

# MARTINEZ NEWS-GAZETTE

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## City Council to hold last meeting of 2013

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January 8, 2014  
Agenda Item 13c

The City Council will bid farewell to an eventful year with their last regularly scheduled meeting of 2013 on Wednesday.

Council plans to meet first in closed session at 6 p.m. to discuss a public employee performance evaluation for the position of acting city manager. Once reconvened for the public portion of the meeting, council will hear a presentation by the OnStage Theater Company regarding the Campbell Theatre, where OnStage has already held holiday performances after the council approved a sublease with the group for the Ward Street venue back in October.

As discussed at their last meeting, the council will consider approving a \$28,000 budget adjustment for fiscal analysis of potential annexation areas. At the beginning of the month, the council weighed several options for future annexations, including resubmitting the same boundaries of the North Pacheco area they attempted to annex last year to the county's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Council also considered the possibility of expanding the proposed area to include land east of the original boundary along Blum Road, the Vine Hill/Arthur Road area, and/or the area known as Mountain View.

According to staff's report, even if the city were to simply retry annexing the same area, LAFCO suggests updating the fiscal analysis, as the previous one was finalized in 2010 and relied on data from 2008-2009, when the economy was in recession. At their last meeting, council expressed interest in exploring the financial feasibility of annexing a larger area, but also asserted the need for more information before deciding in what areas, if any, to move forward with annexation.

Staff obtained a scope of work from Economic and Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS), which was the professional consultant used on the previous North Pacheco and Alhambra Valley annexation fiscal analyses.

According to EPS's scope of work submitted to staff last week, the updated analysis will review key changes in development, pipeline and public service needs in three potential annexation areas, designated Areas A, B and C. EPS plans to assess potential costs and revenues for the areas based on current assessed values and anticipated development.

They'll also estimate the net fiscal impact on the City and the County, with property tax sharing based on the most recent annexation. The impact will be estimated separately for each of the three potential annexation areas and subareas.

If council decides to move forward, EPS estimates the administrative draft report would be complete in about eight to 10 weeks following project initiation and a kick-off meeting with city

staff in Martinez. EPS also plans to hold one workshop with the City Council Annexation Subcommittee before making a final presentation to the full council. If approved, the scope of work outlined by EPS would be budgeted at \$28,000, which would be taken from unassigned fund balance.

Much to the delight of holiday shoppers, the council will also consider waiving parking meter fees in the downtown area from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. The council has previously allowed free parking downtown around Christmas and New Year's. Staff is also asking for recommendation on which streets would be affected. The exact fiscal impact of not collecting fees during that time is unknown, but according to staff, in the month of November the average daily gross parking revenue from all of the meters on Main Street was \$89.30.

The public portion of the meeting will begin Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 525 Henrietta St., Martinez. The public is encouraged to attend.