

From: [Oborny, Shirley](#)
Subject: Newport Beach Insider's Guide - Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 25, 2018
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 3:28:50 PM

Sent on behalf of City Manager Grace Leung...

Happy Friday!

Three weeks with the City in a blink of an eye! I am learning so much, but then I feel there's just so much more to learn. Luckily the staff is great in getting me up to speed on many issues and community members too – the number of intelligent, engaged and civic minded people here is impressive. I suspect you will keep me on my toes!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 25, and the following are items that may be of interest. As always, this is not a summary of the entire agenda, which can be viewed [here](#).

No Study Session items this week, so a little more time for dinner before the Regular Session at 7 p.m.

Regular Session items of note:

- Although the second reading of the updated ordinance on **Accessory Dwelling Units** (ADUs) is on the consent calendar, we are requesting the City Council continue this item to a future meeting to provide an additional opportunity for City Council discussion on this ordinance. Changes were proposed to conform with new state requirements; however, following discussion on this item at the public hearing on September 11th we'd like to explore additional potential options to restrict ADUs while still conforming with state law.
- The next step in the **Water Wheel project** is on the agenda, to approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA. This project will build a facility that captures floating trash that passes through San Diego Creek into the bay. Along with another trash capture facility and storm drain system trash collection efforts, this will reduce trash loads by 50%-80%, for a noticeable impact. Construction is estimated to begin in spring 2020 and take six months.
- As part of our continuing efforts to address traffic, two **traffic signal synchronization projects** are on the agenda. One project is to synchronize traffic signals along MacArthur Boulevard, coordinated with the City of Irvine to cover 22 signalized intersections (nine within Newport Beach). The agenda item is to approve the application for grant funds for this project. The second project is along the Culver Drive-Bonita Canyon Drive corridor, also a joint project with Irvine. Grant funds have been awarded for this project and the agenda item is to approve the cooperative agreement with Irvine.
- The Finance Committee recently considered the appropriateness of the **General Fund Contingency Reserve level**. A study by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) was commissioned to assess risks. Based on the findings identified in the report and other factors, staff and the Committee recommend maintaining the current Reserve funding level at 25% of operating expenditures. The Committee also recommends a change in how the annual contributions to the Reserve is calculated. In the past two years,

the City Manager has recommended, and the City Council has approved, the exclusion of additional discretionary pension payments to CalPERS from the annual reserve calculation. Otherwise, the City is required to reserve a higher amount than intended, as the Contingency Reserve is meant to ensure services are provided during extraordinary circumstances, which would leave less available for program funding. The agenda item codifies this exclusion in F-2.

- There are two items related to the **additional crossing guards** in the Newport Heights neighborhood. Two crossing guards were recommended in the Newport Heights Neighborhood Schools Traffic Study and were approved by the City Council on August 14. Agenda item 13 allocates the funding for those two new crossing guards, which were already added in time for the first day of the school year. Agenda item 14 amends the contract to allocate funding for a third new crossing guard recommended by the City Traffic Engineer based on pedestrian counts and field observation. The locations of the three new crossing guards are: one at Coral Place and Irvine Avenue adjacent to Ensign Intermediate and two at 15th Street and Santa Ana Avenue adjacent to Newport Heights Elementary (one for east/west pedestrians and one for north/south pedestrians).
- For public hearing is the call for review of the Planning Commission's approval of a variance and coastal development permit to demolish an existing single-family residence and allow the construction of a new single-family residence at **3200 Ocean Boulevard**. Pursuant to our municipal code, the call for review is conducted as a new hearing. This means the City Council is not bound by the Planning Commission's prior decisions or limited to the issues raised at the lower hearing.

Thank you to everyone who reached out after my first "Insider's Guide." I appreciate the kind words of support! It was also clear that there is considerable interest in maintaining this communication. As I mentioned last time, while I am looking for way to improve our outreach, I will continue this guide.

Thank you for reading. Feedback is appreciated so please don't hesitate to ask a question or offer a comment.

Grace

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