



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Solvang Announces Agenda Items for March 9, 2020 Solvang City Council Meeting

-- March 9 Council Meeting Regular Agenda to include City Manager Report Recap of 2020 Solvang State of the City; Development Permit Review Policies and Procedures; Permitting Software Implementation; Building Amnesty Program Update --

Solvang, CA – On Monday, March 9, 2020, at 6:30 PM, the City of Solvang (www.CityofSolvang.com) will hold its next [Regular Meeting of the Solvang City Council](#) in the Council Chambers, inside Solvang City Hall (1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA 93463).

Solvang Mayor Ryan Toussaint will be joined by Solvang City Council members in the open-to-the-public meeting, during which the City Council will hear items focusing on Planning Department restructure and efforts made to date to streamline processes and procedures, and next steps.

The March 9, 2020 Solvang City Council Meeting's Current Agenda will run as such:

The first item on the regular agenda is an update to the City Council on Development Permit Review Policies and Procedures; this is an information status report to the Council in response to previous Council direction to streamline the operations and enhance customer-friendly process by implementing clear procedures. The City Council directed staff to create policies and procedures establishing clear expectations for applicants on process, cost, and timing. Staff will present findings to date and recommendations for modifications to the procedures.

The City Council will also hear an item requesting authorization to enter into a contract to implement Permitting Software, which will automate all permitting activities for the City and add self-service, online capability further enhancing customer service for permitting and planning activities. The permitting software will be fully funded by a California State grant award (SB 2 Planning Grants Program).

Finally, the City Council has established a Building Permit Amnesty program effective from January through June of 2020. Staff will update the Council on the effectiveness of the program to date, and provide additional information based on questions received from the public. The City encourages both residential and business property owners to enter into the program and permit any unpermitted building projects under this program, without any penalties.

The March 9 Solvang City Council Meeting will also include a 2020 Solvang State of the City recap, to be delivered as part of the City Manager Report, meant to provide additional information and background on the event presenters and the subject matter of their presentations as independent guest speakers.

The Solvang City Council Meeting Future Agenda, includes the following elements:

On March 30, 2020, the City Council will kick off the 2020-22 Financial Plan development. In what will be an inaugural situation, the City will develop a two-year financial plan incorporating both operating and Capital Improvement Program budgets, to deliver on Council goals. The City Council will start the process by reviewing financial projections to ensure financial sustainability. As part of this process, the Council will consider addressing challenges of increasing expenditures to pay for pension costs and infrastructure

needs, as well as opportunities to increase revenue through tourism and containment of expenditures. The Council will review a Preliminary Financial Plan in May, and will adopt the budget in June. The City will hold a public meeting to receive community input; *public meeting date and time to be announced*.

The Sheriff's services and specifically contract services for Community Resource Deputy (CRD) will be considered through the above-referenced process. The City Council will be presented with a comprehensive review of community services which could be provided by a CRD as a sworn deputy, as opposed to services provided by non-sworn City staff. The cost for the current fiscal year behind the CRD position was approximately \$225,000, and based on preliminary estimates the cost is estimated to rise to approximately \$306,000 next fiscal year. The City also contracts for general law enforcement services with the County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, at a cost of approximately \$2.1 Million per year. The City receives a grant toward Sheriff's services of approximately \$100,000 per year. The remainder of the Sheriff's contract services are paid for by the General Fund dollars.

City of Solvang Event Updates:

The City of Solvang has also announced a new event, a free-to-the-public Waste Water Treatment Plant Tour. The City of Solvang recently began the engineering and environmental work for the \$16 Million major upgrade of its Wastewater Treatment Plant, and any parties interested in this project, and/or those who would like to learn more about wastewater treatment in the Santa Ynez Valley, may join the City for a two-hour Plant Tour on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 9:00 AM. The tour will begin at the Public Works office, at 411 Second Street in Solvang. Tour space is limited; guests may register by contacting the City at (805) 688-5575.

Please contact Anna Ferguson-Sparks at media@cityofsolvang.com with any questions about the upcoming, March 9 City of Solvang Regular Council Meeting. More information about the City Council Meetings will be available on the City of Solvang website, at www.CityofSolvang.com/187/City-Council.

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