

Coffee with the Mayor and His Guest, Councilmember Rene Spring June 23, 2018 10:00AM – 11:30AM

Notes and Follow-Up

Approximately every two months, Morgan Hill's Mayor, Steve Tate, hosts a coffee that is open to the entire Morgan Hill community. The coffees provide an opportunity for community members to have a discussion and share concerns and ideas with the Mayor and his guest, all in a comfortable and informal environment.

The following is a summary of items and question discussed at the most recent coffee and further follow-up information from City Teammates as appropriate

A concern was shared about the whole city being at risk if a fire in the hills occurred due to embers traveling. A gentleman suggested we change the weed abatement charging mechanism based on embers being blown by the wind.

Anthony Eulo, Program Administrator shared that the weed abatement program includes the valley floor as well. For more information about weed and hazardous vegetations abatement please visit <https://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/1699/Weed-and-Hazardous-Vegetation-Abatement>.

If you are aware of a property that is not being maintained in a fire-safe condition, you may report the hazard in one of the following ways:

- 1. Report a hazard online at <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/wap/Pages/reporthazard.aspx>*
- 2. Call the Weed Abatement Service Request line at (408) 282-3145.*
- 3. Send the Weed Abatement program an email at SCC.WeedAbatement@cep.sccgov.org*
- 4. Download the Weed Hazard Mobile App*

For more information about how everyone in the community can help to both prevent and be prepared for fire visit <https://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/1596/Be-Ember-Aware> and <https://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/1396/Wildland-Fire-Preparedness>

Because of rapid residential growth, one gentleman wants to see a summary status showing units approved, under construction, finalized, etc.

The following is a link to the most recent Residential Development Control System quarterly report. <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1444/RDCS-Quarterly-Report?bidId=> Jennifer Carman, Community Development Director shared that the reports for the first two quarters of 2018 will be available within the next month.

The same gentleman wanted a summary of what was changed in last General Plan update.

John Baty, Interim Principal Planner, shared that the following presentation to the City Council about the new General Plan includes a high-level summary of what changed between the old general plan and the new. http://ca-morganhill2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/19562/MH2035_CityCouncil_Presentation?bidId= Additionally, the 2017 Annual Progress Report can be found at the following link <https://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22780/General-Plan-Annual-Progress-Report-APR?bidId=>

Someone suggested that having a phone app showing open parking slots like some cities have *Chris Ghione, Interim Deputy City Manager, indicated that a parking management system would require sensors in the parking facilities that would speak to the app. It is not something the City is planning to do currently.*

One person shared that it would be nice to have a shuttle downtown.

Mayor Tate shared with her that it has been tried with very low ridership, but the new focus of tourism could resurrect it.

Chris Ghione, Interim Deputy City Manager, indicated we have a grant application in for a potential shuttle service, however it is a long shot that Morgan Hill would be successful in receiving the grant. If we did receive the grant the City may not have the matching funding to offer. We continue to look for funding for more transportation options. In general, funding transportation is not typically a city service.

Asked if we have regional transportation model.

Mayor Tate reviewed the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) services and augments like the senior volunteer rides and Uber/Lyft. For more information about VTA's Long Term Regional Transportation Plan visit <http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/planning/valley-transportation-plan-2040-vtp-2040>

Status of Ag preservation, our plan and County's, need for funding

Anthony Eulo, Program Administrator, shared the following:

Since adopting the City's Agricultural Lands Preservation Program in 2014, the City has initiated implementation of the program in the following ways:

- *Hired leading land preservation expert to guide and support the City's efforts;*
- *Completed an inventory of all lands currently under cultivation over ten acres in size in the City's Southeast Quadrant in order to prioritize the City's preservation efforts;*
- *Brought together the City, the County, the Open Space Authority and the largest landowner in the Southeast Quadrant as a working committee dedicated to land conservation. This group has submitted an extensive grant application to the State for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on 71 acres. The City has committed three million dollars of direct matching funds to this project. We have been tentatively awarded the grant – pending approval of the appraisal;*
- *Opened dialogue with another prominent land-holding farming family on purchasing an easement on their land and arrived at a tentative deal to purchase a 20-acre easement. This purchase is awaiting the completion of a separate real estate transaction between private parties;*
- *Participated fully in regional agricultural conservation process led by County and Open Space Authority;*
- *Adopted mitigation fee of \$15,000 per acre for projects converting agricultural lands to other uses; and*
- *Continued to approve higher density in-fill projects in order to reduce the pressure to grow outward.*

Reviewed plans for Anderson rebuild.

More information about the Anderson Dam retrofit project can be found on the Santa Clara Valley Water District website at the following link <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/dam-reservoir-projects/anderson-dam-seismic-retrofit>

One person asked if the City has considered requiring cisterns?

The City has not considered requiring cisterns.

Many of the attendees who regularly attend City meetings encouraged attendance and participation at City meetings. One attendee indicated it takes time to keep up on things but it is worth the effort.

High speed rail was discussed. One gentleman says Union Pacific will never electrify because of height of some of the freight they carry.

Further information on the High Speed Rail project and their new business plan can be found at the following link <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/1552/High-Speed-Rail>

Long discussion of budget process. The general consensus was that the City should get more public input on the budget by meeting at various times and doing surveys on alternatives, etc.

An overview of the new adopted budget can be found in the City's Budget in Brief at the following link <http://www.morganhill.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23216/Budget-in-Brief-2018-2020>

The full budget can be found at the following link <https://user-ddHJ25y.cld.bz/FY-2018-19-and-2019-20-Adopted-Operating-and-CIP-Budget>

***Maureen Tobin, Communications and Engagement Manager** shared that the City will be looking for ways to better engage the community in the budget process.*

One attendee asked if we might consider combining Police/Fire to a Public Safety model like Sunnyvale with increased volunteer participation. Another attendee pointed out some of the problems with a Public Safety model.

***Police Chief David Swing** indicated that a Department of Public Safety would require a significant investment of one-time resources to train our existing team and on-going investment for hiring and training. The overall cost savings is uncertain and likely minimal due to the reduced cost and enhanced value of services provided by Cal Fire.*

It was shared that it would be nice to have "orientations" for new residents and for those interested in learning more about our operations.

***Maureen Tobin, Communications and Engagement Manager**, indicated this will be considered by the City Manager and the Leadership Team*

An attendee wants us to fix Half Road north of Live Oak football field where there is a dangerous dip

*Part of Half Road is in the County and part is in the City. **Dale Dapp, Maintenance Manager**, indicated a work order was submitted to assess if the area mentioned is within City jurisdiction. If so, the work will be scheduled. If not, Santa Clara County will be advised.*

Residents can report issues like this at anytime online at the following link <http://ca-morganhill.civicplus.com/FormCenter/Public-Works-5-5/Request-for-Service-Streets-Division-103-103>

One attendee commented on the political orientation of the City Council. He indicated that the Council attacked the Constitution by their gun control actions. He would like more open-minded dialog, etc.

One attendee shared he would like to see a stop sign on Juan Hernandez at a court where kids are dropped off for Barrett Elementary School and then run across the street. It's a well-marked cross walk, but there is no stop sign.

Scott Creer, Deputy Director of Engineering indicated that the intersection in question does not meet the State guidelines for the installation of a multi-way stop. However, the City is working on a grant application that would enhance the crosswalk at this location with push button activated rapid flashing beacons.

An attendee wants signage warning of crosswalk on East Dunne near El Dorado development
Dale Dapp, Maintenance Manager, indicated that a work order has been submitted for advanced crosswalk signage at the Tassajara Circle/Claret Drive intersection on East Dunne Avenue.

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It was shared that the stop sign on Spring St. is covered/obscured by growth

Dale Dapp, Maintenance Manager, indicated that a work order had been submitted to clearance trim all signs on Spring Ave.

Residents can report issues like this at anytime online at the following link <http://ca-morganhill.civicplus.com/FormCenter/Public-Works-5-5/Request-for-Service-Streets-Division-103-103>

Someone suggested forming advisory body to Council in order to get a “critical mass” of thoughts on various issues. Some of the attendees along with Mayor Tate and Councilmember Spring see potential problems with that.

One attendee indicated that he wants the Council and City Staff to talk more about the beauty and small town feel of Morgan Hill. We need to preserve neighborly feel, etc. He is concerned that this is not a priority for the Council.

Loss of RDA and its funding of affordable housing brought up, also the possibility that it could come back for housing.

More information on Housing and the issues at hand can be found in the most recent staff reports to the City Council:

July 18, 2018

Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

http://morganhillca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=None&MeetingID=1733&MediaPosition=15377.997&ID=1858&CssClass=

May 2, 2018

Housing- Meeting the California Housing Accountability Act Requirements and Morgan Hill's Regional Housing Need Allocations (RHNA)

http://morganhillca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=None&MeetingID=1726&MediaPosition=5990.698&ID=1742&CssClass=

February 7, 2018

2018 Housing Program Update

http://morganhillca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=None&MeetingID=1717&MediaPosition=12342.058&ID=1606&CssClass=