



City Council Meeting Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 25, 2025

Subject: Bishop's Pumpkin Farm 2024 Season Report

Prepared By: Bill Zenoni, City Manager

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Wheatland City Council receive and provide comment on the information presented regarding the Bishop's Pumpkin Farm 2024 Season Report.

Discussion: Bishop's Pumpkin Farm has been in operation in Wheatland for 52 years. Bishop's Pumpkin Farm hosts school field trips and special events and is open to the general public for approximately two months in the fall of each year. The Bishop's Pumpkin Farm was open for the 2024 season from Saturday September 7th to Monday November 11th.

The City Council receives two reports related to this business each year – a status report on the prior year's activities and a plan for managing traffic during the upcoming season. This report provides an overview of City activities related to the Bishop's Pumpkin Farm for the 2024 season.

Traffic

The City Council received a report on the 2024 Traffic Management Plan for Bishop's Pumpkin Farm on July 23, 2024. Staff also conducted a public meeting to review the proposed Traffic Management Plan on August 8, 2024. The 2024 Traffic Management Plan was similar to the 2023 plan with minor adjustments based on input gathered during the 2023 event. In addition to providing visible law enforcement presence, the traffic signal at Main Street and SR65 was adjusted to expedite the flow of traffic on Friday evenings. Traffic barrels were again utilized on Main Street. However, this year, the traffic barrels were weighted to reduce the possibility of movement by drivers. The second entrance near the high school was opened on Saturdays and Sundays beginning September 28th. The flow of traffic into and out of the Bishop's Pumpkin Farm was managed well this year with no major issues. A plan for the upcoming season will be presented to the City Council in July.

Public Safety Support

The City Council received a report on public safety calls related to the Bishop's Pumpkin Farm at the December 10, 2024 City Council meeting. The Wheatland Police Department assigned one

Police Officer, on overtime status, to the Bishop's Pumpkin Farm during the nine weekends of the 2024 season. Between September 7 and November 11, 2024, the Police Department responded to 71 calls for service which resulted in 42 traffic stops, issuance of 16 citations, and 5 crime reports. For the 2024 season, the City rented a golf cart for the Police Department to utilize on the Bishop's premises to increase the visibility of the Police officers and to better be able to respond to emergency calls for service.

The Wheatland Fire Authority responded to 24 calls for service, including 15 medical calls 8 public assistance requests and 1 smoke investigation.

Admission Fee Revenue

In addition to sales tax revenue generated by Bishop's Pumpkin Farm, the City receives an Admission Fee which equals five percent of admissions collected. Of the total Admission Fee received, 60 percent is deposited to the City's General Fund and the remaining 40 percent is deposited to a special Joint-Use Fund to be used for public projects agreed to by the City and the Bishops.

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, revenue from the Bishop's Pumpkin Farm Admission Fee totaled \$182,293. This is an increase of \$31,595 from the prior fiscal year. Of the total amount received, \$109,376 (60%) was deposited to the General Fund and \$72,917 (40%) was deposited to the Joint-Use Fund. The Joint-Use Fund has also received \$1,153 in interest earnings to date this fiscal year. Expenditures to date in Fiscal Year 2024-25 total \$31,811 which includes \$10,000 for support of the Annual Pumpkin Weigh-Off event, \$6,834 for administrative and engineering support services and \$14,977 for signs, barricades and other items to assist City staff in managing activities in support of the Pumpkin Farm traffic. The balance in the Joint-Use Fund as of March 1, 2024, was \$78,289.

Fiscal Impact: This is an information item only. There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item

Attachments: None.