



City of Corning

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THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER JOHN L. BREWER, AICP
DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2015

JLB

CITY MANAGER:

Upcoming Staff Absences:

City Manager John Brewer will be out of the office beginning Wednesday, March 18th and returning on Tuesday, March 24th.

3rd Quarter Sales Tax:

I met with Brice Russell of HdL (Hinderliter de Llamas) on Tuesday morning. Mr. Russell presented Sales Tax information from the 3rd Quarter of 2014 (July-August-September). Overall, sales were up about 3.6% over the same period in 2013. That was a pleasant surprise due to our concerns regarding lowered fuel costs. However, our net Sales Tax Revenue was reduced (nearly equal to the 2013 total) to account for a reduced County sales tax share in the same quarter. That reduction is due to a previous quarter sales tax misallocation of County sales tax. The important news here is that the 3rd Quarter Sales Tax plus 25% of the Triple Flip met-actually exceeded our budget projection by about \$13,000. That's the good news.

Mr. Russell also delivered some rather gloomy news in the form of a revised 2014-2015 Sales Tax projection. The reduced projection anticipates total sales tax revenue coming in at \$2.587 million, or about \$103,000 lower than we projected in the 2014-2015 Budget. Diminished anticipated fuel prices are the culprit here.

He also presented some very preliminary estimates for the following Fiscal Year (2015-2016). His projections assume the current fuel prices will remain at about the current price/gallon, and for that reason would reach only \$2.48 million, down some \$210,000 from our projections for 2014-2015. Of course that level of "hit" to the General Fund would have a significant effect on the City Budget and operations.

Three separate factors may provide a bit of a silver lining to those negative projections. First, HdL's projections of fuel sales are based primarily on gasoline costs vs. diesel prices. In reality, diesel price reductions have been less volatile than gasoline costs. Second, due to our three Truckstops, a larger portion of our fuel sales is diesel instead of gasoline. And third, oil prices/fuel prices in general may have recently "bottomed-out", since they've actually crept up a little over the last week. We'll provide more specific information and projections in the Mid-Year Budget Review-scheduled to be presented at the February 24th City Council meeting.

Sign Committee:

City Planning Consultant John Stoufer has been attempting to contact Sign Committee Members in order to schedule a meeting to discuss and determine policy regarding the advertising of "Community Activities and Events" on public properties. City Council Member Dave Linnet asked that we contact a certain citizen who wished to be kept abreast of the sign issue, particularly as it relates to the Veteran's Memorial Hall Readerboard sign. I asked John Stoufer to make contact with that Citizen and offer an invitation to attend the upcoming meeting(s) of the Sign Committee.

Streetscape Project:

Ed is working on responses to the comments provided by the Division of the State Architect. When he completes those we'll resubmit the Plans for their approval and forward on to the California Transportation Commission for their action in May. In the meantime, we're scheduling a meeting with Kelly Zolotoff of Caltrans District 2 Staff to make sure that we satisfy all their paperwork needs.

Electricity Costs:

We've noted that electricity costs are out-pacing many of our departmental budget projections. We've prepared a summary of those anticipated shortcomings, by department and fund and will include that, as well as a budget amendment remedy as part of the Mid Year Budget Review that'll occur on Feb. 24th.

Rodgers Theater Restoration:

Building Official Terry Hoofard has tentatively scheduled to pour concrete for another section of the floor this weekend (Feb. 7th). Last week's Friday Notes incorrectly put that a week later (Feb. 14th).

2015 Street Re-Paving Project:

Pat Walker is preparing the plans for the CDBG Program Income sponsored Repaving Project. Ed Anderson, John Stoufer, Pat Walker and I met with Environmental Consultant Eihnard Diaz regarding the NEPA Categorical Exclusion that must be published prior to project commencement. From the meeting Eihnard can put a comprehensive project description together.

Ed has provided some updated Engineer's Estimates of the various project segments/components. John Stoufer has prepared a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Notice of Exemption and Staff Report to accompany it at the Feb. 10th Council meeting.

2013-2014 Audit:

We've nearly completed our review of the 2013-2014 Audit and have scheduled this for Council review on February 10th.

Mid-Year Budget Review:

We have scheduled the Mid-Year Budget Review for the February 24th City Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**Kopta Slough Project:**

On Tuesday, February 3rd, Public Works Director Patrick Walker met with Staff from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the Kopta Slough Restoration Project. This Project has been in the works for quite a few years, the objective is to make the river flow naturally through the Kopta Slough. The Project extends just north of the State Park to about 4,000 feet south of Woodson Bridge. The City of Corning's sewer outfall is located at the southern location of the project. The meeting with DWR was to discuss new studies for the area around Woodson Bridge and the sewer outfall.

In the early planning of the Kopta Slough Project, the Army Corps of Engineers made plans to have bank protection 1,000 feet north of Woodson Bridge to 4,000 feet south of the bridge on the west bank of the river. Recent studies show that there has been very little erosion around Woodson Bridge and the sewer outfall. The main reason for little erosion is the "Tehama Formation" which has high clay content, sand and gravel. This formation is very strong and resistant to most of the erosion. DWR is looking not to install bank protection on this west side of the bank because of the studies. Inspections will still continue to monitor erosion around the bridge abutments and the sewer outfall.

Peach Well:

The Peach Well is still offline. Win Benbow is scheduled to install the Variable Speed Drive (VFD) this next week. It will take about a day for the install and reprogramming of the VFD.

Upcoming Storm:

The California OES (Office of Emergency Services) has predicted a large amount of rain with this next storm. Sand is available across from the City Fire Hall on 5th Street. Sandbags can be obtained from the Corning Volunteer Fire Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Patrol:

In addition to responding to 226 calls for service, a total of 38 officer reports were taken and there were 100 officer-initiated incidents. Officers made 19 misdemeanor and 4 felony arrests, 40 traffic stops and issued 29 citations of which 3 were felony, 21 were misdemeanors, 3 were infractions, 1 was parking-related, and 1 was unclassified during the period of January 28, 2015 through February 4, 2015.