



City Manager Lorie Tinfow contributes a regular column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the January 4, 2017 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on the upcoming City Council goal setting process.

City Council Gears up for Goal-Setting Workshop for 2017-18

Each year, usually in February, the City Council meets to discuss the City's goals and set a work plan for the coming budget year (July 1 through June 30). The purpose of this activity is to align the City's limited resources with the work the Council deems most important. Typically, everyday activities such as issuing permits, responding to emergencies, offering classes, etc., are not part of the discussion as they are assumed to continue into the next year. Instead, the Council tends to spend part of its time engaged in relationship-building activities among Council members and staff, and the rest in discussing large-scale, multi-year projects, such as developing City property, and complicated initiatives, such as affordable housing. With February approaching, the dates for this workshop have been scheduled for February 3 and 4, 2017. Both days are open to the public and further described below.

The first day is usually spent on activities that help Council members get to know each other better and establish good lines of communication. Doing so helps the group be better able to work together which is important because the Council as a whole, not as individuals, determines the City's direction. With two newly elected Council members, helping the new group establish successful working relationships as soon as possible is crucial. Some of the ways we have done this in the past include learning about our individual style characteristics, sharing our personal histories and talking about concerns we may have about the future. The setting is very informal and led by a professional facilitator.

Day two usually includes the department directors and other key staff as participants along with me and the Council. We usually spend time reflecting on the goals set during the previous year and discussing the projects and initiatives on the current work plan. Updates to both are presented by the staff along with any recommended changes for the next fiscal year—some items have typically been completed; for others, we report their status. This isn't to say that the work plan includes everything that is underway or that comes up during the year—it doesn't. Last year the Council discussed or participated in a number of projects and initiatives that were unexpected but required action. The work plan is simply a tool that helps the Council communicate its priorities and makes it easier to track and share our progress with the community. The current goals and work plan that we will start with are available online here:

<http://www.cityofpacifica.org/government/councilgoals.asp>.

The workshops on both days are open to the public and you are invited to attend all or part of the sessions—even dropping in for an hour or two is fine. Some of the logistics of the workshops, such as the exact start times, have not yet been confirmed but will be announced in both our weekly emailed newsletter called Connect With Pacifica as well as our usual Council meeting agenda notification

process. If you want to be sure to hear more about the goal-setting workshop, call my office at 650-738-7409 or send me an email at ltinfow@ci.pacifica.ca.us. I hope to see you there and, in the meantime, I wish everyone a healthy, safe and very happy New Year!
