



**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
SEQUIM CITY COUNCIL and
SENATOR KEVIN VAN DE WEGE,
LEGISLATORS STEVE THARINGER and
MIKE CHAPMAN
Sequim Civic Center
152 West Cedar Street
Sequim, WA
December 11, 2017
11:15 AM**

11:15 AM SPECIAL MEETING

1. Present and Discuss 2018 Sequim Legislative Agenda

RESOLUTION NO. R2017-23

**A Resolution of the City of Sequim Adopting the 2018 Legislative Agenda and Policies
and
in Support of the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Priorities**

The City Council of the City of Sequim, Washington, does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, Washington State Legislature continues to attempt to find ways to fund public education which has resulted in decreasing funding that has previously been provided to cities; and

WHEREAS, cities provide essential services to much of the state's population; and

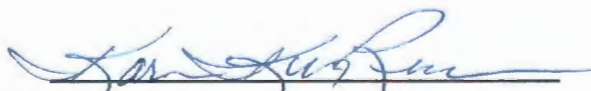
WHEREAS, cities need legislative reform to help them meet citizen needs in a cost-effective manner; and

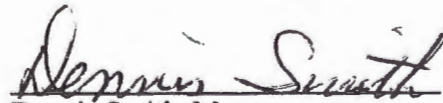
WHEREAS, the Sequim City Council has developed a list of legislative policies that significantly affect the City of Sequim, as well as the entire Sequim-Dungeness Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Sequim City Council asks our legislative delegation to assist in legislative reform to support the City's needs.

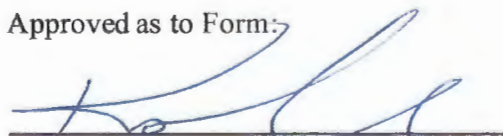
NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sequim supports its legislative agenda and policies, attached hereto, as well as the legislative priorities established by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and authorizes the City Clerk to transmit this resolution and its attachment to AWC and to our legislative delegation.

Adopted by the Sequim City Council on this 9th day of October, 2017.


Karen Kuznek-Reese, City Clerk, MMC


Dennis Smith, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

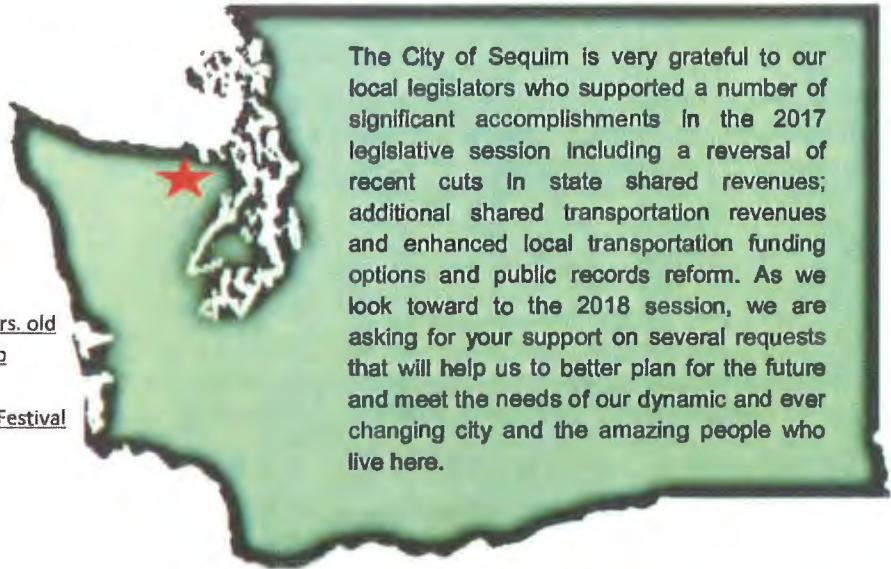

Kristina Nelson-Gross, City Attorney



2018 Sequim Legislative Agenda

Sequim Facts

- 📖 Population - 7,280
- 📖 Sister City – Shiso City, Japan
- 📖 Median Household Income - \$36,855
- 📖 Miles of streets - 50 miles
- 📖 Parks - 8 totaling 110 acres
- 📖 Averages 17-inches annual rainfall
- 📖 Mammoth Find - 50,000 to 100,000 yrs. old
- 📖 Home to the Dungeness Spit and Crab
- 📖 Lavender Capital of North America
- 📖 Home of WA State's longest running Festival - "Irrigation Festival"



The City of Sequim is very grateful to our local legislators who supported a number of significant accomplishments in the 2017 legislative session including a reversal of recent cuts in state shared revenues; additional shared transportation revenues and enhanced local transportation funding options and public records reform. As we look toward to the 2018 session, we are asking for your support on several requests that will help us to better plan for the future and meet the needs of our dynamic and ever changing city and the amazing people who live here.

Legislative Session Agenda

- 1) **US 101 Corridor Improvements MP 266.1-267.7** – Provide WSDOT, partnering with the City, with funding for design and construction to correct deficiencies including interchange, intersections, culvert replacement, and roadway geometrics. This work will provide needed regional improvements to safety, freight mobility, economic development, salmon recovery, and congestion relief.
- 2) **Regional Fueling Station** – Provide City matched funding for the construction of a diesel/gasoline fueling station to be utilized by the City, Clallam County Fire District #3, and the Sequim School District. High capacity twin 6,000 gallon tanks would provide a valuable cache of fuel in the event of an emergency and lower fuel costs through bulk purchasing. Back-up generator creates resiliency during power loss. Fire and school districts could contribute to project costs or be City customers. Estimated cost: \$300,000.
- 3) **Municipal Water Rights** - In *Foster v. Ecology*, the Washington State Supreme Court seriously limited cities' ability to acquire new water rights to accommodate urban growth, as required under the Growth Management Act. The Court said that Yelm's extensive mitigation plan was "largely irrelevant" because the off-site mitigations were inadequate to mitigate impairment of senior water rights. With basins, such as the Dungeness, deemed over appropriated for decades and regulated under various water rules, viable water mitigation plans that pass legal muster have become extraordinarily difficult. Cities will be unable to meet the mandates of the Growth Management Act without meaningful legislative action.
- 4) **AWC Priorities** - The City supports the priorities of the Association of Washington Cities.

For more information please contact:

Joseph D. Irvin, Assistant City Manager
CITY OF SEQUIM
jirvin@sequimwa.gov or 360-582-2457



City of Sequim

2018 Legislative Policies

Human Services

- Fund mental health services – Due to nearly constant State funding reductions, the mental health system in rural areas features many gaps through which people with mental illness fall. Our Police Department consistently responds to some of the same individuals with mental illness. These individuals are not in a severe enough state to be involuntarily committed yet are a significant drain on resources due to not having a sufficient support network. We encourage the State to appropriately fund mental health services to support individuals with varying levels of mental illness. Providing this funding would be far less costly, far more effective, and an overall better option for the people involved than having responding officers repeatedly contact these individuals and having higher cost jails serve as a de facto mental health system.
- Appropriately fund opioids technical assistance programs and resources – Provide additional technical assistance and resources to replicate leading practices to make Washington a leader in overcoming the opioid epidemic.

Public Works

- Eliminate the provision that requires a vote to renew a voter-approved Transportation Benefit District, as well as eliminate the restriction on the number of renewals – Eliminate the provision that requires a voter-approved Transportation Benefit District to be renewed by vote every 10 years as well as eliminate the limit on renewals. Sequim has an existing voted TBD, representing 50% of its street budget. Sequim will be asking the public to renew it in 2018.
- Update bidding laws and procedures - Allow greater latitude in using the design-build method of public works processing. Also allow greater latitude in electronic bids.
- Pass a reclaimed water statute defining it as a resource and not as waste water - Provide clarification of how all new reclaimed water recharge or agricultural contributions will be credited towards water rights applications, similar to how carbon and other air pollutants can be offset or traded using market tools. Update the standards around reclaimed water piping to treat them similar to water lines rather than treating them as more dangerous than sewer lines. Reclaimed water lines currently are restricted from being nearby to water lines more than sewer lines are restricted from being near water lines.
- Support the trust land transfer for the Dungeness off channel reservoir - Approve trust land transfer between DNR and Clallam County. This will allow DNR to acquire trust property southwest of Sequim to construct an off Dungeness off channel reservoir that will keep water in the Dungeness River during the critical Chinook salmon spawning period and provide water for agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge.

Economic Development

- Provide funding for tourism/filmmakers - Support the continued funding of the Washington State Film Office/ Washington Filmworks, which sunsets in 2017. Support the legislation providing for State collection of the self-assessment to tourism-related businesses as outlined by the Washington Tourism Alliance to develop a state-wide marketing organization. It does not cost the State a penny.
- Apply lean principles to lodging tax reporting requirements – The new system is cumbersome, time consuming, and unrealistic for small organizations to gather the information required. Municipalities vary greatly on what they are reporting. The reporting requirements should be changed or eliminated. We agree that lodging tax should not be used for inappropriate expenses.

Public Safety

- Fully fund the basic law enforcement academy – Restore full funding for the basic law enforcement academy.
- Support preparation for the Cascadia earthquake and other emergencies – Properly fund public education and other preparedness measures, such as pre-stockpiling food. Additionally, support the passage of House Bill 2042, which is an act related to restoring certain gubernatorial powers to waive statutory obligations or limitations in order to preserve and maintain life, health, property, or the public peace during a state of emergency and will support public safety endeavors during states of emergencies.
- Clarify medical insurance requirements for disasters - Clarify laws governing insurance requirements to allow medical professionals to practice outside of their typical work building during a large scale disaster and to allow practitioners from other States to assist here.

General Government

- Continue to reform public record laws - Allow agencies to recover staff time incurred in compiling and redacting public records, unless certified as indigent. The State Auditor’s Office report on public records demonstrates the staggering amount of uncompensated time agencies are spending on public records. Requests are becoming larger and more complex, which places additional strain on agencies. Further, the strict liability nature of the Act sets agencies up for failure. Transparency is what is important; requestors who have the ability to pay should be required to do so. Doing otherwise creates requestor “hobbyists” who are looking for “gotcha” documents and then use that to extract money from the “offending” agency. In addition, the amount of personal information on a public employee available to anyone upon request places public employees at a profound risk for identity theft. Case law has made clear that rates of pay, publicly paid fringe benefits, vacation and sick leave, are all available to the general public. When that information is coupled with the amount of other information generally available without the need to make a public records request, public employees face an increased risk of identity theft.
- Amend publication requirements – State law requires that legal notices such as ordinance summaries, bids, public hearing notifications, be published in the City’s newspaper of record. Amend that requirement to provide publication on city websites, including through press releases, as sufficient publication. This saves taxpayer money and provides more timely notice.
- Amend joint and several liability for government – Governments would still be fully liable for their acts, but not for the acts of others. Some state agencies refuse to change the boilerplate provisions in their contracts; these provisions require the contracting agency to indemnify the state agency in full even if the State is responsible in some way.
- Fully fund Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) - MRSC is funded by revenues already allocated to cities and counties. The City of Sequim uses MRSC extensively for assistance in areas such as legal advice, planning, finance, public works, and general research. MRSC also provides thousands of hours of training to local governments each year, including the City of Sequim. MRSC has an effective and cost efficient service delivery model.
- Limit the amount of unfunded mandates – The City of Sequim urges you to remember local government when you are passing Legislation and to avoid passing unfunded mandates on to us.

Schools

- Eliminate the super majority requirement for school bonds – Change provisions to allow school bonds to pass with a 50% majority. This will allow schools to keep pace in the global economy while representing the will of a majority of voters. Sequim, and other districts, would have passed several school bonds had this been the case.

Sequim will provide bill language for any requested bills.



2018 Legislative Priorities

The key to growing strong cities and towns in Washington starts with addressing housing shortages and affordability, helping individuals with mental health and drug addiction issues, and providing tools to enhance local economic vitality.

The 2017 legislative session was the longest in history and yielded numerous helpful policy and budget actions for Washington's 281 cities and towns. However, critical issues remain unresolved and need to be addressed in the 2018 legislative session. The Legislature needs to swiftly adopt a capital budget so that critical community projects can move forward, and take action on the following city priorities to help our communities and state thrive.



Strengthen city tools to address housing conditions in our communities

Cities large and small are experiencing challenges with housing in their community—from shortages of affordable housing, to a lack of workforce housing, to neighborhood impacts of abandoned foreclosed properties. Cities need a variety of local option tools to address the problems of their specific local circumstances. AWC urges the Legislature to adopt:

- 1) A new construction sales tax reimbursement pilot program to attract new multi-family housing in cities outside of our urban core;
- 2) A means for cities to mitigate the impacts of abandoned and bank-owned foreclosed homes; and
- 3) Additional flexibility with existing tools such as making the optional sales tax authority for affordable housing a council decision.



Direct funds to mental health, chemical dependency, and social safety net programs

Although cities are not frontline service providers, many of the problems associated with mental health and chemical dependency show up in our communities and on our streets. Increasingly, local public safety personnel play an expanding role in addressing these impacts. AWC actively supports and will engage with those seeking to direct resources to address these challenges and will collaborate with the state, counties, and providers to find ways to deliver support services in the most effective manner.



Enhance economic development tools and programs that foster business development in cities

Economic development opportunities vary greatly across the state. Some communities have commercial or industrial areas that have deteriorated or lack the needed infrastructure for critical development, and others lack access to adequate broadband services. AWC supports expansion of current programs and funding, and will engage key legislators and stakeholders to identify tools that can help foster vital economies in all corners of our state.



Preserve state-shared revenues with cities and increase law enforcement training funds

The 2017-19 state operating budget continued to fund traditional shared revenues such as liquor revenues and municipal criminal justice assistance at the levels provided in recent years. As the Legislature considers a supplemental budget, AWC will encourage the provision of additional funding for four additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes during the biennium to ensure that new recruits receive training as quickly as possible.

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