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Orinda Finance Director leaving; search for City Manager continues

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's Finance Director Susan Mahoney is resigning, effective May 25.

Mahoney started as a consultant in July 2012, following the retirement of the city's previous finance director, and was hired on a permanent basis Jan. 1, 2013. Her department manages numerous funds, each operating like a separate business with its own separate set of books.

Interim City Manager Steve Salomon announced the news during the April 18 city council meeting. He expressed his appreciation of Mahoney's work, noting that she has been staying in a hotel three to four nights per week to do the job for four years. "I don't know how she does it," he said, but added that she has done a tremendous job. He said that she is taking another parttime position in a community much closer to her home. The plan is to bring the budget to the city council on May 2 and May 16 and at least have a proposed final budget. Staff is working on finding an interim finance director.

The executive search for a new city manager is also continuing. Bobby Peckham, president of Peckham & McKenny Executive Search, outlined for the city council in March plans for selecting Orinda's new city manager, including interviews by the city council, executive management team and community representatives. After the filing deadline June 5, Peckham will review resumes and set supplemental questions. She will narrow the field to 15 candidates and will report back to the city council on July 5. On July 14-15, the council will conduct interviews with each candidate. Each interview will consist of the same questions and will last one hour. On one of the days, yet to be determined, the candidates will also be interviewed by the city's executive management team and community stakeholders, who will be allowed to provide feedback on the pros and cons of each candidate but not a ranking by preference.

Reach the reporter at: sora@lamorindaweekly.com

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