

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

March 1, 2016

6:00 Council Workshop

- Wastewater Utility System & Rate Analysis Update

7:00 Regular Meeting

- [Public Hearing](#) regarding wireless communications regulations – adopt Ordinance 2296
- [Public Hearing](#) regarding fireworks regulations – adopt Ordinance 2304
- [Action](#) to adopt personnel policies – pass Resolution 1335

The agenda list above is partial and tentative. For further information, click here for the City website:
<http://www.snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Council-Agendas-1>

Wireless Communication Facility Regulation Public Hearing

Interested parties should be aware that the City Council's public hearing on Ordinance 2301 to significantly update the City's regulations for wireless communication facilities has been continued to the March 1 City Council meeting. Due to the extended public comment on the marijuana business ban, there was not sufficient time at the February 16 City Council meeting to provide citizens an opportunity to provide input on the wireless communications ordinance.

Following the public hearing, the City Council will be considering adopting the amendments to the Snohomish Municipal Code as recommended by the Planning Commission. The City Council may also make additional changes to the draft ordinance, remand it to the Planning Commission for further review, or direct staff to bring additional materials to a future meeting to help inform its decision.

The term "wireless communications facility" includes, but is not limited to, cell towers. Regulation of these facilities is somewhat complex as it must address certain federal requirements and at the same time respond to a wide range of types of facilities, potential contexts and community concerns about where they may be installed. The Planning Commission's recommended ordinance would require applicants first to consider locations and sizes that will have the least visual impact on the landscape before proposing a more conspicuous alternative.

The proposed regulations may be found on the City's website at: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2501>. Citizens are encouraged to review the draft ordinance and provide comment to the City Council at the March 1 public hearing. Please contact City Planner Owen Dennison at dennison@snohomishWA.gov with any questions on the proposed amendments.

2016 Calendar:

Council Workshop

Tuesday, March 1
Special Meeting 6:00 pm
George Gilbertson Boardroom
1601 Avenue D

Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 1
Regular Meeting 7: 00 pm
George Gilbertson Boardroom
1601 Avenue D

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 2
Regular Meeting 6:00 pm
George Gilbertson Boardroom
1601 Avenue D

<http://snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/03012016-576>
<http://snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/03012016-577>

February 26, 2016

www.snohomishwa.gov

March 1 City Council Workshop to Review Sewer Rates for 2017-2019

The City Council will review the current state of its sewer treatment system and consider whether to implement a rate increase, maintain current rates or a rate reduction for sewer services as part of a March 1 workshop meeting.

The staff recommendation is that the Council consider setting rates for the next three-year period, which is 2017-2019.

The meeting, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Snohomish School District Resources and Services Center, 1601 Avenue D, will include updates from staff regarding the treatment plant's continued operational progress. The treatment plant achieved a 100 percent compliance with its required state permit standards in 2015.

While sewer rates have been frozen for the past three years, required multi-million dollar improvements to treatment operations had previously ruled out any reduction in sewer rates for Snohomish ratepayers. However, with major improvements now completed, the Council will consider rate options ranging from a 2 percent increase to a 10 percent reduction for the next three years.

Operationally, sewer treatment is the City's most expensive system of community services. Over the next 10 years, the City is planning to invest approximately \$16 million in capital improvements to the wastewater system. Improvements in sewer treatment are required from time to time by the State Department of Ecology in order to protect and improve the aquatic environment of the Snohomish River and, ultimately, the Puget Sound.

Weighing the risks of potentially new, currently unknown, state treatment requirements and resulting capital improvement costs against the opportunity to minimize sewer service costs to residents will be key elements of the March 1 workshop discussion.

Staff is requesting that the City Council provide its desired direction for setting the 2017-2019 rates, which would be officially implemented by resolution sometime later this year.

March 1 Public Hearing to Consider Reduction of Days Permitted for Fireworks Discharge

The City Council will hold a public hearing on March 1 to consider adoption of a new ordinance that would reduce the permitted days of fireworks discharge to just one day, on July 4, each year.

The regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Snohomish School District Resources and Services Center, 1601 Avenue D.

At its January 5, 2016, regular meeting the City Council discussed fireworks regulations and directed staff to develop an ordinance to revise Snohomish Municipal Code (SMC) to reduce days for permitted discharge of fireworks to July 4. The City's current regulations allow the discharge of fireworks from June 28 through July 4.

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The public hearing is designed to take public testimony regarding proposed Ordinance 2304. The City Council also directed staff during the January 5 meeting to prepare a resolution for placing a complete ban before the voters as an advisory measure for the general election in November of this year. That resolution for an advisory ballot measure will not be part of the March 1 public hearing but could be brought forward at a later date this year for Council action.

Although an advisory ballot measure would not have the force of law in order to revise City codes, the City Council has viewed this option as a means to provide voters a voice in this policy decision. The City's Public Safety Commission, the Chief of Fire District No. 4 and the City's Police Chief have all indicated their support for a complete ban on the sale and discharge of fireworks.

Regardless of future changes in fireworks codes, the enforcement of fireworks regulations will continue to be challenging. This is due to the typically large number of individuals discharging fireworks at the same time compared to the relatively small number of police officers that can be deployed to respond to all 9-1-1 calls, many of which have greater urgency than fireworks complaints.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The City Council will provide a final opportunity for public comment on the draft updated Comprehensive Plan at its March 15 meeting. This is the culmination of a long effort to bring the Plan into compliance with current requirements and to ensure that it expresses the vision and priorities of the community.

A comprehensive plan is one of the foundational documents for a city. It contains an evaluation of current and projected conditions and, through policy statements, sets a course for growth and development over the next twenty-year cycle. Washington State's 1990 Growth Management Act (GMA) established requirements for constituent elements of a comprehensive plan and schedules for review and update points to ensure local plans are current with State law and rules as well as local and regional growth plans. The "elements" or areas of emphasis required by GMA include a land use element (that includes a Land Use Map showing the general distribution, density, and intensity of planned land uses throughout the planning area) a housing element, a transportation element, a capital facilities element, a utilities element, a parks elements, and an economic development element. Together, the elements are intended to describe how projected growth will be accommodated and served over the planning cycle and how local, county, regional, and statewide priorities will be achieved. A comprehensive plan should guide land use and budgetary decisions to ensure its goals and policies will be achieved.

The City of Snohomish adopted its first GMA comprehensive plan in 1995. The Plan has been amended on a piecemeal basis most subsequent years. A periodic review and update was conducted in 2004 and 2005, although changes were not extensive. Improvements to several areas of the Plan were deferred to a later year and never addressed. The current Comprehensive Plan is now largely out of date and its policies confusing, repetitive, and in many cases obsolete with respect to current circumstances. Consequently, the Plan has, over the years, become increasingly irrelevant to discussions of the community's future.

In 2012, the City's Planning Commission began a process of detailed review of each goal and policy, concluding in 2015 with a recommended Plan update. The Planning Commission's proposed Comprehensive Plan is more streamlined and accessible than the current plan, and now, for the first time in about 20 years, entirely up-to-date. Washington State agencies have reviewed and approved the draft Plan for adoption.

As the Planning Commission's work progressed, the City Council reviewed and provided direction on each element and held a public hearing on the draft goals and policies in June 2015. The final step is City Council adoption, which is scheduled for the March 15 City Council meeting. The Planning Commission's recommended draft Comprehensive Plan may be reviewed on the City's website at: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2353>.



Send in Your Solid Waste Survey!



The second garbage & recycling survey will be included in the utility billing statements for customers in the western part of Snohomish (Billing Cycle 1). The first garbage & recycling survey was included in the January 31, 2016 utility bill for customers in the eastern part of Snohomish (Billing Cycle 2). The City Council would like to hear from utility customers and is conducting this survey to gather customer feedback about garbage rates, types of services preferred, customer service and general feedback on our garbage, recycling and yard waste program. So far, the City has received approximately 15% of billing cycle 1 surveys. Please complete your survey and return it to City Hall by including the survey with your utility billing payment, drop the survey in the utility bill after-hours drop box or mail to City Hall. Survey results will be tallied and feedback will be provided to the City Council and community at a future City Council meeting this Spring 2016.

Planning Commission to Discuss Potential Code Amendments

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 2, the Planning Commission will discuss several potential amendments to the Land Use Development Code (Title 14 SMC). Some of these amendments are merely intended to make the code current with federal and state law and include the following topics:

- Areas where claims of substantial burden to religious exercise are possible with the standard application of land use regulations, and disparate treatment of religious facilities relative to nonreligious land uses with comparable levels of impact.
- Removing a prohibition on homeless encampments on properties owned by religious organizations.
- Allowing recreational vehicles as residences in mobile home parks.
- Changing family childcare from a conditional use to a permitted use for occupant-run businesses serving up to 12 children in all zones where residences are permitted.

The final discussion item relates to a proposed new land use in the Land Use Tables of Chapter 14.207 SMC, addressing non-profit, community-based theaters. While the land use may have applicability to other sites, it is intended to address the circumstances of the Thumbnail Theater on Avenue D. This facility has been a topic of discussion on several occasions with the Planning Commission, as it is an assembly use operating in a single family neighborhood within an historic church building that is not particularly adaptable for use as a single family home. Under staff's current proposal, the community-based theater use would be conditionally allowed in the Single Family zone of the Historic District, with several limitations and conditions. Among the requirements would be a public hearing before a Hearing Examiner to consider approval of the use. Limitations include a maximum floor area of 4,000 square feet, a location adjacent to a collector arterial or minor arterial, and ownership of the premises by a non-profit organization. These restrictions are intended to limit the applicability of the use, to provide an adaptive re-use of historic structures, and to maintain the scale and character of our single family neighborhoods.

The Planning Commission meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Snohomish School District Administration building at 1601 Avenue D. Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion. The agenda for this meeting, including the staff report, will be published by the end of the day on Friday, February 26th and can be found on the agenda center page of the City's website at <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/agendacenter>. For more information, please contact Owen Dennison, Planning Director, at 360-282-3173, or dennison@snohomishWA.gov

Spring Clean-up 2016

On March 19 from 9:00 am to noon the City of Snohomish Parks Department will be hosting its 12th annual Spring Clean-Up event. This event is held every spring to get City parks, our historic downtown area, and the community ready for spring and the Easter Parade, which will be held this year on Saturday March 26 at 11:00 am along First Street.

The areas where we will be most focusing our volunteer efforts are the Centennial Trail, from Rainier Street (Co-op) to the Maple and Pine intersection, all local Snohomish schools, and the historic downtown area where the Easter Parade will be held.

Come join us for a fun morning working with your fellow community members in an effort to clean-up and support your City of Snohomish Parks Department and Snohomish schools. Last year we were fortunate to have over 450 volunteers equaling 1600 community service hours! In addition, this event qualifies as community service hours for high school seniors.

If you would like to pre-register for the event or if you have any questions please contact Mike Johnson at johnsonm@snohomishwa.gov or Joe Hopper at hopper@snohomishwa.gov or call the City shop at (360) 568-7070. Day of the event sign-ups will be held on March 19 in the Hal Moe Pool parking lot starting at 8:30 am. Hope to see you all there!

Highlighted Land Use Applications in Process

The applications listed below are currently pending or under review. During the comment period associated with a development proposal, interested parties may submit comments for the project record. For additional information on any of these projects, the project file may be reviewed at City Hall during normal business hours. Staff is also available to respond to questions at the contact information below.

Park Avenue North Short Plat (four-lot short plat): 1915 Park Avenue

File #22-15-SP

Complete application determination issued December 16, 2015. Notice of Application issued December 23, 2015. Application is currently in review.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

Park Avenue South Short Plat (three-lot short plat): 1909 Park Avenue

File #23-15-SP

Complete application determination issued December 16, 2015. Notice of Application issued December 23, 2015. Application is currently in review.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

Riverview South Preliminary Plat (14-lot Planned Residential Development): 2210 Second Street

File #05-16-PP

Pending complete application determination

Public comment period to follow complete application determination, under separate notice.

More information: contact staff

Staff contact: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

For a complete list of all land use and development projects currently in review, please visit the City's website. <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2376>