



CITY OF OROVILLE
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September 1, 2015

The Honorable Judge Kristen A. Lucena
Presiding Judge
Butte County Superior Court
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: *City of Oroville's Response to 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report*

Dear Judge Howell:

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933, subsection (c), the City Council has reviewed the 2014-2015 Grand Jury Final Report regarding the operations of the City of Oroville. In preparing this response, information and input was obtained from various sources regarding each finding and recommendation, including the Acting City Administrator and staff members. In response to the Grand Jury Final Report released June 10, 2015, the City Council unanimously approved the following response in a public session of its duly noticed meeting held on September 1, 2015.

OROVILLE: A CITY DEALS WITH TODAY'S PROBLEMS

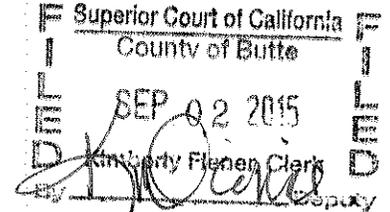
FINDINGS:

F1. Oroville's City Departments are understaffed due to the 2013 layoffs, which were done to balance the General Fund.

Response: Agree.

F2. Understaffing has resulted in a larger workload for City Employees.

Response: Agree.



F3. Oroville's 2014-2015 Adopted Budget shows the General Fund has a surplus rather than a deficit.

Response: Disagree.

The City's 2014-2015 adopted budget was approved with a projected deficit.

F4. The largest percentage of revenue for the City comes from its Sales Tax.

Response: Agree.

F5. Employee salaries and benefits are the City's largest budget expense.

Response: Agree.

F6. Police and Fire represent over two-thirds of the City's salary and benefits expense.

Response: Disagree in part.

The proposed budget for FY 2014-15 allocated 67.3% for Police and Fire employee salary and benefits. However, in FY 2015-2016, the allocation Police and Fire budgeting accounts for approximately 62% of the budget.

F7. There are three Department Heads that manage six Departments.

Response: Agree.

F8. Oroville is in the process of annexing two areas south of the City.

Response: Agree.

F9. The annexation will leave the Police and Fire Departments more understaffed than they already are.

Response: Disagree in Part.

While the annexation will create certain additional demands upon the City's Police Department, the City is increasing its current workforce, and creating new positions to effectively serve the annexed areas, and the City of Oroville as a whole. Calls for fire service from the annexed areas are serviced by El Medio Fire Department and not by the City of Oroville.

F10. The City is seeking a one percent increase in Sales Tax to pay for more Police and Fire Personnel.

Response: Disagree in Part.

The City is exploring all options related to an increase in revenue for the City to alleviate the budget constraints of the last several years. While a sales tax increase has been contemplated, no concrete plans have been made relative to an increase in sales tax.

F11. Police and Fire now come under the heading of Public Safety, although they are still separate entities.

Response: Agree.

F12. Planning and Development utilizes mid-managers to help with the workload and make the development process run smoother.

Response: Agree.

F13. Finance has updated its procedures and outdated software to help with its workload.

Response: Agree in part.

Finance is in the process of updating its procedures and outdated software to help with its workload. The updates will be completed prior to the end of this fiscal year.

F14. The City Council, Department Heads and Managers use meetings as a way to resolve conflicts.

Response: Agree.

F15. Dealing with homeless people has become a problem for the City.

Response: Disagree in Part.

The City of Oroville, like virtually every other community in the state, has certain issues attributed to homelessness. The City is proactively working on the negative impacts of homelessness, while assisting homeless individuals to obtain the educational and social services they need.

F16. Water has begun to be a problem the City Parks will need to address, particularly if drought conditions continue.

Response: Agree in Part.

The State of California has required a 28% reduction of water usage for the City of Oroville.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. Oroville needs to find creative ways of adding staff to the City Departments, particularly Police and Fire.

Response: Has Been Implemented.

R2. Pursue the one percent Sales Tax increase by letting the community know exactly how the funds will be used.

Response: May Be Implemented

The City Council has not determined whether the City will propose a sales tax increase. In the event that the City does pursue such an increase, the City will seek all legal avenues to communicate with transparency the use and function to which the funds will be utilized.

R3. Since the Annexation will likely be approved, Oroville should look into ways of generating revenue with Planning and Development.

Response: Has Been Implemented.

The City seeks full cost recovery for all Planning and Development permits and costs, except where specifically waived by the City Council for public policy purposes.

R4. The City should continue to use mid-managers as a way to assist Department Heads, particularly with the understaffing happening in Departments.

Response: Has Been Implemented.

R5. Oroville should update its computer software programs and procedures for each Department to ensure efficiency and transparency.

Response: Will Be Implemented.

As stated in response to Finding 13, the City is in the process of updating its procedures and outdated software. The updates will be completed prior to the end of this fiscal year.

R6. The various elements of City Government should continue to use meetings as a way of communicating with one another and resolving any conflicts.

Response: Has Been Implemented.

R7. Oroville needs to continue to manage its homeless problem by supporting programs that get people off the streets and into places that help them deal with their problems.

Response: Has Been Implemented.

R8. The City needs to develop a plan for dealing with its water problem, including using native species as a way of keeping their parks and recreation areas from becoming brown or completely paved over with concrete.

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Response: Has Been Implemented.

Respectfully submitted,

City Council of the City of Oroville, California


Linda L. Dahlmeier, Mayor

cc: Oroville City Council
Donald Rust, Acting City Administrator
Scott E. Huber, City Attorney