study session is to provide the Planning Commission and general public with the opportunity to
learn about the project. In addition, a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been completed for the project and released for public review on November 30, 2018. The public comment period will remain until January 11, 2019. The DEIR can be accessed online at http://www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa. The Planning Commission will not be taking action on either the project or DEIR at the study session.

**Coastal Commission December Meeting**

The California Coastal Commission will hold their next meeting (December 12-14) in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The December 12 agenda includes a public hearing on the final part of the City’s Local Coast Program (LCP) “Clean-up” Amendment. This amendment would amend the certified LCP Implementation Plan to add a new provision recognizing locally approved modifications and variances, restore existing Zoning Code height limit exceptions in the Shoreline Height Limit Area, allow larger additions to nonconforming structures, and revise language relating to the waiver of future protection in shoreline hazardous areas.

Please note that the Thursday, December 13 agenda includes an item related to oil facilities in Long Beach, which may draw large crowds.

**FEMA Flood Map Update**

FEMA’s revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (flood map) will be effective March 21, 2019. The updated flood map designates areas in the City most prone to flooding from possible storm events or waves. Property owners newly affected by the new flood map will receive a letter in the mail that informs them of the upcoming effective date, the requirement to have flood insurance, and the potential eligibility for reduced flood insurance rates. The letter is posted on the City’s website which can be found here: https://www.newportbeachca.gov/fema

**Gondola Adventures, Inc. Relocation**

A building permit was recently issued to Gondola Adventures, Inc. to install their modular office building at Bayside Village commercial marina, 3101 West Coast Highway. The gondola boats will be docked within the existing marina slips accessible from the property. The office will be used for general office operations, storage, and setup area for gondola tours and include an attached restroom to serve employees and customers.

**Newport Village Update**

The Newport Village mixed-use project (located along the north and south parcels adjacent to West Coast Highway in Mariners’ Mile) was recently resubmitted to the Community Development Department. The revised project site has been reduced from 11.3 to 9.4 acres in area and the project’s commercial floor area has been reduced to comply with floor area ratio minimums (0.25 and 0.35 on the north and south parcels respectively). The proposed residential development includes 14 condominiums on a portion of the south parcel and 108 apartment units on the north parcel. A public scoping meeting will be scheduled in 2019 once the CEQA process is initiated and a consultant has been selected.

**Balboa Peninsula Stakeholder Meeting**

Community Development held its semi-annual Balboa Peninsula stakeholder meeting for District 1. The meeting brought residents, restaurant operators, and City staff together to discuss topics which included trend in crime rates, best management practices for late night restaurant operations, and pending applications for new or proposed changes to existing restaurants.
Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) Installed at Civic Center

Approximately 890 deaths from coronary heart disease occur outside of the hospital or emergency room every day. Most of these deaths are due to the sudden loss of heart function or sudden cardiac death. A number of these victims, up to 60 percent, might have been saved if automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were immediately available. Chances of survival from sudden cardiac death diminish by 7 - 10 percent for each minute without immediate CPR or defibrillation. After 10 minutes, resuscitation rarely succeeds. An AED is an electronic device designed to deliver an electric shock to a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. Ventricular fibrillation may be restored to normal rhythm up to 60 percent of the time if treated promptly with an AED.

The Newport Beach Fire Department has secured four AEDs for the Civic Center and they are located in the following areas:

Bay A – 1st Floor (between cashier & CDD)
Bay B – 2nd Floor (between HR & Fire)
Bay C – 1st Floor (Permit Counter)
Bay D – 2nd Floor (near Crystal Cove Conference Room)

They are ready for use in the event of an emergency. If you have questions, please call the fire department at 949-644-3355.

Treasury Report

The October 2018 Treasury Report is available on the City’s website at www.newportbeachca.gov/treasury. As of October, the City’s portfolio totaled just over $244 million, from all sources. Roughly $36 million of this portfolio was highly liquid, meaning it was available for cash flows associated with day-to-day operations and cash funding of major construction expenditures.

The short-term portfolio ($195 million) had a weighted average effective maturity of 1.77 years. With interest rates on the rise, the total return for the short-term portfolio was suppressed by unrealized losses from the declining market value of bonds (bond values move inversely to the direction of interest rates). Including these unrealized losses, the trailing twelve months’ total return was 0.61%. This return compared favorably to our benchmark for the same period, the BAML 1-3 Year Treasury index, which returned 0.25%. The income yield on the portfolio, a better measure of income derived from the portfolio, was 1.68%.

McFadden Plaza Maintenance

The Field Maintenance Concrete Crew recently removed older wall planters that were surrounding the public restrooms adjacent to the Newport Pier. The existing plants were relocated to surrounding areas of the plaza, and the walls and soil were removed with a new concrete pathway poured in its place. This opened up the entrances to the restrooms and surrounding area for better pedestrian access and view. The smaller tree planters were refreshed and outfitted with skateboard stoppers that continue to allow visitors a place to sit and relax.

Southern California Edison Scheduled Street Work

Southern California Edison has been working all this week during the evening hours on vaults and pulling cables. Streets scheduled for work are Lafayette and Lido Park, West Marine Parking Lot, Jamboree/PCH and Bay Avenue 7th Street. On the night of November 27th Edison worked on Lafayette and Lido Park and on the 28th the West Marine Parking Lot. Due to rainy weather
conditions work scheduled for the 29th on Jamboree/PCH and for the 30th on Bay Avenue at 7th Street will be rescheduled.

**Lido Village & West Newport Water Main Replacement**

Construction for the Lido Village and West Newport Water Main Replacement project continues to progress. Since our last update, the contractor has completed water main replacements on West Coast Highway, Lido Park Drive, 30th Street and 32nd Street. Water and sewer main replacement has also been completed on Via Oporto and Via Malaga. Crews are currently finishing up work on Marcus Avenue and will be completed by early December. The next scheduled water replacement work will take place on Lake Avenue but will be limited to the area between 32nd and 38th Street.

**Thanksgiving Day rain**

On Thanksgiving day, with forecasted rain and a morning high tide, Utilities and Public Works planned and mobilized a crew of 28 people, working in the early morning hours to pump streets and neighborhoods on the Peninsula and Balboa Island. The Utilities Department maintains the tide valve system and the higher tides, which are seasonal, require the closing of tide valves so the streets do not flood with Bay water. Once closed, if it rains, the streets require pumping. Attached is a graphic that was created by the Orange County Register that illustrates the operation. The high tides for this Saturday’s forecasted rain will be much lower.
Keeping water off the streets

A two-man crew goes out during high tide to monitor 89 valves that were strategically placed around the island in the mid-70s, replacing plugs put in during the early 1900s. Newport Beach is the only beachfront city in the county with the system.

Drains located from 44th St. to 1 St.

1. When ocean tide is 5.4 feet above sea level or higher, Balboa Island and Balboa peninsula are susceptible to flooding.

2. As water level rises, it flows into storm drains.

3. To prevent flooding, valves to storm drains are manually closed. A valve tool is inserted and manually twisted by a crew member which closes the valve. Valves over 18 inches require electric motors to open and close.

4. After peak high tide, crew members begin to reopen tidal valves.

Source: Tom Miller and Jim Auger, City of Newport

High tides occur an average of 20 days a month. In the summer they tend to peak in the evenings; mornings in the winter.

Storm pipes range from 10 feet to 20 feet from sea wall to valve.

Valves remain open unless there is a high tide. When there is rain and the tide is high, valves are closed, keeping storm run-off from draining. This causes storm flooding on the streets, and pumping crews are called out to pump drains.

Laura Czingula and Monica Edwards/The Register