



MORAGA

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Moraga takes steps toward recruiting new town manager

By Vera Kochan

After Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg gave written notice on Oct. 4 of her impending late December resignation, the town council wasted no time creating an Ad Hoc Committee during its Oct. 12 meeting in order to find her successor.

Mayor Steve Woehleke and Vice Mayor Renata Sos, the two committee members, followed up on the meeting's decision to use an executive recruitment firm to help in the process. All council members agreed that it would be in the town's best interests to employ an executive search firm for multiple reasons: access to a wider net of talent thanks to experience and contacts in the industry; recruitment firms are better equipped to cast a wider net when advertising positions; these firms can save the town time by performing back-

ground and reference checks; and recruiting firms can interview stakeholders in order to identify a candidate's characteristics with respect to the town's needs.

The Ad Hoc Committee received written proposals from three top recruiting firms and, after interviews, decided to recommend to the council, during its Oct. 26 meeting, Gary Phillips from Bob Murray & Associates, who among other things has had experience in recruiting personnel for communities much like Moraga. The recruiter's fees of \$28,000 are in line with other agencies.

Also discussed during the town council meeting was a timeline of next steps to be taken with the assistance of a recruiter in order to fill the town manager's position. First is to develop recruiting materials by interviewing council members, senior town staff

and key stakeholders with regards to the prospective candidate's attributes which will help to develop a profile; next is to advertise the position through various means; once applications have been received preliminary interviews with the recruiter begin; and, finally, the top candidates meet with council members for in-person interviews.

The town council approved an agreement with Bob Murray & Associates and stipulated that the recruitment process will include a community survey to allow for public input. The council also agreed to continue with the Ad Hoc Committee during the development of recruiting materials and in bringing forth potential Interim/Acting Town Manager candidates after Battenberg's resignation date becomes effective, until a permanent town manager is seated.

Housing Element adoption deadline causing some confusion

By Vera Kochan

Housing and Community Development for the State of California had issued a Jan 31, 2023 deadline for Housing Element adoption, but allowed for a second deadline of a 120-day "grace period", whereby municipalities must have received their HCD certification acknowledging that their Housing Element meets the

state's standards. Herein lies the confusion.

After the publishing of a San Francisco Business Times article, "S.F. got the state's housing deadline wrong -- so did Berkeley, Oakland and San Jose," a flurry of conversation was ignited between the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Contra Costa County Directors in order to clarify matters.

HCD stated that it stands "firm" with the initial January deadline, and the Oct. 26 town council meeting's staff report by Planning Director Afshan Hamid notes, "After that date, the Town is out of compliance if it does not have an adopted legally adequate housing element."

The report also states, "The 'grace period' is not in-

tended to provide communities with more time to complete and adopt their Housing Elements. Communities that fail to be found in compliance by May 31, 2023, may face adverse consequences."

Some of the outcomes could lead to loss of local control; implementation of the "builder's remedy" (a legal mechanism that states can use to expedite the construction of low or middle income housing when a city fails to comply with housing development laws); and the loss of affordable housing and transportation grant funding.

After conferring with Barry Miller Consultants, the Planning Department assured the town council that Moraga is on track to comply with the HCD Jan. 31, 2023 deadline.

Accolades for retiring Town Clerk Marty McInturf

By Vera Kochan

In American culture 13 is considered to be an unlucky number. That tradition continues in Moraga, because after 13 years on the job, Town Clerk Marty McInturf has decided to retire.

No stranger to Lamorinda, McInturf is a graduate of Miramonte High School. Prior to joining the town staff she worked as the city clerk for Pleasant Hill. Her numerous tasks as town clerk and her fountain of knowledge have made her well known to residents who have come to rely on her help and direction over the years.

Although Moraga's status as a "town" may sound less daunting when it comes to daily responsibilities, as anyone on the staff knows there's a lot to do. McInturf's job is no exception. Some of her duties

include: certifying and distributing ordinances and resolutions; conducting follow-up activities related to the agenda by processing agreements and recording official documents; indexing and filing town council actions; maintaining and updating the Municipal Code; maintaining permanent town records; managing and conducting town council member elections; preparing and posting agendas and council packet production/distribution; processing legal notices for council meetings and public hearings; recording proceedings of town council meetings; responding to requests for public record information; serving as filing officer for Fair Political Practices regulations; submitting measures to the electorate; and publishing the About Town Newsletter.

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Town Council: Wednesday, Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Special Town Council Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission: Monday, Nov. 21, 7:00 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.