

SEQUIM NEWS



January 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR TRAINING
January 18, 2010**

Meeting Dates & Locations

City Council Regular Meeting - Transit Center	2 nd & 4 th Monday 6:00 p.m.
City Council Study Session - Transit Center (when required)	2 nd & 4 th Monday 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Transit Center	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Park Advisory Board PW - 615 North 5 th Ave.	2 nd Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Design Review Board PW - 615 North 5 th Ave.	2 nd Wednesday 5:00 p.m.
Sequim Marketing Action Committee - Transit Center	3 rd Monday 1:00 p.m.
Centennial Committee Transit Center Conf. Room	3 rd Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
Sequim Speaks - Transit Center	3 rd Thursday 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - (Subject to Change)

January 11, 2010:

- Ordinance No. 2009-041 amending Chapter 13.88 Change of Use – *continued to 1/25/10*
- Ordinance No. 2009-042 amending Chapter 13.240 Interceptor, Separator, Traps – Fats, Oils, Grease (FOG) – *continued to 1/25/10*

January 25, 2010:

- Title 13 revisions – Water (Chapter 13.100) and Sewer (Chapter 13.200)
- Expiration and request for 2nd extension Overlook Terrace preliminary Major Subdivision (SUB05/007)

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

The City's first newsletter of 2010 gives me a welcome opportunity to introduce myself and wish our community the very best for the New Year. As you may know, I started my new job as your City Manager on October 19. During my career I have been fortunate to serve five other cities as City Manager. I grew up in the state of Washington and went to school at Western in Bellingham and then my wife, Bobbi, and I have had the opportunity to work and live in several other great cities like Sequim. In each of these cities I have placed a high priority on providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service to the residents of the community. One of my most important responsibilities is to develop and maintain an organization that provides our residents excellent value for their fees and taxes.

Since I started in late October I have been meeting people in our organization and the community in order to learn about community values and issues here in Sequim. I have met with most of the City's 72 employees individually or in small groups in order to listen to their ideas about how we can improve the organization and the quality of our services. Another important responsibility as a new manager is to evaluate opportunities for improvement in the organization.

In my short time here I have learned Sequim is an amazing and unique community. I have been impressed by the talent and background of the people who live in our community and their willingness to volunteer to build the community, whether it is in business, the arts, youth activities or education. I have met individually with dozens of people and look forward to meeting more. If you would like to visit with me and share your thoughts about Sequim's future or how we can improve City services, please call my office (683-4139) to arrange some time to meet.

I feel fortunate and privileged to have been appointed to work with the City Council, community and staff at the beginning of this new decade to help Sequim realize its potential as a City organization and community. I already share your opinion that Sequim is one of the best small cities in the Northwest and I look forward to maintaining and improving our City as a great place to live, work and play.

Best wishes to you and your families for 2010!

Steve Burkett, Sequim City Manager

WELCOME NEW COUNCILMEMBERS

New Councilors **Don Hall and Ted Miller** will be taking their oath of office at the January 11, 2010 Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m. at the Transit Center. Also at this meeting, the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem will be elected by the Council. All Council meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend.

Utility Rate Increase

At the November 23, 2009 City Council meeting, the Councilmembers approved an increase to water & sewer rates. The water increase will be 3.5% and the sewer increase will be 15%. The increase takes effect with January 2010 usage, and will be reflected on the February 2010 statements.

Also approved were stand-by charges for both water and sewer for customers that live in the City, are on City water and have their water meter turned off. The water stand-by charge increased by 3.5% to \$20.95, and a sewer stand-by charge, which per code is the same fee as the water stand-by charge, will be implemented in 2010 to help cover the fixed costs of the system. While these services may be temporarily unused, the maintenance for them is on-going.

State law and covenants of grants and bonds used by the City to finance water and sewer systems require the water and sewer utilities to cover the cost of operations through monthly user rates. Operating costs also include financing, replacement, system upgrades, and reserves. Because the City of Sequim has a relatively low number of residential and commercial customers compared to the basic costs of operating and maintaining our system the monthly rates per household are significant, although in line with other similarly situated cities. The financing of the \$11 million Water Reclamation upgrade and expansion project to meet more stringent DOE requirements has caused the 15% Sewer rate increase for 2009 and 2010.

The City will be reviewing both water and sewer rates in the near future to ensure rates are adequate to cover the anticipated cost of operations, upgrades and replacements. Sequim has historically been slow to increase rates to cover increasing regulatory requirements, inflation and increasing costs of fuel, chemicals, and health care costs for staff, all of which have increased significantly more than inflation. Many cities are experiencing large costs to upgrade their older systems. Fortunately, Sequim has done a good job of keeping up much of the systems.

Christmas Tree Disposal

In January, the City Shop will be accepting Christmas trees for disposal (natural trees only) on Fridays and Saturdays from 12:00 to 3:00 (closed Friday, January 1 - but open Saturday, January 2). This is a *free* service for City of Sequim residents. If you live in the County, there will be a yard waste fee of \$2 per tree. The City Shop address is 169 W. Hemlock.

WELCOME INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Jim Pemberton has joined the Public Works Department as Interim Public Works Director. He previously worked at the City of Anacortes in the Public Works Department for 26 years, the last 7 as Director. **Welcome Jim!!**

Snow and Ice Control

With the recent sprinkling of snow and the freezing temperatures, City crews have been sanding major intersections and school bus routes on an as-needed basis. This activity is closely followed by street sweeping to pick up the sand before it enters the drainage system or before it becomes a hazard to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. This process is labor intensive and has a significant impact on the City's street budget.

City Staff is in the process of compiling the necessary pieces of equipment and materials to test the application of chemical deicer for use on major intersections and over-passes in the City. The City will use a chemical called FreezGard Zero manufactured by IMC Global. According to the Material Safety Data Sheet, the product (magnesium chloride solution) is a non-hazardous waste when spilled or disposed.

It is expected that this process will prove to be both more effective and less resource-intensive in the long run than sanding/street sweeping in freezing temperatures.

CITY OF SEQUIM & COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDENS OF SEQUIM (COGS) JOINT VENTURE

Are you interested in gardening? In 2010 Sequim will have two organic gardens. The cost to rent a plot is \$45 per year, which includes water, tools, seeds, 8-10 organic gardening classes and the joy of being part of a creative, healthy community. The original garden is located at the north side of West Fir Street between North 5th and North 7th Avenues and has 30 plots. **June Robinson Memorial Park**, East Spruce Street between Sequim and Sunnyside Avenues, will have 16 plots. For more information about renting a plot, contact Lizbeth Harper, 683-7698, [lizbethharper@hotmail.com](mailto:lizabethharper@hotmail.com); Joe Irvin, 683-4908, jirvin@ci.sequim.wa.us, or Jeff Edwards, 683-4908, jedwards@ci.sequim.wa.us.

Sequim History – 1960

- Councilmembers were paid \$3 for each meeting attended.
- Council resolved to refuse plat approval unless dedicated streets were 60' wide, with alleys, sidewalk profiles, curbs, water mains and sewer lines installed.
- Council discussed the need for a new City Hall.
- Ben Gilbert, Jack Campbell and Carl Thurston were sworn in as new Councilmembers.
- Iris Marshall was again appointed as Fire Chief.
- A peddlers and solicitors ordinance was passed due to issues with door-to-door sales.
- Council agreed to buy a 50-star flag.

D.M. Disposal Co., Inc.

2058 W. Edgewood Dr., Port Angeles, WA 98363

Phone: (360) 452-7278 Fax: (360) 417-0122

RECYCLE / YARD WASTE SERVICE NOTICE

Dear City of Sequim Residents:

December 28, 2009

The City of Sequim and DM Disposal have renegotiated its contract for disposal service in the City of Sequim. DM Disposal will soon be making changes in your neighborhood. The three recycling bins provided with residential disposal service will be swapped for a 96-gallon single-stream recycling cart, and we need your help to make this transition as smooth as possible!

During the week of January 25th – January 29th, ALL City of Sequim residents need to place their recycling bins out for collection on their normal disposal collection day, even if you have a paper schedule that tells you otherwise. During this week, your bins will be emptied and swapped for the more convenient 96-gallon cart. **If your bins are not emptied on your normal service, please leave them out for collection, and they will be emptied and swapped on the following day.** A new paper schedule for collection, plus a placard reminding you of the acceptable materials for recycling, will be attached to the new cart. After this week, please recycle any old recycling calendars, as they will be obsolete.

Additionally, below are a few tips to make this transition as smooth as possible:

- 1) If you need additional information regarding this recycling change, please do not hinder the workers who will be swapping the containers, as they will be moving quickly and may not have updated information. Please call your local office with questions at (360) 452-7278, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM.
- 2) While our hope is that the new recycling system will allow residents to recycle more and dispose of less, please use the new recycling system for several pick ups before making changes to the size of your refuse container. For similar changes in the past, we have found that using the service for about a month allows residents to better gauge what service will suit their needs. Remember! If the refuse container is over-full, such that the lid does not close flat, or if there are materials outside of the refuse container, then an extra amount is charged.
- 3) If you would like to begin **optional** yard waste service, please call our local office. We will be delivering containers for yard waste during the week of January 25th - January 29th, and the first collection on yard waste containers will occur during the week of February 1st - February 5th on your normal refuse collection day.

For additional questions or comments, please contact your local office at:

Telephone: (360) 452-7278

Physical Address: 2058 W. Edgewood Dr, Port Angeles, WA 98363

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM

Thank you, again.

Sincerely,

Management
D.M. Disposal Co, Inc.