

Miranda Bacon

From: Rona [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 7, 2023 1:12 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fwd: Fire prevention

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rona Seabrook [REDACTED] >
Date: October 7, 2023 at 1:06:37 PM PDT
To: public@cityof-grassvalley.com
Subject: Fire prevention

Good Afternoon,

I read Bob Branstrom's Union Newspaper article.

My thoughts are.....

Over the years, Grass Valley has wasted funds on development and projects that decreased monies for more important needs.

City approval for increased density (increasing fire evacuation problems) such as Guilded Springs, Brunswick, RV site on Mc Courtney should not have happened.

Living in town (three digit addresses) means evacuation is key. Firewise communities in town are not realistic and pretty worthless. Yes, perhaps a fire starting in town might be slowed, but as we have seen, it doesn't take much for a firestorm. Lahaina fire moved at a mile a minute.

Key to prevention and slowing fire is vegetation management outside of town and in rural areas. Hopefully thought, consideration and planning will include the well-being of animals inhabiting our area; This is very important during birthing springtime.

As others have mentioned, parcel owner education with labor and or financial support is necessary. Enforcement would be a last resort.

Thank you for your work on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Rona Seabrook
136 Carpenter St. 95945

Miranda Bacon

From: Pam Jung [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Comments for tonite's council meeting

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Thanks for taking my comments about fire and possible tax.

- Before we resort to a tax alone, have we explored other options, such as partnering with such organizations as the Fire Safe Council, existing Firewise Communities, volunteers in general? That they might be able to help in some way, especially with vegetation mitigation.
- another engine and 3 fire fighters to each engine is the national standard...but we aren't slaves to that. That strikes me as "top cabin"...minimizing risk as much as is possible. Maybe a step down is enough: reasonably minimizing risk.
- if a tax is the absolute only way may I suggest 1/4 (not 1/2), with Option 2...with a sunset clause of 5 years (10 is way too long). A special tax would be perfect, but I understand the reasoning behind calling it a general tax. But have oversight committee meet quarterly and publish the results; maximum transparency.

Thanks for your consideration.

Pam Jung
800 Freeman Lane
Grass Valley

Miranda Bacon

From: DIAL GINGER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 6, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Voice Mail (1 minute and 17 seconds)
Attachments: audio.mp3

Hello, my name is Bill Dial. I live off on Lee Lane off of Idaho, Maryland. I just read the article What do you think in the paper? I would like to let you know what I think. I would like to know why you folks aren't addressing what starting these fires in the 1st place and do something about that. Let's look at some of the fires we've had down here at the Bennett St. fire, Dorsey, Sutton Way, Banner, Overpass twice, Brunswick, Idaho, Maryland fire last year, The fires on Plaza, yes, and even the River Fire. I know this area real good. I know what's going on down there along the river. I know there was homeless down there. I would like to know, is it not politically correct to do something about these homeless people and what they're doing out in the woods? I'm the one that pays over \$8000 a year in property taxes, over \$4000 a year in homeowners insurance. So I have some rights too. Anyway, I think it's about time you folks did something about this. All you got to do is look at the police blotter in the paper every day and you'll see the police are spending most of their time chasing homeless people around. I think it's time for you people to do something about it. Thank you for letting me give my comments.

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[Set Up Voice Mail](#)

October 7, 2023

To:

- Bob Branstrom

- Copies to all Council; Tim Kiser

From:

Terry Lamphier, Grass Valley resident; past GV planning commissioner and Nevada County Supervisor, District 3

Response to Bob Branstrom's "What do you think?" Union column
re: fire risk mitigation proposals

"I hear you, Bob"

Kudos for Branstrom's outreach via his recent Union column. To me, this is leadership (Mr. Branstrom, caution. I was fired as GV planning commissioner for a newspaper column I wrote after a City council mandate required me to disclose that I was writing as a private citizen, "as only the mayor could speak for the City". Previous Union publisher Jeff Ackerman removed my disclaimer, hence putting me in violation and, ultimately, termination).

1) Proposed fire tax

a) Support a well-defined measure, with community input, put forth as a "special tax". Trust voters to support this, as Nevada City voters have done.

b) As an option, put forth identical "special/general" tax measures and allow citizens to vote for either or both, with the "special tax" superseding "general tax" if both pass.

c) Any clauses addressing mitigations should be written as advisory and voluntary, not as mandates, for any private properties that are in-town, small lot single family residences, with exceptions for unmaintained vacant lots and properties with absentee landlords.

d) Existing tax Measure E was passed with the understanding a portion of the revenue was to be used for our fire department. Reallocate Measure E revenues to prioritize fire mitigation, as, by State law, this "general tax" can be used for anything.

e) Should fire hazard mitigation become a requirement, any mandates should include subsidies for low-income homeowners with no liens on properties.

f) Any mandatory fire hazard mitigation on private properties should include analysis of affects on property values and, if impaired, mandate a proportionate reduction in property taxes.

g) Any fire mitigation measures should be "best practice", mandating habitat impact reduction as well as mitigation of loss of carbon sequestration, increased "heat sink" effects, etc.

h) Mitigated properties should receive some sort of official "fire safe" declaration that could be recognized in setting future fire insurance rates.

2) General fire-related policies

a) Before hiring more fire fighters, do an analysis of actual past firefighter responses, with the goal of determining how many events actually called out for full responses. Given past history, it appears by actual experience that present practices and staffing have proven adequate, via utilization of joint support from other stations and agencies. Prove the need for more firefighters.

b) Pursue policies to increase efficient use of existing staff.

b) The Loma Rica development plan included an additional fire station, with significant funding from the developers. What is the status of this? How does this affect fire fighting needs and funding?

c) A recent fire on Highway 20 near the fairgrounds had a huge emergency response (good, but maybe excessive) with little to no traffic controls on very nearby streets (bad), leading to large nearby traffic jams and delays. Explore better distribution of response teams in the event evacuations are required.

d) There is no reason that potentially available fire mitigation and related grants cannot be pursued concurrent with other measures and, indeed, should be.

e) Reprioritize use of existing general funds while exploring other options. Fire safety should be the highest priority for Grass Valley's City Council. Council can do this next January when establishing 2024 goals and priorities – plenty of time before our next fire season.

f) Re: ADU policies, evaluate evacuation status of existing residential streets for negative safety impacts of adding density and pursue new legislation as necessary to constrain such developments.

For a good example, visit North Church Street and Doris Drive, both of what are essentially one-way streets serving as evacuation routes for dozens of homes. This area – "Slide Ravine" – has been identified by fire personnel as a fire danger, yet the City continues to approve more housing in this area. Police Chief Alex Gammelgard can give more information.

Finally, slow down on new housing developments until their impacts on fire safety and evacuation challenges can be mitigated. Crying a "fiscal emergency" – it's not - for a new tax measure erodes public trust. Stop minimizing tax impacts – total aggregated taxes would approach 10%. Be honest, make a good case and trust the public to do the right thing. Thank you.