

Letters P3 app replaces former Text-A-Tip

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without even having a modicum of greatness. What greatness? Not having any sills whatsoever is more like it, except maybe "glad hand shaking and smirking."

This type of electioneer works by the premise of the "big lie." The bigger the lie about their supposed virtues, the more they believe their own drivel. And what is most funny is that they expect us to believe their drivel, also. Welcome to 21st Century American politics.

Do not misunderstand; there are very significant individuals – yes, leaders – but it is up to you to vote for them and to install them into office.

The Fountain Hills Coalition reminds residents that a smartphone app is now available to be used for anonymous tips to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

The "P3 Tips" app replaces the former Text-A-Tip that has seen much success in and around Fountain Hills.

The P3 application-based format allows residents to take advantage of new options yet remain anonymous.

Fountain Hills Coalition officials are urging residents to download the P3 app and delete any references to Text-A-Tip on their phones since the service has been disconnected.

The coalition is closely

working with MCSO to develop marketing materials that will soon be released so teens as well as other residents are up to speed on how the P3 Tips program works and how to download the app.

Users have the ability to share their name through tips provided on the app, or they may remain unidentified if desired.

The application is available on Apple and Android devices. Simply search for "P3 Tips" where you would normally download an app, and make sure it says it is developed by Anderson Software.

Captain Larry Kratzer, local Captain for MCSO, said that the set-up is simple and users are guided through the whole process, including adding MCSO as the primary law enforcement agency.

Once the application is set up, users can choose from categories before sending a tip, allowing the information to be more easily channeled to the proper authorities.

There's even a school category, allowing students to provide anonymous tips directly affecting their school campus.

Another added feature is the ability to attach photos to tips, as well as the ability to track the progress of a tip after it has been reported.

If the authorities need to get back in touch with the person sending the tip, it will also be handled through the application.

Budget

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different for residential parcels and commercial parcels. The residential program would begin at \$300 in the first year, and decline by \$50 each succeeding year down to \$200 in the fourth year.

The commercial fee would begin at \$350 and also decline by \$50 each year of the program.

Spelich said they estimate the program would raise about \$18 million over the duration.

"I believe the people in town will pay as long as they know what they are paying for, I think they will be for this," Spelich said. "I found six of the most negative people I could find and presented this, and they all supported it."

"It is a clear, concise plan from beginning to end." He noted that following the election he was able to sit down with all the staff directors and was very impressed by their hard work and dedication, all with a shoestring budget.

"There is no more room to cut," Spelich said.

Council input

Vice Mayor Art Tolis applauded Spelich's effort, but seemed not entirely sold.

"I thank you for coming up with something," Tolis said. "I also am not interested in going back to the voters for a property tax."

Tolis suggested it is a good starting point for staff to work on refining a proposal.

Councilman Mike Scharnow said his concern is what happens in year five. "Do we start over?" he asked.

Councilman Dennis Brown said a lot of thought went into the \$7 million amount proposed by the

transaction privilege tax question last May.

"We didn't pull the amount out of thin air," Brown said. "You (Spelich) have a good idea, but it is a Band-Aid compared to what we need."

Mayor Ginny Dickey said the proposal is a good idea, and similar to other options, however she would like staff to tweak numbers and provide a proposal.

Tolis agreed he wants staff to provide some options, maybe something along the lines of a general obligation bond.

Obstacles

Several of the issues surrounding the Spelich plan start with collection. The town uses a private company to collect for the Environment Fee, and there is little recourse for the town for those who do not pay the \$36 annual fee. There is a fairly good return to the town of around 90 percent on that fee. The larger amount could pose problems.

Brown touted the idea as telling people the plan costs just \$1 per day. However, there are many people in town where the property tax would have added far less than that to their bill. State law does not allow the town to implement such fees based on property value or size. The amount must be the same for all properties. That means some smaller homes of less value are subsidizing larger homes worth much more.

The fee would not need voter approval, as with the Environmental Fee it could be enacted by a majority vote of the council. The primary property tax, and similarly a general obligation bond would need voter approval.

Budget picture

Finance Director Craig Rudolph presented a con-

ceptual budget proposal for the 2019-2020 fiscal year of \$33,053,900. That compares to a \$32,414,866 budget for the current fiscal year.

Rudolph is also projecting a budget shortfall totaling \$1.7 million over the next five years. Most of that, just over \$1 million falls in the final year.

The capital improvement budget projection for the next fiscal year totals \$2.2 million. Two large capital projects, which have been in the budget for several years, Fire Station #2 and the Adero Canyon Trailhead are now complete and do not show up in next year's budget plan.

Parks projects, upgrades to the Golden Eagle flood impoundment area aimed at preventing future flooding (\$500,000) and \$335,000 for Four Peaks Park improvements, are the largest items in the capital budget next year. Unpaved alley paving, which has been deferred for a couple of years, would use \$255,000 in capital funds.

The budget process will continue through the spring with a tentative proposal presented for council vote in May and final approval expected in June. The new fiscal year begins on July 1.

Viviendas HOA meets

The 44th annual HOA meeting involving Viviendas property owners is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, in Fountain View Village Pub, 16455 Avenue of the Fountains.

All property owners are encouraged to attend so a quorum is present to conduct business.

Safety

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changes at La Montana. There will be pavement barriers installed to reduce the number of lanes through the intersection to make it clear where motorists are to go as they travel through the intersection.

Also, farther west on the Avenue, the lane across the median into the post office will be widened to accommodate traffic in both directions on the Avenue. This is designed to eliminate U-turns at La Montana.

What is being installed

as temporary is expected to be made permanent when funds are available and the effectiveness of the change is evaluated.

At Verde River Drive there is an engineering study underway to evaluate the possibility of four-way stop at the intersection. The study is also looking at possible crosswalks connecting the ends of the plaza on either side of the intersection.

Miller said the recommendations of the study group will be brought back to the council for discussion.

"We would like to be able to budget some of the measures next fiscal year," Miller said.



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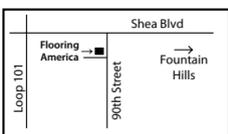
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