



Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, Oct. 9, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 27 to Sept. 9

Alarms	58
Noise Complaints	7
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	2
Traffic Stops	48
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subjects	16
Suspicious Vehicles	30
Abandoned Vehicle	
Tahos/Hidden Valley Rd	
Barking Dog	
40 block Hilldale Ct	
Battery	
100 block Sleepy Hollow Ln	
Burglary, Commercial	
200 block Village Square	
Disturbance	
Rheem Blvd/Moraga Via	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Donald Dr/Alice Ln	
Dispute	
Nation's	
Safeway, Lafayette	
100 block El Toyonal	
40 block Underhill Rd	
10 block Yosemite Rd	
30 block Oakwood Rd	
Death, non-criminal	
30 block Via Floreado	
DUI	
Hwy 24/St Stephen's Dr	
Casa Vieja/Moraga Way	
Fraud	
100 block El Toyonal	
10 block Bates Blvd	
Health & Safety Violation	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr (2)	
Wilder	
ID Theft	
200 block Sundown Terr	
Reported to police	
Injury Accident	
500 block Moraga Way	
Panhandling	
60 block Moraga Way	
Safeway	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
10 block Via Callados	
Prowler	
10 block Frogs Leap Way	
500 block Miner Rd	
Public Nuisance	
40 block Oak Rd	
20 block Orinda Way	
Reckless Driving	
Donald Dr/Hall Dr	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek	
Miner Rd/Camino Sobrante	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat Ct (2)	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo	
Glorietta Blvd/Overhill Rd	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd (2)	
Las Vegas Rd/El Verano	
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr	
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd	
Moraga Way/Orchard Ct	
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd	
Theft, Petty	
30 block Overhill Rd (2)	
10 block Hilldale Ct	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
30 block Daryl Dr	
Trespass	
300 block Camino Sobrante (2)	
Uncontrollable Juvenile	
20 block Warford Terr	
Vandalism	
McDonnell Nursery	
Warrant Arrest	
Shell Gas	

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Salomon to continue as Orinda city manager

By Sora O'Doherty



The Orinda City Council welcomes Steve Salomon as new city manager, from left: Inga Miller, Amy Worth, Eve Phillips, Steve Salomon, Dean Orr and Darlene Gee. Photo Sora O'Doherty

Steve Salomon has had a successful career in local government over the past 40 years. He previously served 17 years as Visalia's city manager, was Albany's city administrator, and city manager for the cities of Watsonville and Hercules. He also worked for the city of Concord in a variety of positions and has served in numerous leadership positions within the California Redevelopment Association, Contra Costa City Manager's Group, and South San Joaquin Valley Division of the League of California Cities – City Managers' Department, and is a member of the International City/Council Management Association.

Now Salomon, who has been serving as interim city manager after taking over from Janet Keeter who retired in late February, is Orinda's new city manager.

Why did Salomon, who might be enjoying a comfortable retirement, agree to take the job? "It was a combination of things," he said. "I have really enjoyed working with the city council, staff and community, and we've accomplished a fair amount. It got to the point where things might get done faster than otherwise" if he accepted the job.

Salomon negotiated a relatively unusual agreement: he won't be working full time, but 90 percent, he receives no severance pay and no management leave. The city was flexible, Salomon noted, because they wanted him to stay.

"I've been working with Steve for over six months now," Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips said. "I know he will do well in this job. I look forward to him leaving his imprint on the city and taking it to the next level."

His contract will run to the end of June 2019, and his base pay will be \$224,640 per year, with a possible 3 percent increase in February or March 2018. Salomon will have 90 percent health benefits, \$800 a month for a car, and other benefits.

Explaining his philosophy, Salomon said, "Part of what I hope to do is give folks in the organization the opportunity to grow and work on things they might not have under other circumstances. You have to have a certain amount of faith in the folks who work for you," he added, noting that he has tried to only get involved where he thinks he is needed.

Praised by the city council for his financial acumen, Salomon commented, "Every city that I've worked in I've tried to leave it in better financial shape than when I arrived, even if it was already in good condition."

Orinda is in a relatively fragile financial status, and has projects such as Camino Sobrante stabilization and Ironbark Circle to complete. Salomon would like to reduce costs and bring in some revenue raising matters, such as a Transient Occupancy Tax on short-term rentals, for example. "Orinda contacted Airbnb because we knew that they had agreements with other cities, and adopted a Short Term Rental Ordinance requiring registration," he said.

"I would have never guessed that I would end up being a city manager. Would have never thought about it. When I graduated from high school good in math, people told me I should go into engineering. What I learned helped me over the years, but I didn't want to work on the design of the bridge or road, but

wanted to work with the people on deciding what kind of bridge or road they wanted." Salomon earned a master's in city and regional planning with a minor in public administration from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis on transportation and public works from the University of Cincinnati.

Downtown Development

When asked about the reports on downtown development by the Urban Land Institute and the National Main Street program, Salomon noted that while both had any number of recommendations in them, both reports were done by people who don't live or work in Orinda. "Some of what they recommended may not be appropriate for Orinda, and some of it may be," he said. "Some process will be required to identify what kinds of things they want to work on. For example, daylighting San Pablo Creek would be a long-term thing, very complicated. But other things might be able to be done relatively inexpensively, if people want to do it." One example would be to utilize Bryant Way more effectively for parking.

"People here," Salomon said, "they want it to stay Orinda; they don't want it to be someplace else." Salomon says he doesn't think there are going to be any dramatic changes right away, or perhaps even in the long term, but he does think that there are some areas where there could be consensus. "You have to work on things that are both short term and long term."

In the past, Salomon has worked in cities that have cared about their downtowns: in Watsonville right after the Loma Prieta Earthquake that pretty much destroyed downtown, and in Visalia, which Salomon says has the strongest downtown in the Central Valley, even though it isn't by the water and isn't a college town. Salomon said the residents cared a great deal about the downtown and it went from an A to an A-plus.

"They did lots of things, some of which I would have never believed when I started," he said. Visalia is near Sequoia National Park, so the city runs the transit system there. They developed a special shuttle bus from May to September as a tourism-related thing. Visalia has a trolley similar to Walnut Creek's that runs around downtown. When Visalia got a multiscreen movie theater and a grant for a children's museum, they very deliberately put them in downtown.

The number of restaurants doubled during the time Salomon was there. "It got to the point," Salomon said, "where people would come to the downtown, wander around, and then decide where to eat when. Orinda has lots of potential to work on, but you have to work on what works for the community."

Orinda Town Hall with Baker, Andersen, and Phillips

By Sora O'Doherty



Assemblywoman Catharine Baker at the Sept. 25 Town Hall.

Photo Sora O'Doherty
Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, County Supervisor Candace Andersen and Orinda Mayor Eve Phillips held a town hall to interact with their constituents on Sept. 25 at the Orinda Library

auditorium. The event was well attended, with most of the audience on the more mature side and very polite. There were no protests, and little contention.

Everyone was in agreement in opposing Senate Bill 35, which removes local control over housing in localities found not to have met state housing goals, signed into law Sept. 29 by Gov. Jerry Brown. Legislators and public at the town hall agreed the bill will take away local control.

One area where not everyone was in agreement was the proposed raising of the dam at Los Vaqueros Reservoir by 49 feet. Orinda resident Richard Coleman asked if any other alternatives had been considered and if the assemblywoman supported the proposal. Baker replied that the dam is existing infrastructure, and that raising it could provide additional storage that would allow other counties to bank water. If this happens, it will

increase revenues for Contra Costa County.

Cindy Swanson, a 12-year resident of Lafayette, spoke against a measure signed by the governor last year that prevents companies that boycott or discriminate against any sovereign state, including Israel, from doing business with the state. Baker stated that she supported the legislation. She said that she supported the measure that took a stand against anti-Semitism, especially during last year's election, which saw, as she called it, "a lot of backwards steps."

A big topic was BART parking and Highway 24 access. Transportation, Baker noted, can make your day miserable all day long. Baker has authored legislation to require transportation dollars to be spent only on transportation projects without diversion to any other areas. She mentioned that State Sen. Steve Glazier, who was present for

part of the Town Hall, managed to get an inspector general for BART, although the position is not independent: BART gets to select three names from which the position will be filled. Andersen advocates for local control and for creating jobs in communities rather than fighting for transit villages.

Safety was also of significant concern to all. Although crimes on individuals have decreased, property crime has risen by double digits in the area, according to Baker. Andersen praised Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen as the "poster child for crime prevention." Phillips said there is a broad consensus for police cameras in Orinda and that there has been a decrease in crime because of the cameras. She opposes automatic cameras because the data is available to federal authorities, but she said that the city is doing its best to keep residents private and safe.