

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF 2015 PRIORITY PROJECTS AND OBJECTIVES

SOURCE: City Manager

COMMENT: At its meeting on September 16, 2014, the City Council directed the scheduling of an adjourned meeting of the Council at the end of this month to conduct the establishing of goals and priorities for the upcoming 2015-16 fiscal year. It was also the Council's direction that the approach of the goal setting session be project driven, with the Council identifying specific projects for particular attention and focus in the development of the 2015-16 budget.

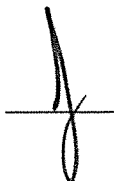
To assist the Council in the development of its goals and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, current major City projects of emphasis have been summarized, with each Department also providing additional current and anticipated projects of significance.

Former Porterville Hotel Site

Approaching a decade of diligence and effort, this next fiscal year is expected to see the former Porterville Hotel site prepared for new development. A structural analysis has been completed in the filling of the basement, with plans and specifications to be completed this Spring, and construction expected to commence this Summer in preparing a vacant site for development. Former Redevelopment Agency bond proceeds are the funding source for these activities. Prior Council direction on the project involving new development on the site included the requirement of a Development Agreement (similar to Centennial Plaza), whereby the project developer would construct a multi-story building (3+ floors) reminiscent of the Porterville Hotel, with commercial retail located on the ground floor. Private development interest in the site is being received.

The owner of the adjacent building, which formerly housed an auto parts store, has indicated his willingness to sell his property once he has removed the existing debris from the site, which when combined with the former Porterville Hotel site would greatly enhance the development opportunities and possibilities of the site. A separate funding source would need to be identified in the acquisition of the adjacent site, given the property was not included in the Porterville Hotel project, and therefore is not eligible for former Redevelopment Agenda bond funding.

C/M



Item No. 1

New Public Safety Station

Construction of the new Public Safety Station remains on schedule and within budget (funded by Measure H), with completion anticipated for late Summer/early Fall of this year, and becoming operational in January 2016. Both the Fire and Police Departments are responsible for furnishing and equipping the facility within their normal budgetary authorizations. The Fire Department is currently considering staffing options that support the addition of six (6) additional full-time sworn personnel on shift, which would be achieved through a combination of Department reorganization and assignment, as well as additional new personnel (funded by Measure H). Although no additional fire apparatus is necessary for the opening of the station, the replacement of a 1996 fire pumper is scheduled for the coming year, with the approximate \$365,000 in funding available in the Equipment Replacement Fund.

New Animal Shelter Facility

The expected beginning of construction this year of the new Animal Shelter on Grand Avenue (across from the City Corporation Yard) was interrupted with great disappointment due the construction bids for the project greatly exceeding the estimated cost and budget for the project. Approximately \$1.3 million is currently appropriated for the new facility, with the low bid for the project being \$2.3 million. As a result of the unfavorable bids, several options are currently being considered, including pursuing the project as a Construction Manager at-Risk (similar to Design-Build), whereby the City would engage a Construction Manager based upon qualifications, which the Construction Manager would then work with the City in the design of the project, resulting in the Construction Manager guaranteeing a maximum price and being responsible for construction. Also being considered as an option given the funds available are the making of significant improvements to the current Animal Shelter in Lindsay, in combination with a new "storefront" adoption facility to be located within the city.

Centennial Plaza

With the recent purchase of this facility, several tenant possibilities are being considered. While Hoagie's Heroes is the current leaseholder of the western portion of the first floor, Sierra View Medical Center is considering the potential lease of the physical therapy center on the eastern portion of the first floor, Porterville Transit has proposed the lease of the office area on the eastern portion of the second floor, and the Library and Literacy Commission is currently considering options for the extension of Library services in the western portion of the second floor.

Jaye Street Bridge Rehabilitation

With the completion of construction of the rehabilitation and widening of the Plano Street Bridge expected soon, focus is now shifting to the rehabilitation and widening of the Jaye Street Bridge, with construction expected to begin next fiscal year in Spring 2016. With an estimated project cost of \$7.5 million, the majority of which is Federally-funded (89%), the remaining 11% share requires local transportation funding as the match. With almost 90% of the project design complete, the City is also waiting for a revised letter of determination to relieve it of Elderberry mitigation requirements, given the release of the southern San Joaquin Valley from the species protected area of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.

Murry Park Extension

With the CEQA/NEPA Environmental Impact Report preparing to be circulated, it is expected that the City Council will be approving the direction for design and development of the property, and especially the replacement facility for the former residential structure. Funding available for development of the property includes CDBG, Housing-Related Parks grant, and property insurance proceeds.

W. North Grand Avenue Reconstruction

With an estimated project cost of \$1.3 million, the third and final phase of the reconstruction of W. North Grand Avenue will soon begin construction. When complete, the segment of W. North Grand Avenue within City limits will have been completely reconstructed.

Downtown Improvement Projects

Several significant projects with focused improvements in the Downtown area will begin or are in development. At an estimated cost of \$725,000 and funded through CDBG, the four (4) Downtown parking lots with the most significant tree root damage are expected to soon begin rehabilitation. At an estimated combined cost of approximately \$900,000 and with significant Federal funding, both Garden and Oak Avenues will receive significant pedestrian improvements, connecting the South County Justice Center and Main Street. With the County of Tulare transferring \$750,000 of its Rule 20A electric undergrounding program funding to the City as part of the Settlement Agreement between the City and the County, combined with the City's approximate \$750,000 Rule 20A funding, SCE has begun design on the undergrounding of utilities on Division Street between Putnam and Olive Avenues, with an estimated project cost of \$1.5 million.

Significant current and anticipated projects by Department:

Administrative Services

- Transition to electronic Agenda management and audio
- Labor negotiations and health plan amendments
- Finalize ADA-related programmatic issues
- Electronic Records Management transition
- Workers Compensation Carve-Out Program
- Update Personnel Policies and Regulations

Community Development

- Porterville Hotel project
- Successor Agency Long-Range Property Management Plan
- Ordinance Updates (Alcohol, Animal Control, Massage, Signs)
- Receivership Program for blighted properties
- Complete 5-Year Consolidated Plan and Housing Element
- Economic Development efforts in Downtown and Airport Industrial area
- City Master Plan Updates

Finance

- Rabobank loan COP refinance
- City telephone system VOIP implementation
- Information Technology system improvements and updates
- Airport Layout Plan Update

Fire

- New Public Safety Building completion and operation
- Department reorganization and position reclassifications

Parks & Leisure Services

- Murry Park Extension development
- Centennial Plaza Library Services implementation
- Main Library ADA restroom improvements
- OHV Park Lease
- Dog Park development

Police

- Animal Shelter facilities
- Animal Control Ordinance update
- Department reorganization and appointments
- Officer body camera policies and implementation

Public Works

- Jaye Street Bridge rehabilitation: \$7.5 million
- Lime Street reconstruction (Henderson to Mulberry Avenues): \$1.5 million

Public Works (continued)

- Henderson Avenue reconstruction (Jaye to Indiana Streets): \$1.2 million
- Mathew Street reconstruction (Henderson to Monache Avenues): \$750,000
- Annual Local Measure R micro-overlay (Plano Street): \$600,000
- CNG Fueling Facility expansion: \$2 million
- Transit improvement projects
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
- City Master Plan updates
- Review of City utility (water, sewer and storm drain) rates

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council review and consider current and anticipated City projects for the coming fiscal year, and determine its 2015 Priority Projects and Objectives.

ATTACHMENT: None