



## City Manager's Update

Photo: Beautiful green day in Morro Bay.

### **March 17, 2018**

Happy St. Patrick's Day! As the hills around Morro Bay glisten green from the much needed March rain, I think of my Irish grandmother who was fond of reciting Irish proverbs to impart lessons and inspire myself and my siblings and cousins as we were growing up. My favorite saying of hers is "The future is not ours to know, and it may never be, so let us live and give our best and give it lavishly!" I couldn't agree more, as we as community and City take on challenges and opportunities big and small every day. We strive to give our best to you!

The City group had a fruitful trip to Washington D.C. last week. We look forward to sharing the successes of the trip with City Council and the community on March 27 at 6pm at the Vets Hall. In that meeting will provide information gathered through our discussions with our U.S. Senators and congressman, as well as federal agencies

that we reached out to to help secure federal funding for the Water Reclamation Project (WRF) and important harbor initiatives.

In this addition of the City Manager Update, you will learn how we are preparing for the FY 2018/19 Budget, receive a message from the Police Chief about school safety, read about award winning staff in the Harbor and Fire Departments, learn how you can participate in an important transit survey and get important stats from our Community Development Department.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me about this newsletter and City initiatives. I appreciate and welcome your feedback. We are so fortunate to have an engaged community! Should you like to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, please reach out to me by phone, 805-772-6206, or email [scollins@morrobayca.gov](mailto:scollins@morrobayca.gov).

## Police

### **School Safety**

School shootings have become all too common in our society, and parents of school aged children are rightfully concerned about the safety of their kids at school. We are committed to working with Morro Bay schools and our partners to be prepared for emergency incidents and develop plans to keep our community safe.

Well in advance of the recent high school shooting tragedy in Florida, the Morro Bay Police Department began partnering with our school administrators and officials on school safety training and preparation for “Active shooter” scenarios at our Morro Bay Schools. We meet regularly with school administrators at Morro Bay High School as well as Del Mar Elementary school and will also be providing information to our private schools. We have tentatively planned two separate days of active shooter training exercises. The first will be conducted in approximately June 2018 at Cuesta College. The second training exercise will be conducted at Morro Bay High School in August 2018 and will include faculty and our first responder police and fire department partners. Last month we met with our Morro Bay clergy community and provided “Active Shooter” training to them. Finally, we are working with our allied agencies (Sheriff’s Office and other Police Departments) in SLO County to enhance our collective ability to respond as a region to emergency incidents.

## Finance

### **FY 2018/19 Budget**

City staff continue to work on the FY 2018/19 Operating and Capital Budgets. Given the projected shortfalls this has been a large undertaking but with all staff’s assistance and support we are making strides towards developing the proposed budget. With new staffing coming on board recently (new City Manager, Finance Director and Finance staff) we haven’t been able to conduct as much community engagement in the budget process for FY 2018/19 as we had hoped. While extensive community engagement is planned for development of the FY 2019/20 and future years budget, we do welcome feedback from the community regarding budget thoughts or suggestions for the FY 2018/19 budget. You are welcome to reach out the Finance Director, Jen Callaway, directly at [jcallaway@morrobacay.gov](mailto:jcallaway@morrobacay.gov) or by phone at 772-6217 with any suggestions or comments on the FY 2018/19 budget.

### **Transparency**

The Finance Department is continuing to add information to the City’s website to promote transparency and awareness of the City’s Finance’s. On the City’s homepage ([www.morrobayca.gov](http://www.morrobayca.gov)), there is a link in the left-hand banner for the most recent Financial Forecast information that was presented to the Council and community in February. It is

important to keep in mind that staff is continually working on updating and refining the forecast to help best guide the FY 2018/19 budget process.

Additional information has also been added to the Monthly Financial Reporting page on the city's website (<http://morrobayca.gov/972/Monthly-Financial-Reporting>). In this section you can find the AP check run listings, monthly cross fund report and cash investment summaries, investment reports, and quarterly budget performance reports. Accompanying the March 8, 2018 AP Check Run is a payment batch register report which provides more detail, including a brief description of the expenditure.

Effective with the January cross fund report, staff has included a cash investment summary page. The cash investment summary page is a summary of the cash holdings of the city and ties to the monthly cross fund report which shows cash balances per City fund. This is an internal checks and balances report that we felt may be useful for the Council and community.

Finally, staff has uploaded the FY 2017/18 First quarter investment report and mid-year budget status update to the reporting section. Staff remains committed to transparency and will continue to upload information to the website for the Council, Community and other City staff to reference and as always, we are open to suggestions for any other information that may be useful.

#### **OpenGov (Online Financial Information Portal)**

Staff is having multiple weekly conference calls with OpenGov staff as we continue to transmit data to upload to the City's portal. The chart of accounts has been uploaded and verified and staff is beginning to provide the historical (past five years) data on budget to actuals. OpenGov has been very easy to work with and supportive our needs. We look forward to deploying the transparency portal in about one month.

#### **California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) 2018 Annual Conference**

This year the City supported two members of the Finance Department in attending the 2018 annual CSMFO conference which was held in Riverside, California. Every year CSMFO holds a statewide conference providing various seminars and breakout series on relevant topics facing City's and Finance professionals in today's environment. This year's conference was heavily focused on the CalPERS changes and impacts to all member agencies in the state. Both Jen Callaway and Valerie Webb attended the conference and had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a CalPERS actuary to specifically discuss Morro Bay's liabilities, as well as attend breakout sessions on sales tax trends, preventing fraud, communicating finance information effectively, budgeting, state revenues sources such as highway user tax and overall economic indicators. Both Valerie and I want to thank the City and City Manager for supporting us in attending this conference as well as the rest of the Finance team that covered the department in our absence. This was Valerie's first conference and she has described her experience below:

*"My first CSMFO conference was an excellent experience. Jen and I had some classic road trip bonding on the way, followed by two days of meeting and collaborating with*

*finance folks from all over the state. We attended seminars on a variety of hot topics we are all facing including pension liability, budgeting, and the future of revenue sources such as sales tax and highway users tax. The speakers were very knowledgeable and provided great material and resources for us to take back. We also had a creative dinner experience with foods from different countries at the historic Mission Inn which is an amazing landmark. I left with so much new information, I'm really inspired and excited to be part of the finance department of our awesome city!"*

For next year's conference we plan is to apply for some scholarship funding to help support additional staff attendance at the Conference which will be held in Palm Springs.

## Harbor

On March 6, the Central Coast Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee approved two new grants for the Harbor Department; one in the amount of \$100,000 to completely replaced the aging and worn-out refrigeration system on the City commercial fishing flake ice machine on the Santa Monica Seafood unloading dock, and one in the amount of \$8,000 to cover the travel, lodging, food and transportation costs of the Mayor and Harbor Director's recent trip to Washington DC with the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (CMANC).



Visiting the Capitol building, on cold a March night.

The Harbor Department recently received a \$16,100 “SAVE” grant from the California Division of Boating and Waterways to dispose of several derelict and abandoned vessels. These funds are in addition to an earlier \$25,000 SAVE grant received last year, which funds have been expended. The City could not remove these threats to pollute without this important funding source from the State.



A derelict vessel is removed from the harbor and dismantled.

On Thursday, March 15, Harbor Patrol Supervisor Becka Kelly conducted a safety seminar for the City’s various kayak and other rental boat operators in the bay. Topics covered were basic boating safety, navigation rules of the road, weather and weather safety and protocols around marine mammals.

Snowy Plover nesting area fencing went back up on the sandspit to delineate where the public should not go in order to not negatively affect the nesting birds. The public is requested to respect the fencing, and use the designated corridors across the sandspit to gain access to the beach. The fencing was installed by Harbor Department personnel, with the gracious assistance of State Parks. Just prior to the fencing going up, Morro Bay Beautiful volunteers conducted a trash cleanup effort on the sandspit.

On March 10-11, the Rescue Water Craft Association (RWCA) held their annual “RescueCon” water safety conference in Morro Bay. This internationally-attended event features the latest in surf and swift water rescue training, equipment and protocols for water-borne first responders. During this event, the City of Morro Bay was named “Water Rescue Capital of the World” by RWCA because of the extensive training opportunities afforded by our location and supported by our Harbor and Fire departments. In addition, Harbor Patrolman Dana Stein (pictured third from right) and Reserve Harbor Patrolman Mat Horn (pictured second from right) were recognized with RWCA’s “Heavy Water” award for their parts in a surf rescue

incident last year off Montana de Oro that resulted in two lives saved. Way to go Dana and Mat!



RWCA Award recipients

## Tourism

This wet gray weather does bring less travelers into Morro Bay and the Tourism office, but we move forward as we always do getting ready for some of our biggest events coming up in the next few months. This is an unusual year that we see Easter and Passover both fall on April 1 which means spring break families will be arriving in Morro Bay just ten days from now! Spring Break is then followed by our very fun annual yard sale hosted by Morro Bay Beautiful and the Chamber of Commerce. Time to clear out your garages and check out your neighbor's treasures! You can pick up your yard sale sign this week at the visitor center.

Tourism also hosted our first leprechaun crawl on Friday, March 16 and it was a great success! Even with the rain, we had over 400 leprechauns in town for the event. Thank you to the all the bars and restaurants that participated in this inaugural event.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018



### Planning Division Activity

#### Planning Commission:

**Feb. 6, 2018**

Review of Draft Zoning Code update,  
Module 2: interpretations,  
Development Standards, General site  
regulations and definitions

**Feb. 20, 2017**

2784 Indigo Circle: new 2110 square  
foot home.

Action: Approved

#### Planning Permits Received Jan. 2018

- Sign Permit = 1
- Conditional Use Permit = 2
- Coastal Development Permits = 4
- Permit Amendments = 5

Total = 12

Fees collected = \$18,240.00

### Code Enforcement Activity

- 15 cases initiated
- 19 cases resolved
- 24 total pending cases

### Building Division Activity

Permits Issued = 30

Valuation = \$930,193

Fees Received = \$40,898

# of Inspections = 78

New Permits = 28

## Public Works

### City Seeking Input on Short-Range Transit Plan

The City has begun work on updating its Short-Range Transit Plan for our fixed route, Call-A-Ride and trolley services and we want your input. If you use public transit, and especially if you don't, we want to hear from you. Is the bus taking you where you need to go? When you need to go? Are you interested in improved transportation options? Does transit meet your needs? Your input will be very helpful when developing potential improvements that could be made to eliminate barriers to using public transit. Please consider completing a short online survey by March 28, 2018. The survey is available in English and Spanish.

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MBTinput>
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MBTentrada>

For more information, please contact Selena McKinney at (916) 342-7895 or [selena@LSCTahoe.com](mailto:selena@LSCTahoe.com).

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey and help the City improve its transit services in Morro Bay.



Some of the Transit options in Morro Bay



## Fire

### **Engineer Paramedic Travis Hasch Recognized**

On March 13, 2018, Engineer Paramedic Travis Hasch was recognized by the members of the King David's Masonic Temple of San Luis Obispo and our Fire Department. Tuesday's night event is a 30 plus year partnership with the Masons recognizing Firefighters from the communities of San Luis Obispo, Los Osos, and Morro Bay. In lieu of plaques, the King David's Lodge donated \$2,500 to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation in the name of three firefighters being recognized from the three communities. Their donation will sponsor three burn survivors to the Burn Foundation's Summer Camp, Champ Camp.

Travis, a local and Cal Poly graduate, started the fire service with the Atascadero Fire Department in 2004. Travis transitioned to Morro Bay Fire Department in 2012 and is currently assigned to an important task as our Fire Apparatus Fleet Manager.

The service we provide our citizens is not only evaluated on how fast our fires are extinguished, the feet of rope was used to rescue a frozen rock climber on Morro Rock, or how many CPR saves occur in Morro Bay. An extremely vital portion of our service is being prepared for the next incident. Having our fire apparatus rolling out of our fire stations at peak performance with all its equipment operating as they should be a difficult task especially in today's times with high technology and challenging budgets. Engineer Hasch has been vital to the success to every effective emergency event in our City by his work ethic, his ingenuity, and most of all his passion to keep his co-workers and the community safe through efficient fire apparatus and equipment. Our fire apparatus is more efficient and safer today because of Travis.

Travis's passion and values on our state of readiness has made us better at what we do. We believe this is not a job for Travis, it is a way of life. Congratulations Travis!

For more information about the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, checkout [www.aarbf.org](http://www.aarbf.org)



Travis Hasch (middle), with Fire Marshall Matthew Vierra and Fire Chief Steve Knuckles

### **Morro Bay Firefighters practice being Paramedics**

Our Morro Bay Paramedics must complete at least 48 hours of training of continuing paramedic education every two years to maintain their California Paramedic license. In addition to their required continuing education, local requirements from the County Emergency Medical Services Agency require protocol review classes, advanced skill refreshers, and hospital base station meetings yearly to maintain our local accreditation to perform our advance life support skills. Our local base station meetings allow additional feedback and evaluations from our local emergency room physicians and peer review. Weekly our paramedics perform skill based evolutions and review to stay current with our local protocols. This week you can find our Firefighters practicing their oral intubation skills providing an emergency airway to our critical patients in our community.



### **Annual Knox Box 2018 service program is 100% completed**

You may have seen some of our Firefighters around town maintaining Know Boxes for our businesses and retail shops. Our Firefighters are lubing the locks and making sure the keys are current.

Knox Boxes provides Morro Bay Fire Department with immediate access into secure buildings, campuses, residences and commercial properties when it matters most. Removing barriers to entry reduces injuries to responders and minimizes property damage. This program has been created to ensure the Knox Boxes are in proper use with the correct keys for the business and private residences. If you have any questions about Knox Boxes or if you are considering getting a Knox Box for your building, give us a call at the Fire Station and ask for our Fire Marshal Matt, 805.772.6242.



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Thank you again for taking time to read this and previous updates. We hope you find it useful and encourage you to share your thoughts about how to improve this communication moving forward.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins  
City Manager