

NextDoor City Manager Q&A Forum

7-8 PM, Monday, September 28, 2015

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

It's 7 o'clock...time for Stump the City Manager! I am sitting at my desk and will answer your questions until 8 o'clock. The ground rules:

*While I fancy myself to be a reasonably intelligent person, and I have staff members here to help me, I don't, in fact, know everything right off the top of my head. If I can't get you an answer tonight, I'll say so and post the answer in the next day or two.

*I can only answer questions about City operations; I can't respond to questions related to County, State, School District, or other jurisdictions.

*No personal politics, please. This forum is intended to answer operational questions about your City government. If you have questions or interests in policy priorities, please don't be offended if I refer you to your City Councilmembers.

*Some of my responses may be rather lengthy. I will do my best to clearly identify my answers with the questions asked. Since NextDoor does not allow responses to specific replies (like Facebook does), this could get tedious. Please be patient and read the responses before posting a similar or related question.

*Only post your questions on this thread! I won't see them unless they are posted here.

We have a second such session scheduled for Sunday October 11 at 1:30 PM. After that, if there seems to be a continuing interest, we will schedule more.

Ready, set, go...

Shared with City of American Canyon in General

THANKED! 13 REPLY 61

Michael, Clancy, and 10 others thanked Dana

Michael Schneiders from Napa Meadows

Hi Dana, can you update us on the repair of the water pipe that was reported about a few weeks ago in the Napa Register?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Michael: The Contractor has been given a Notice to Proceed and you may have seen some surveying and other preliminary work along the highway. The Public Works director met with them today and we expect to see construction begin within the next few weeks - we don't have a specific date yet. Our own crews are completing some of the preliminary work. In the mean time, staff is up there checking for leaks and monitoring the line. Total construction time will be several months, and we can't shut down the line down until water demand in the City has declined (ie, irrigation has mostly stopped) so other main lines can handle the demand.

Nelia, Sindy, and Cathy thanked Dana

Michael Schneiders from Napa Meadows

Thank you.

Jim Potter from Rancho Del Mar

Subject: Sewer lines, water lines, streets(Rancho Del Mar, Green Island Road, etc)

Is there a plan for taking care of the infrastructure of the older part of the city?

Follow-up: If yes, what is it?

Follow-up: If no, what is going to be done.

Jim Potter from Rancho Del Mar

Subject: Gas taxes

It has always been my understanding that gas taxes were designed to be used for roads. What is the status of the use of our gas taxes?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jim P: I'm going to respond to both together.

What is the status of the use of our gas taxes?

Gasoline taxes are paid by consumers when they purchase gasoline. The State collects these revenues and distributes them to individual cities and counties primarily based on population. So, with gas taxes, it doesn't matter where you purchase your gas; American Canyon gets its share based mostly on where you live. (You also pay sales tax on gasoline, but that is a separate topic). Gas taxes must be used to maintain and improve local streets and roads per state law. In 2015/2016, the City of American Canyon anticipates receiving around \$450,000 in gasoline tax revenues; however, we spend \$665,000 on basic maintenance of our streets and roads. The additional \$215,000 comes from general fund revenues (sales tax, property tax, etc.).

The City spends its street maintenance funds to replace signs; maintain striping; fill pot holes; slurry seal streets; cut back trees when they are a hazard; take down yard sale signs that are affixed to street signs; purchase concrete, asphalt, paint, fencing and other supplies; install curb ramps; maintain the signals and street lights (unless paid by one of the lighting districts); and purchase tools. The City also uses gasoline taxes for projects such as the repaving of Donaldson Way, Lena Drive and Stetson Drive and sometimes to match grants for larger projects (including the Park and Ride by the library and Theresa Avenue paving). It costs roughly \$600,000 to grind and repave a local city street; \$450,000 is not enough money each year to fully maintain our streets, let alone make much headway on reconstructing streets.

Broadly speaking, gasoline tax revenues are a dwindling revenue stream and are not even close to keeping up with need statewide. The primary reason why gasoline taxes aren't keeping up is fuel efficiency. Cars are getting more and more efficient (a good thing), but that means consumers buy less gas (from this perspective, a bad thing). Consumers are driving the same amount or more as they always have, causing wear and tear on streets, yet consumers pay less gas tax. Various states (including California) have talked about charging gasoline taxes based on miles driven rather than gallons purchased as a way of more equitably allocating the costs of street maintenance to the user. However, that has not happened.

As many communities have done, voters in Napa County approved a local sales tax measure to provide a reliable funding stream for street maintenance. Measure T will impose a one-half cent sales tax on transactions in Napa County and goes into effect the same time the current Measure A (for flood control) expires in 2018. The City of American Canyon anticipates receiving around \$800,000 per year from Measure T starting in 2018. This will go a long way to repairing the backlog of old, rough streets. One of the items in the City Council's strategic plan is the creation of a plan for the specific use of these funds so we can be ready to go when the revenues become available. Until then, we will continue to do projects and make the best use of the modest revenues we have.

Is there a plan for taking care of the infrastructure in the older parts of the city?

I will address water and sewer here, as I have already addressed streets under your question about gas taxes.

Underground infrastructure in some of the older parts of town was built according to construction standards that are not as stringent as they are today and infrastructure is deteriorating in some places. When the City incorporated, it inherited substandard infrastructure.

We have tackled some important projects in the last few years, including complete replacement of the water main along the highway (which is currently underway), the repair of nearly 100 water service leaks (with 60+ more on the way), replacement of all water meters, several projects to bring the wastewater treatment plant up to date (new membranes, screening, and others), replacing membranes at the water treatment plant, and replacement of key water valves in the City. Most of these improvements are invisible to the average homeowner and don't impact your day-to-day use of the water or sewer systems; they do, however, make the systems more reliable in the long run. But there are many more projects that need to be accomplished.

The City is currently updating its water and wastewater system master plans. These plans, which are more than ten years old, identify and prioritize improvements needed in the distribution and collection systems, including improvements needed for growth as well as to simply maintain the existing system. We expect the master plans to be complete around January and, once completed, we will update our fee schedules and set about completing the highest priority projects. Funding for these projects is a challenge. While developers pay for impacts on the system created by the new development, maintenance of older water and wastewater systems falls primarily on the rate payer. We will need to be sure our new user rate structure includes the funding needed to bring these up to date. We also use grants whenever we can find them. Sorry so long! It's a complex subject.

Sindy, Jim, Cathy, and 1 other thanked Dana

Jim Potter from Rancho Del Mar

Thanks, Dana.

Cori Badertscher from The Preserve

So the sleery was put on the pavement and then ripped up a couple times, what were they looking for since we were trying to save money in the preserve?

Student asked can dogs go into library since it doesn't serve food?

How many seats are up for the new election and which are they?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Cori: I'm not entirely sure I understand your first question, but I think you are referring to the slurry seal we did a year or so ago on many of the newer streets. The slurry is a maintenance effort intended to prolong the life of streets so we don't have to reconstruct them so soon. We did subsequently find and repair a couple water service leaks in your area, and that did mean cutting into the street. We try to avoid cutting into nice new street, but leaks do happen from time to time.

Please address your library question to the County librarian.

Cori, Sindy, and Cathy thanked Dana

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Cori, regarding Council seats available seats next year.

Terms for Mayor Garcia, Councilmember Leary and Councilmember Bennett all expire in 2016. As far as I know, each of them plans to run again, but that is a question best addressed to them individually. Others may choose to run against them, as well. Councilmember Ramos has announced she is running for County Supervisor. Her seat may also be available, depending on the outcome of the Supervisor primary in June.

Jerry thanked Dana

Kenneth Leary from La Vigne

Cori,

It is my intension to run again.

Clancy Sullivan from Waterton

Not using garbage disposal related to water saving. City of Napa collecting food waste for compost, any possibility of same in AmCan?

Kathy and Stanley thanked Clancy

Clancy Sullivan from Waterton

Many signs re dogs need to be leashed yet many unleashed dogs on trails, dogs swimming in the wetlands etc. Is it possible to get some kind of enforcement?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Clancy:

Composting: Right now you are able to put only yard waste in your compost barrel. Our franchise agreement with Recology calls for them to implement food waste composting and they have obtained their state permits to do so. They are working out the details. I anticipate they will implement food waste composting in the coming year, but don't have any specific dates. Please feel free to call Recology if you want details.

Leashed dogs: We do have leash laws that cover all public trails and open spaces. We do this to ensure safety for our residents. While some people have very nice and obedient dogs, many dogs are hard to control. The laws are difficult to enforce. By the time we get someone out there, usually the dog and owner are gone. Of course, if you ever feel like you are in a dangerous situation, please call the police immediately.

Jerry, Clancy, Sindy, and 2 others thanked Dana

Jerry Kunzman from Vintage Ranch

Why is there a leash law in the area that Clancy is talking about?

Clancy Sullivan from Waterton

Re leashed dogs. With all due respect that is a cookie cutter answer and we need resolution when people continually disregard the law. When I asked one woman several times on many occasions to please leash her dogs I was told to unleash mine! The police occasionally circle the parking lot but no one patrols the trails. Also, hunters access the Wetlands from the trails even though that is posted No Hunting and No Access to Hunting. Hunters are working on a blind close to Glass Beach that was accessed from the trail and not from the water.

Jerry Kunzman from Vintage Ranch

Clancy- some good points. I asked Dana the question, as that's fundamental to understanding the answer. What she said is pretty much universal with leash laws. I have two tiny little dogs that I wouldn't let off leash for THEIR safety. But others that unleash their dogs lack control necessary to stop a dog attack and certainly might not even know where their dog left a pile that needs cleaning up. So this becomes an issue of enforcement. Now that we've established why this law is in place in that area, the question then becomes why is it lacking enforcement and who would be the enforcers? Under normal circumstances, it's not something you'd call 911 over. It doesn't even seem like a job that the police should give any priority to. So the question remains. Perhaps we can all help with video (everyone has a phone) and lodging complaints? Dana- what do you think about this?

Clancy, Karina, and Cathy thanked Jerry

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jerry: regarding leash law, see response to Clancy.

Jerry thanked Dana

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jerry and Clancy, regarding leash laws. Yes, Jerry sums it up nicely. We are very concerned about safety with dogs, and try and respond. But do keep in mind law enforcement priorities. While it would be nice to have a "park ranger" or other sort of person who can patrol for things like this, at this time we don't have the funding resources to do that. Let me think about your video idea, Jerry, and respond separately.

Jerry and Cathy thanked Dana

Cathy Rose from Napa Junction/Broadway

I echo Jerry K.'s questions and concerns... we also have little dogs, one of whom is also a service dog (she's a medical alert dog) and I hesitate to take her places where clearly I need her but I can't trust others who are irresponsible with their own dogs.

Would the police and ACO support and act on residents providing video of scofflaws?? It's a safety issue all the way around.

Jerry thanked Cathy

Stanley James from Canyon Creek

Hello! And thanks for doing this! Do you know the timeline for re-pavement of Flodsen Rd?? Everyone is talking about the "EL NINO" forecast that is slowly approaching and from what newscasters are saying, its going to be huge!

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Stanley: See my response to Jim about gasoline taxes and street maintenance. While Flosden Road could use paving, others are worse! Right now, we have no specific plans for Flosden Road.

Stanley thanked Dana

Brian Murphy from Napa Olympia

What is the plan to deal with Vallejo's homeless population which has moved into the Veterans Park area?

I am curious as to both the short term and long term solutions to this issue.

I have noticed an increase in police and public works presence which is great! But I have also noticed an increase in suspicious people in the area which is concerning.

Thanks!

Nancy thanked Brian

Nancy Osterkamp from Napa Olympia

I agree, regarding the homeless, I have watched people bike into the bushes by the flag pole last evening and again tonight.

Jerry thanked Nancy

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Brian M: Vallejo has struggled for a long time with homelessness, particularly in Northern Vallejo, and we do get spill over in Veterans Park and along highway 29. Public works crews have cut back the brush and grass in order to open up the line of sight and reduce dark spots for hiding. In addition, the City Council just approved an ordinance to prohibit camping in public parks. This will give the Police Department a good tool to help move homeless people along. In the long, run, clearly we need answers that are well beyond the ability of just our City. The City Council will be hearing a presentation from the

Hope Center and County of Napa regarding the issue County wide. Watch the Friday Updates for dates and times.

Jerry, Sindy, Cathy, and 1 other thanked Dana

Brian Murphy from Napa Olympia

Thank you for your response!

Jerry Kunzman from Vintage Ranch

Road projects- any plans to open Commerce Blvd to Wetlands Edge / continue Newell to Main by Walmart? If so, what is the timeline? Both of these could allow alternative routes, thus alleviating congested areas.

Carrie thanked Jerry

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jerry: The extension of Commerce to Wetlands will depend on development in the area. As the vacant parcels near Commerce develop, they will be required to create the connection. The connection is included in the City's general plan. We are very sensitive, however, to residents in the Wetlands area and need to be sure that the extension is done in a way to not increase traffic substantially. We don't have any specific timeline...depends on development proposals.

As for Newell to Main... do you mean punching Newell through west to the highway via Napa Junction, South Napa Junction or other street? These extensions are being studied as part of the Watson Ranch project.

Michael, Jerry, and Nelia thanked Dana

Bill Johnson from Napa Square

Heres one:

Feeling negative here, somebody remind me again why it's more important to widen a new street and add curbs & sidewalk to it, on the East side of town, when the old side streets off of Kimberly, Elliott, Danrose, and surrounding neighborhoods, are horribly falling apart, and have been this way for many years? I am talking about the widening and sidewalk curb installation at Newell. That's great and all, but its not priority in my side of the tracks. what the heck?

Jerry, Matt, and Arthur thanked Bill

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Bill J: Yes, I know it sorta looks like a strange project. However, we had funding set aside that we can ONLY be used for that project, and we had to use it or lose it! If we didn't do the project, we would have forfeited the funds. The funds could not be used elsewhere in the City.

Sindy and Cathy thanked Dana

Jerry Kunzman from Vintage Ranch

Are there plans to keep the lawn green in our local parks?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jerry: regarding green lawns in the parks: the lawns you see green are watered with recycled water, not potable water. The parks that are not so green are not yet connected to recycled water. We are currently in the process of converting Shenandoah, Silver Oak, and Tower parks to recycled water. They should get greener after the recycled water is installed. Community Park I and II conversions are more expensive, and longer term, projects.

Jerry, Sindy, Stanley, and 1 other thanked Dana

Clancy Sullivan from Waterton

One last question R/T to newly built warehouse space. Semi's have to come South on 29, turn right on Napa Junction and right again to access road to warehouse. This is potentially dangerous to traffic waiting on Napa Junction Rd (near City Hall) to turn left onto R29 North. We have experienced some scares while waiting for the light to change and the semis taking that corner fast. As you know this is very close to school, let's not wait for an accident before anything is done. Please be proactive.

Nelia thanked Clancy

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Clancy, regarding truck traffic at the highway on Napa Junction Road west. Yes, the new warehouse project on Lombard has increased truck traffic in the area. The Napa Junction III commercial/apartment project just getting started will also be constructing intersection improvements to widen this intersection and make it wider and safer. This should get underway in 2016.

Clancy and Cathy thanked Dana

Jim Potter from Rancho Del Mar

Subject: New housing, city center

In light of part of your last response to the infrastructure, the portion as to tot lack of funding, I think this next question is relevant.

Based on the historical lack of trying or inability to take care of the existing infrastructure as a whole, how can we be assured that any more expansion of the city will be a good move? We historically have not taken care of what we have.

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jim P: regarding new development projects, I have addressed some of these questions above. We are working on several plans and projects to update infrastructure. If you have further concerns about priorities and policy related to new development, I encourage you to discuss that with your City Councilmembers.

Cathy thanked Dana

Jim Potter from Rancho Del Mar

I will do that. Thanks, Dana

Kenneth Leary from La Vigne

Hi Jim,

In regards to development priorities tomorrow 6pm Tuesday, Sept 29th at a special meeting Council will discuss the results of the 2015 City-wide Citizen Survey and City Council Strategic Plan. This is a great opportunity for you and all interested to weigh in on priorities and development.

Cathy Rose from Napa Junction/Broadway

What is the plan for the city center - construction, development, timeline?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Cathy, regarding "City Center": I assume you are referring to the project formerly called the "Town Center" project, on the east side of town, north of the high school. This project has changed into a larger project that includes around 1,250 new homes, restaurants and related retail, a community center/plaza, and visitor amenities. The project is currently under review by staff and we have discussed various aspects of the project with the City Council (primarily the traffic flow). We anticipate the initial analysis will be completed by the end of the year, and we will be launching into community outreach. Please watch the website and Friday Updates!

Nelia and Cathy thanked Dana

Jim Potter from Rancho Del Mar

Subject: Water rate study and long term water source solution

Would it be possible for you, in your city update letter, to keep the community seriously apprised and up to date with the progress made both in the water rate study and the long term water source solution?

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Jim: Water rate study: Of course! I will add it as a regular feature of the Friday Updates and provide information as the studies progress.

Cathy thanked Dana

Sindy Biederman from Cookie Hill

Thanks for taking your time to do this Dana.

Nelia thanked Sindy

Jerry Kunzman from Vintage Ranch

I too would like to thank Dana very much for taking this on. Maybe other cities do this, but I find that hard to believe. For good or bad, I believe in our city and it's Mayor and Council. I like the system we have and again, applaud Dana. I know this is draining, but if Dana can do this once or twice a year, that would be out of this world.

Jazmine and Cathy thanked Jerry

Cathy Rose from Napa Junction/Broadway

It's almost time for this session to end, and I just want to thank the City Manager for her time and responsiveness. Your answers have been informative and have given us some insight into how decisions are made and the issues that affect decisions -- it's not always as straightforward as one might think.

Jerry thanked Cathy

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

You guys are really challenging me! I'm going to stay here and respond to the questions that remain unanswered, but please no more for tonight. Lets do this again on the 11th!

Nelia, Bill, and Cathy thanked Dana

Gary deParis from McKnight Acres

I was wondering with strick water restrictions and hwy 29 a nightmare with traffic congestion, how the housing development got approved.

600 unit complex will use a minimum of 600 units of water per month! Add all those folks to the hwy and it'll be grid lock.

It just doesn't make sense.

Thank you

Gary

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Gary D: I assume you are referring to the new apartments at Napa Junction III? There are 148 units, not 600, and they need 40 acre feet of water per year. The Council has adopted a "Zero Water Footprint" ordinance that requires new development to offset every drop of new potable water demand by cutting water use elsewhere. The Napa Junction III developer is installing a recycled water line to the entire Napa Junction area, so we can convert Main Street park and all the landscaping to recycled water. The elimination of potable water for landscaping in Napa Junction more than offsets the demand by the apartments.

Jerry and Cathy thanked Dana

Cori Badertscher from The Preserve

thank you Dana, i do think this is successful.

Jerry thanked Cori

Michael McCamish Sr. from Victoria Faire

I Dana. First of all I want to thank you for the new picnic table out of the bocce courts. We have submitted a list of improvements that we like to have done for the coming season. You may or may not know we did submit a requisition for the leftover funds from the budget. We had hoped to use these funds to redo those north courts. It will be difficult to get those done now without the necessary funds. Can you perhaps shed some light on how we can solve this problem. We need all the help we can get from the city. Thank you Mike McCamish president of the American Canyon bocce league.

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Michael: regarding Bocce, I know Jen and Creighton are working on your request and evaluating your list to see what we can do. Contact Jen and she will set up a meeting with you to go over your requests.

Cathy thanked Dana

Michael McCamish Sr. from Victoria Faire

Thank you so much Dana.....mike

Jerry Kunzman from Vintage Ranch

The time is up and I think we need to save the rest of the questions for Dana. She's gone above and beyond on this and done a great job!

Nelia and Cathy thanked Jerry

Kathy Arizon from The Preserve

Dana (and staff), nice job! Thanks so much for making yourself available in this forum.

Jerry and Jazmine thanked Kathy

City Manager Dana Shigley from City of American Canyon

Okay, folks, I'm headed home for the night. Thank you all!!!!!! This was fun, but geez you made me type fast. We'll do it again on the 11th.

You, Jerry, Nelia, and 2 others thanked Dana

Nelia Medeiros from The Preserve

Good night Dana. Thank you.
