

# JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



The City of Sultan has a strong history of legislative advocacy and has been successful in securing funding for important community projects in the past. This year, we are requesting funding for US-2, a new park on Sultan Basin Road, and policy changes regarding public safety. In this newsletter, I will highlight the advocacy process and our priorities for the upcoming session.

Each year, the Washington State Legislature meets starting in January to adopt the state's operating, capital, and transportation budgets and pass new laws or change existing laws. In the lead up to the legislative session, the City Council adopts legislative priorities to guide our advocacy efforts. This document outlines the funding requests we will make and any policies or laws we want changed.

The legislative priorities guide the work I do as mayor, as well as our contracted state lobbyist when we are working with our legislative delegation and other legislative leaders.

## **\*\*CITY HALL INFORMATION\*\***

**Address:** 319 Main Street #200  
PO Box 1199  
Sultan WA 98294  
**Phone:** 360.793.2231  
**Fax:** 360.793.3344



**Office Hours:**  
Monday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Tuesday—Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Closed daily 12:00 pm—1:00 pm for lunch

**CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED:**  
JANUARY 2ND — NEW YEARS  
JANUARY 16TH—MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

**Website:**  
[www.ci.sultan.wa.us](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us)

**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/sultanwashingtongovernment>

### **US-2 Improvements at Sultan Basin Road – \$5 million request**

Our first legislative priority is funding to address congestion on US-2 at Sultan Basin Road. We are requesting \$5 million from the state transportation budget to begin design and right-of-way acquisition to install a 2-lane roundabout at Sultan Basin Road and US-2, widen the road between the intersection and Wagley Creek Bridge to 4 lanes, and replace the existing bridge with a 4-lane bridge.

This project is consistent with the preferred alternative developed by the city for US-2 improvements. The preferred alternative was developed through an extensive public outreach campaign which included three working groups, an open house, and online community survey.

### **Park on Sultan Basin Road – \$500,000 request**

Our capital budget request is \$500,000 to begin construction on a new park near Sultan Basin Road. This new park would be built on property that the city already owns near Marguerite Lane and Dogwood Court (east side of Sultan Basin Road).

The city identified the need for a new park in this area of the city following the significant residential growth in the area and public feedback received during the update to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan in 2020.

The new park will include a parking lot, bathroom, playground equipment, walking trail, scenic outlook, as well as other amenities. The City has funds available in the park improvement fund that will go toward this project. We are also pursuing other funding opportunities through state grants.

### **Public Safety Legislation**

The final item on the City's legislative priorities list is addressing recent legislation which impacts public safety in our communities. In the past couple of legislative sessions, the legislature has passed bills which make it more difficult to address drug use and possession. The new law requires that an individual be referred to services three times before they can be charged with a misdemeanor for drug use and possession. This has proven to be an ineffective way to get these individuals into treatment. Oftentimes, it takes a carrot and stick approach to get addicted individuals to turn their lives around. We are asking the legislature to fix this and give local law enforcement more tools to address drug use in our communities.

We are also asking the legislature to return local control to law enforcement related to vehicle pursuits. The new laws related to pursuits significantly restrict police's ability to pursue suspects of property crimes. We are not advocating to do more pursuits as they are inherently dangerous for the public and police. But we need the ability to pursue when our officers determine it is necessary.

If you have any questions on these items or how you can help the city advocate on these priorities, please do not hesitate in reaching out to me at [russell.wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:russell.wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us) or 360.454.4145. Take care.

Sincerely,

Russell Wiita  
Mayor, City of Sultan

## **MEETING CALENDAR**

All Meetings Held in the Community Room  
at 319 Main Street Unless Otherwise Noted

### **JANUARY 2023**

Jan 12 & 26	<b>City Council Meeting 7:00 pm</b> In person and remote attendance via computer or phone
CANCELLED	<b>Planning Board 7:00 pm</b> In person and remote attendance via computer or phone
Jan 24	<b>Community Alliance Retreat 5:00 pm</b> stay tuned for additional details
Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27	<b>Coffee with the City 9:30 am</b>

### **FEBRUARY 2023**

Feb 2	<b>Council Workshop 7:00 pm</b> In person and remote attendance via computer or phone
Feb 9 & 23	<b>City Council Meeting 7:00 pm</b> In person and remote attendance via computer or phone
Feb 7 & 21	<b>Planning Board 7:00 pm</b> In person and remote attendance via computer or phone
Feb 1, 8, 15 & 22	<b>Community Alliance Meeting 5:00 pm</b> In person and remote attendance via computer or phone
Feb 2, 9, 16 & 23	<b>Coffee with the City 9:30 am</b>

## **WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

### **DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR SULTAN UTILITY BILL?**

If you are having financial issues and need help with your utility bill  
or to make payment arrangements, please contact City Hall at 360.793.2231

# CITY HAPPENDINGS AND INFORMATION

## PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

- ◆ Public Works continues to support the Alliance and Chamber events—Parade and tree lighting were a success.
- ◆ River Park and Public Works roofs are complete.
- ◆ Public Works Crew repaired two water main breaks and extensive customer service for water issues from the freezing weather.
- ◆ Snow and Ice Management—crew re-stocked sand and salt.
- ◆ Holiday lights at city owned parks and buildings were put up and will be removed after the first of the year.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT—PROJECT UPDATE

The City of Sultan is continuing the upgrades to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The first half of the oxidation ditch walls have been poured and stripped! The contractor has began setting forms on the south half to complete the tank. Construction on the headworks building has resumed and the electricians have been busy installing the conduit for the new plant.

For more information, check out the city's website under the current city project page at <https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/180/Current-City-Projects>

## DON'T FORGET YOUR PERMITS!



If you are thinking about improving your house or property with decks, fences, sheds, park models, tiny homes, roofs, re-roofs, or interior improvements including heat pumps, air conditioning units and/or water heaters, please contact the Sultan Community Development Department to check if you need a permit.

Permit requirements depend on the scope of your project or location-related constraints. Please visit the city website for information regarding permissible uses for all zoning districts, including setbacks, land use and building permit requirements and applications.

State building codes require permits be obtained for certain types of work. Permits provide a legal record of work performed, protecting you, your family and your investment. If you perform work without a permit, you could be fined for not having a permit and may need to remove or disassemble the work you did.

Call the Sultan Community Development Department with questions at 360.793.2231 or visit the Community Development Department website at:

<https://ci.sultan.wa.us/343/Community-Development>

## UTILITY RATE INCREASE

The new utility rates went into effect on January 1, 2023. Rates increased as follows and will be reflected in your February statement.

Residential: Water rate increases by 5.50%  
Sewer rate increases by 5.25%

Commercial: Water rate increases by 7.30%  
Sewer rate increases by 9.22%



Storm water fee increases by 25% for all classes.

Rate schedules can be found on our city website at:

<https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/194/Utility-Billing>

. You can also contact City Hall at 360.793.2231 for further information.

## SMOKE/CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS



If you didn't check in November, the first of the year is always a good time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors.

If you have fuel burning appliances or an attached garage, a carbon monoxide detector is required by today's building code. They are very simple to install and are only a few dollars. They plug right into any outlet.

If you have any questions, please call 360.793.2231

## COLD WEATHER TIPS

If you've prepped your house for the winter weather, you're ahead of the game. When temperatures dip, here are a few steps to take:



### Inside the House

- Keep your house heated to a minimum of 65 degrees
- Check the location of the main water shutoff in your home
- Open hot and cold faucets enough to let them drip slowly
- Check that fireplaces, wood stoves and electric heaters are working properly
- Keep your fireplace flue closed when you're not using it
- Ask a neighbor to check the house regularly any time you are away

### Outside the House

- Keep sidewalks and entrances to your home free from snow and ice
- Watch for ice dams near gutter downspouts
- Keep your garage doors closed
- Double check for dead, damaged or dangerous tree branches and have them removed



## TIME TO RENEW YOUR PET LICENSE

PLEASE RENEW YOUR PET LICENSES BY JANUARY 31, 2023

### YOUR PET NEEDS TO BE LICENSED BECAUSE:

- ⇒ If your pet runs away, it will help get them home
- ⇒ The City of Sultan requires it
- ⇒ You can be fined if your pet doesn't have a tag

The pet license application is available on our website at:

<https://www.ci.sultan.wa.us/formcenter/city-website-forms-9/animal-license-application-58> or at City Hall.

## TICKETS/VIOLATIONS ISSUED IN THE CITY OF SULTAN



**IMPORTANT**

Tickets issued within the City of Sultan moved from the paper method to electronic processing on December 1, 2022.

The Sheriff's office is now processing traffic and other violations electronically to Evergreen District Court. **CITIZENS WILL NO LONGER PAY TRAFFIC AND OTHER VIOLATIONS AT CITY HALL.** Evergreen District Court in Monroe will accept all violation payments.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 360.793.2231 or Evergreen District Court at 360.805.6776.

