

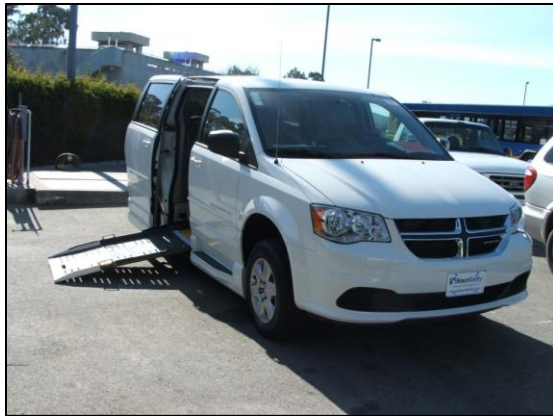


COUNCIL NOTES

DATE: January 12, 2012
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Katie Lichtig

South Hills Easement Recorded: Kyle Smith of First American Title Company reports that the 38 acre conservation easement donated to the City by Katherine Foster and Michael Spangler has been recorded, making it one of the fastest conservation transactions the City has completed. City staff are planning to go out and look at what possibilities there may be for enjoying the great views from the site and what resource management enhancements might be able to be undertaken in the near future. We again thank Ms. Foster and Mr. Spangler for this gift to the community. For further information please contact Natural Resources Manager Neil Havlik at 781-7211.

New Transit Staff Vehicle: A new 2011 Braun Corporation-Entervan was recently delivered by Creative Bus Sales in Chino California to SLO Transit to replace a city owned 2000 Ford Windstar with over 113,000 miles. The new vehicle was purchased using the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) vehicle purchasing cooperative with Morongo Basin Transit Authority as the Lead Agency.



The five passenger van will be used mainly by the SLO Transit Street Supervisors but can also be used to assist disabled passengers during a bus breakdown or accident as it is equipped with a manual swing-out ramp that accommodates up to two wheel-chairs.

The vehicle funding was via a Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 grant using State Transportation Development Act (TDA) as the local match and general funds were not used in the procurement. For additional information or questions concerning SLO Transit please contact John Webster at 781-7121 or jwebster@slocity.org

New Utility Billing Software May Save \$13,000 Annually: On January 30th, the Finance and Information Technology Revenue Division will be upgrading its utility billing system to better serve its customers – city residents. The upgrade will bring many benefits that improve billing flexibility and efficiency. The existing system has been in use since the 1990s.

The new software, designed by Springbrook Software, utilizes cutting edge technology to increase efficiency and lower operating costs. Springbrook has more than 25 years of hands on experience in developing, installing and supporting software for local government and is used by many California cities.

The improved utility billing system boasts a number of improvements for customers, including a more user-friendly method to pay online and the ability to receive e-bills. The use of e-bills will save on the production and mailing costs of paper bills and is expected to save up to \$13,000 annually. The enhanced electronic system will also improve efficiency within the city utility billing department by eliminating or reducing many of the manual processes currently in use.

The improved utility billing system will be implemented on January 30, 2012. City residents should look for additional information with their water and sewer bills or by visiting www.slowater.org

Next City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Special Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Closed Session, Immediately Following the Special Meeting

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber