CITY OF SEQUIM News



January 2025

Meeting Dates

City Council Regular Meeting Attend in person or online	2nd & 4th Monday 6:00 p.m.
City Council Work Session (As Needed)	2nd & 4th Monday 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission (As Needed)	1st & 3rd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Parks, Arbor, and Recreation	3rd Monday 4:00 p.m.
Lodging Tax Advisory Committee	Quarterly—Next Meeting March 3 at 9:00 a.m.
Sequim Arts Commission	4th Monday 3:00 p.m.

There is Still Time to Take the Business Survey

The City of Sequim is interested in hearing from the business community regarding City services relative to the Sequim business environment. In November, surveys were mailed to businesses that have a City of Sequim business license endorsement. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and can be returned by mail or taken online at https://sequimsurvey.org. The survey will close on **Wednesday, January 15.** All Sequim businesses are encouraged to participate.

Garden Plots Available at the June Robinson Community Gardens



Applications are now open for new gardeners to join the June Robinson Community Garden! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just beginning your gardening journey, this is your chance to cultivate fresh produce, connect with fellow plant enthusiasts, and enjoy the beauty of nature right in the heart of our city. Plot rentals are $45 per year for either a raised bed or ground plot, dependent on availability. With individual plots and shared resources, the community garden is the perfect place to dig in and experience the joy of gardening. Apply online at https://form.jotform.com/242966636801161 by January 15 and let your green thumb shine! Contact Parks and Events Specialist Carrie Kann at ckann@sequimwa.gov or 360-582-2454 with questions.

City offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day and on Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Welcome New Employees!

Roderic Sisk—Police Officer—December 2
Oleg Zhdan—IT Director—December 2

Become a Member of the City Team!

Check out our job openings and apply now at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sequimwa.

31 Years of Clean Audits for the City of Sequim!

The City just received clean audit results for both an Accountability Audit of 2022 and 2023 as well as a Financial Audit for the same period. That makes 31 years of clean audit history for the City. The Office of the Washington State Auditor serves as the independent auditor of all public accounts of state and local governments. Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for City operations. City management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss, or abuse. This includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives. The audits involve obtaining evidence about the City's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations, and its own policies and procedures and internal controls over such matters. The following areas were examined:

- Payroll
- Accounts receivable and utility billing
- Cash receipting
- Self-insurance
- Open public meetings
- Financial condition

Earlier this year, the Auditor also issued a clean examination report on the City's compliance with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program requirements as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

Read the full reports at https://www.sequimwa.gov/71/Budget-Financial-Reports.

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Community and Economic Development Forum

The quarterly Department of Community and Economic Development Forum is scheduled for Friday, January 24 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at the Sequim Civic Center. The agenda will be posted on the City website at https://www.sequimwa.gov/1059/Quarterly-DCED-Public-Works-Forum.

Mark your calendar for future forums on April 25, July 25, and October 24.

Save the Dates for the Sequim Sunshine Festival March 7 & 8

Join us as we "Celebrate the Sun" by shaking off the winter blues and looking forward to the coming of the spring and summer seasons with a festival filled with family-friendly activities.

Sign up now for the Sun Fun Color Run on Saturday, March 8 at 11:00 a.m. https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Sequim/SunFunColorRun.

Be a part of the festival team by volunteering!

To volunteer for the Sun Fun Color Run please visit https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/WA/Sequim/SunFunColorRun.

To volunteer for all other festival events visit https://volunteersignup.org/X8XLC.

All volunteers receive a volunteer T-shirt!

Community Open Music Jam

Friday, January 17—6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Swisher Rehearsal Hall at the James Center for the Performing Arts, 506 N. Blake Avenue.

Bring your acoustic instrument, percussion, or voice. The music with lyrics and chords will be provided. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

In the Gallery...

"To Move, Focus on Movement or Motion"

Now through January 21, 2025



"Foot Race" by Hattie Kauffman

Karen Kuznek-Reese Gallery at the Sequim Civic Center
152 West Cedar Street, Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Code Compliance *CORNER*

Junk and Abandoned Vehicles

Why does the City regulate junk and abandoned vehicles?

By regulating these vehicles, we avoid potential hazards and nuisances to keep our neighborhoods free of vehicle clutter.

What is a junk vehicle? (RCW 46.55.010)

Junk vehicle standards are set by the state and must meet three of the four requirements below:

- Three years or older
- Extensively damaged
- Inoperable
- Market value equal to the value of the scrap in it

What is an abandoned vehicle? (RCW 10.13.030)

Abandoned vehicles are vehicles left in an unstable manner and unattended. If they are considered a public hazard, they can be towed immediately.

Any vehicle that meets three or more of the following on City property or rights-of-way can be towed if given 72 hours notice and not removed:

- Expired license
- Registered owner does not live in the city
- Inoperable
- Being used for storage
- Complaint received
- Hasn't moved in 30 days
- Flat tires
- Broken windows
- Extensive body damage
- Dismantled in any way or in a condition that would inhibit or prevent usage

To report this type of activity or any other concerns, contact the Sequim Police Department at (360) 683-7227 or report online at codecompliance@sequimwa.gov.

2025 Approved Budget Summary

Please see the enclosed budget summary for more information on the 2025 Approved Budget. You can review the entire budget at https://www.sequimwa.gov/1286/2025-Adopted-Budget.

Sustainability Tip

Mend it. Make it. Fix it. Share it!

At RepairEconomyWA.org find repair services, community fix-it groups, tool libraries, makerspaces, creative reuse hubs, and reclaimed building materials across the state. Join and support folks in our community resolving to make less waste in 2025.

2025 Adopted Budget for the City of Sequim

Budget Overview



The budget, reflecting the City's priorities, is the financial plan for the upcoming calendar year and is focused on balancing the increasing demands of a growing community, that extends beyond city limits, while maintaining and improving service levels within the constraints of City resources. The approved budget includes balanced revenue and expenses in the General Fund (and all other operational funds) and maintains acceptable reserve levels.

Operational priorities for 2025 include:

- **Enhanced Customer-Centric Experience:** Enhance "customer-centric experience for employees, residents, and businesses through re-engineering all touchpoints to increase efficient and exceptional exchanges.
- **Digital Transformation:** Continued focus and strategic commitment to "digital transformation" and innovative advancements through state-of-the-art hardware, software, artificial intelligence, an analytical opportunities.
- **Managed Growth and Development:** Implement the Comprehensive Plan to support "managed growth and development" through strategic municipal code amendments and execution of capital projects.
- **Municipal Infrastructure:** Concentrated commitment to our mission of providing excellent "municipal infrastructure" and services to our residents through our Comprehensive Plan and deployment of our Master Plans.
- **Continual Process Improvement:** Commitment to "continued process improvement" in all city operations to ensure efficiencies, data-driven decisions, and return-on-investment opportunities, while lowering costs.

City staff and Council recognize that maintaining City services and facilities is more important than ever. Staff is prioritizing work so that Sequim continues to be welcoming and well maintained. To that end, retaining staff is critical to ensure that public safety is maintained, streets and parks are beautiful, water and sewer services are delivered, and general city services are efficiently provided.

2025 Budget Process

City Manager Matthew Huish, in accordance with Washington State guidelines, presented the Sequim City Council with an overview of the ***Proposed 2025 Budget*** at their meeting on Monday, September 23, allowing the month of October for questions to staff. Public Hearings were held in November to give residents the opportunity to give input on the proposed budget.

- **November 18**—Public Hearings on 2025 *Proposed* Budget, Property Tax Levy, Fees and Utility Rates were held.
- **November 25**—The final Public Hearing on the *Proposed* Budget was held, followed by Council Adoption.

Utility Rates



In 2020, the City commissioned an extensive study of utility rates, by a professional consultant, that recommended a 4% annual increase to water rates and a 2% increase to sewer rates through 2030, to cover the costs of ongoing operations, master plans, the Capital Improvement Plan, and debt service. Since the completion of the 2020 study, the Council elected to suspend any rate increases for water and sewer services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. City staff have updated the 2020 utility model and recommended a 3-year plan of 3% per year increases for each utility to cover increased expenses. This recommendation is firmly based in quantitative data. The plan was approved for the 2023—2025 budgets.

The 2025 budget includes the continuation of the low-income discount policy which reduces utility bills for those who qualify. Please see the other side for more information on the low-income discount.

Property Tax

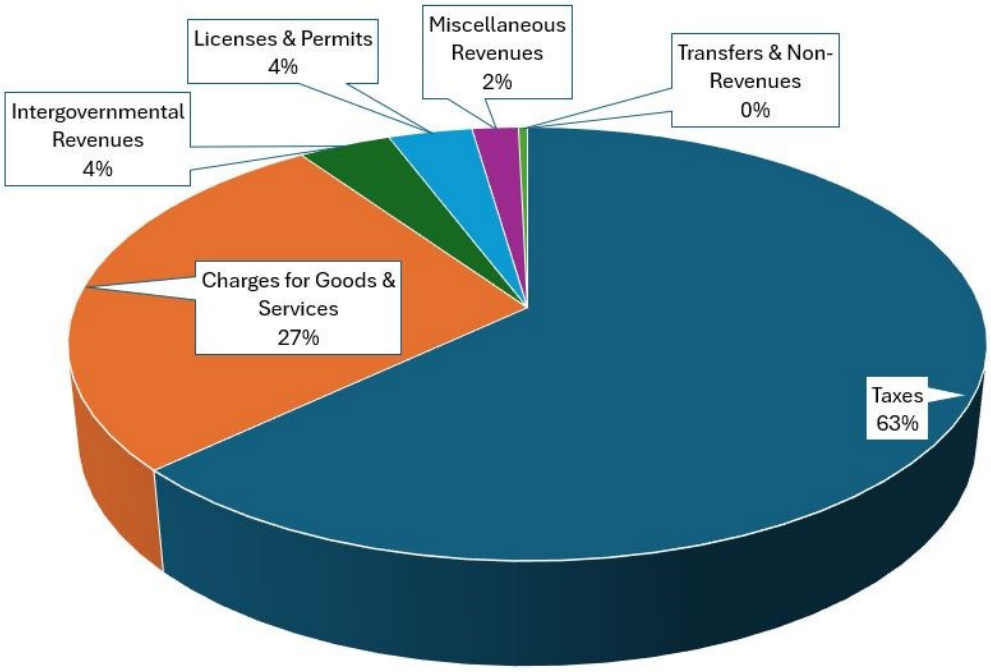


The budget also includes the 1% property tax increase allowed by law. Property tax is an important component of the City's general fund and supports the provision of municipal services. The 1% increase in revenue is based on the City's total assessed value, which is estimated to be higher this year because of the growth in new construction. The final property tax levy is certified by the County Assessor's office in January after all taxing districts have submitted their requests.

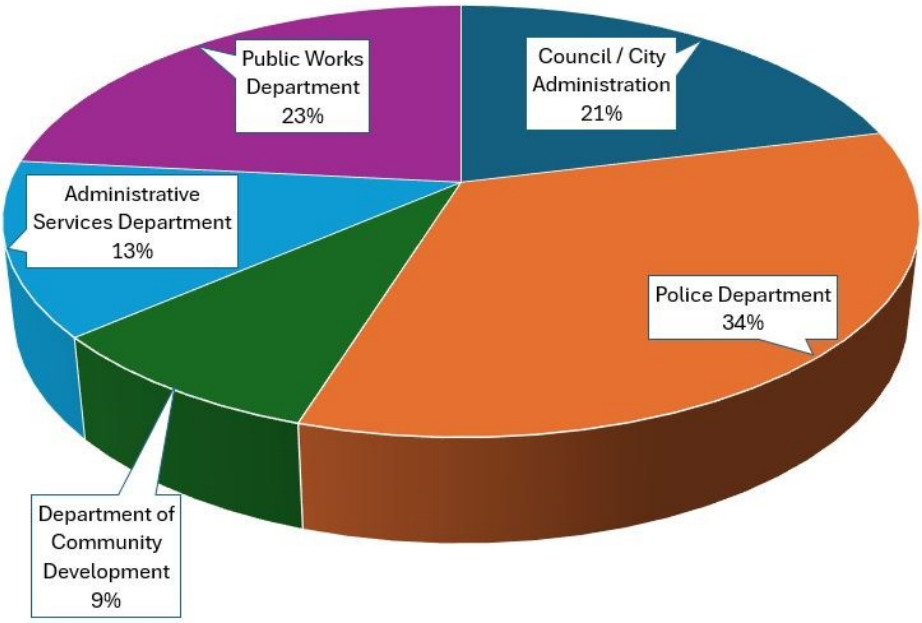
You can find a complete copy of the approved budget at https://sequimwa.gov.

Revenue and Expense Overview

General Fund Revenue by Source—$13,469,371



General Fund Expense by Department—$13,413,805



Utility Discounts Available for Low Income Residents

Utility rate reductions are available for qualifying low income residents. You may qualify if your income does not exceed 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, and if you qualify for the Clallam County PUD discount, you qualify for the City's discount. The exact amount of your discount is determined upon receipt of all of the applications for the 2025 program. Qualifying applicants will see the discounted rates on their February 1 utility bill.

Applications for the 2025 discount are due **January 17, 2025** and are available at the Sequim Civic Center, DSHS, Sequim Community Aid, St. Vincent de Paul, Serenity House, United Way, and the Shipley Center. Applications can also be downloaded from our website at https://sequimwa.gov. Please feel welcome to call the Finance office at the Civic Center at (360) 683-4139 with your questions.

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