

Miranda Bacon

From: Robin Davies <rdavies@grassvalleychamber.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Jan Arbuckle; Haven Caravelli
Subject: City of Grass Valley Wildfire 1/2 Cent Sales Tax.

Mayor Arbuckle and Esteemed Council,

Good Afternoon, I'm Robin Galvan-Davies CEO of the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce and Executive Manager of the Grass Valley Downtown Association, and as the team leader for both organizations, we thank you for giving the community the opportunity to share our perspectives and concerns regarding the proposed 1/2 cent sales tax measure.

As stated previously in public comment on this topic, I've shared the concerns of the merchant constituency that this tax will be burdensome. The downtown merchants, restaurants, and service providers have suffered reduced revenues due to the Mill Street construction, Snowmageddon, and spring rains. They are fearful that a Grass Valley sales tax of 9.00 % will drive commerce down the hill to Placer County where the tax rate is 7.25 %.

We are challenged to embrace additional taxes that would have a snowball effect on the local economy: higher construction costs, translate into higher home costs, higher costs of soft goods, and the general increase in the cost of living. We face current challenges with the scarcity of workforce housing, and that impacts employee attraction, and retention which impacts the ability of the retailer or restaurateur to keep their business open all week.

The question we are asked constantly is if an economic impact study has been done to determine the effect this tax increase will have on the local economy.

We've been told that the tax measure under consideration will be treated in the same manner as Measure E, dedicated to accomplishing its stated elements, with an oversight committee to direct fund expenditures. The 2021-2022 FY Adopted Budget includes Measure E revenues of \$6.3 million dollars. The Measure E sales tax initiative was presented as an all-encompassing revenue stream that would build effective and efficient public safety departments, fund equipment and personnel, enhance parks, and provide roadway and sidewalk repair and maintenance.

With Measure E funding, our Fire Department has achieved the higher ISO status of number 2. The request for an additional 1/2 cent sales tax to be dedicated to Wildland Fire, Resiliency, and Vegetation Management which includes funding for additional

personnel and equipment, makes us ask, has Measure E failed to live up to its promises?

Earlier this year, the Council was presented with Priority Projects and asked to choose the top three. All projects listed were worthy, and as I recall, the Council chose to put the General Plan and Housing as priorities above Wildfire Prevention.

If the proposed 1/2 cent sales tax measure was to include investment in other projects that are close to the heart of the community like workforce housing and parking along with Wildland Fire, Resiliency, and Vegetation Management, that may provide for broader community support.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter.

Sincere Regards,

Robin

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Miranda Bacon

From: Pam Jung [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:44 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Question for tonite's town hall meeting

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Q: when (even if) is the city going to follow the state's lead about encouraging/requiring residents to follow Zone 0 instructions? And why/why not?

Q: is there ever any third party audit when the city asks for an increase in sales tax? Why? Why not?q

Miranda Bacon

From: Robert Long [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:08 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: RV Park

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Please discuss plans for evacuation of 150 RVs or shelter in place

Sent from my iPhone
Robert Long
Sherwood Forest
530-913-0287

Miranda Bacon

From: Christopher Ring <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:41 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Questions for Special City Council Meeting

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Hello,

My name is Chris Ring. I am a Realtor and Co-Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the Nevada County Association of Realtors. I have 2 questions:

Additional taxes will have an impact on the cost of construction and housing in our community. We are in an area struggling with the cost of Real Estate compared to annual household income. There is also a serious lack of housing for young professionals including laborers, firefighters, police officers, hospital staff, etc. This increase in taxes will further increase the cost of homes and further hinder the ability for developers to successfully finance the construction of market-rate workforce housing. How can the City justify an added tax that will further hinder our ability to house the labor force of our community and increase the gap between income and cost of Real Estate?

Furthermore, In November of last year, residents of Nevada County voted against Measure V which was also a half-cent sales tax and was promoted as helping fund wildfire prevention, emergency services, and disaster readiness, and the money would go to the County's general fund. Residents voted and the measure was defeated. How then can the City justify such a similar tax when County residents very recently voted against it?

Thank you,

Chris Ring

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