

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
November 29, 2022 City Council Meeting

I am pleased to share that the City will receive \$437,000 dollars for the installation of the third undersea fiber optic cable. These one-time funds are in addition to \$90,000 dollars per year for the ongoing operation of this individual cable. Because we own our beach, the City was able to grant an easement several years ago that permits the installation of four undersea fiber optic cables that come ashore at Hermosa and pass under our beach.

With this latest payment, we have collected almost \$1.5 million dollars in lump sum payments for the installation of the first three cables. We also collect ongoing payments for each cable, and with the addition of the third cable, our ongoing payments add up to \$252,000 dollars per year. Planning and permitting is underway on the fourth cable installation, and it's expected to be installed by the end of next year.

Now that we are into the holiday season with school vacations and the expectation of more traffic in our City, we wanted to help make Hermosa a safer place for all of us. For years, the City and the Police Department have been working diligently to ensure bicycle safety through education and enforcement. But we have heard the community's concerns about the rapid rise in the number of e-bikes and other cyclists on City streets and the Strand. In response to these concerns, we are launching a more coordinated bike safety campaign today, called Bike Smart Hermosa. This campaign is aligned with the Hermosa Beach Unified School District's e-bike safety campaign that is called "Be Safe, Be SMART."

The City's Bike Smart Hermosa campaign exemplifies how our community cares for one another and our quality of life by encouraging cyclists to ride safely. We will be combining engineering, enforcement, and education to help avoid and reduce the number of bicycle and e-bike accidents and injuries.

We will be rolling out a Bike Smart Hermosa education program to encourage cyclists to follow traffic laws, wear helmets, be visible, and ride responsibly. Once they get the lighting equipment they need, our Public Works Department will also be installing barriers on the Strand, between 11th and 14th Streets, that require cyclists to dismount and walk their bikes in that area.

Public Works is also working to finish up two important projects. The first is the park restrooms project, which we are eager to complete. Our staff continues to work on formalizing a plan for successful project completion through close coordination with the City Attorney's office and the surety company, which is the company that guarantees work will be completed according to contract.

We anticipate concluding negotiations with the surety company on the final scope of work in the next few weeks. At that point, a replacement contractor will be secured, and that contractor will complete the project.

In the meantime, staff has secured critical supply items, including the remaining components for the solar equipment. We hope to have a new contractor onboard as early as January and will provide additional schedule updates as soon as they are available.

The second project is one to enhance safety along Hermosa Avenue. In August, Public Works deployed interim safety measures at the intersection of Hermosa Avenue and 6th Street. The improvements will now be supplemented with the City's first rectangular rapid flashing beacon system – which is known as an RRFB. This is a warning system that pedestrians can activate with the push of a button to make motorists aware that a pedestrian is crossing the street. The Federal Highway Administration has determined that the RRFB is a proven safety measure that enhances the visibility of pedestrians and improves drivers' yielding to pedestrians.

It took several months to obtain all of the necessary components. But staff has obtained those and plans to complete installation this Thursday, December 1st, depending on the weather.

Staff will then evaluate the effectiveness of this system and consider whether to deploy it as part of a larger Capital Improvement Project slated for the Hermosa Avenue corridor. The design of that project is anticipated to begin in February.

Next, I'd like to speak briefly about Zone-In Hermosa, the zoning code update that is underway. The Zoning Code is a technical document with real-life implications for daily life and the future of Hermosa Beach. The documents will undergo detailed review by the Planning Commission and receive final approval by the City Council. Since August of 2021 we have been working closely with the Planning Commission and stakeholders -- such as property owners and architects -- to develop flexible, user-friendly land use and development regulations. The goals for the new zoning code include reducing the amount of time for processing and approving plans to improve the services the City provides and to increase certainty and predictability for businesses that want to come to Hermosa.

The next opportunity for the community to learn more about Zone-In Hermosa is at an upcoming Special Meeting of the Planning Commission at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 5th. This meeting will include a discussion of how the zoning code update can work with our Housing Element. The meeting agenda will be posted on our website this Thursday.

I'd like to formally welcome some new members of our staff--Brandon Musick and Corrie Kates.

Brandon started last week as our second officer in our Community Development Department, replacing Meah Stafford after she was promoted to Public Works Inspector. Before coming to Hermosa, Brandon was a Police Services Officer for the Torrance Police Department.

Corrie is serving as our Interim Community Development Director. Corrie originally came to the City to serve as our Interim Building Official. Prior to working in Hermosa, Corrie held Community Development Director and Deputy City Manager positions in other cities.

Police Chief Update

And lastly, I'd like to turn it over to Chief LeBaron to provide his update.