

# JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a relaxing and fun Christmas and took time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year ahead. While we were certainly challenged last year, I am certain we are stronger moving into 2021. In this month's newsletter, I will highlight a number of key initiatives we will be working on in the coming year.

## **Communication and Outreach**

In 2020, we focused on communication as it relates to City projects, goings on in town, and general information. We expanded the use of our City Facebook page and City website to keep our residents informed about what is happening in town.

In 2021, we will continue this work to make sure you know what we are working on and address questions as they arise. We will also continue our use of more traditional communication including the monthly newsletter and information boards you might have seen around town regarding the Main Street Sewer project and change to Republic Services for garbage pickup.

## **Infrastructure Investments**

Next year, we will continue to make critical improvements to our municipal infrastructure comprising of our water and wastewater systems, streets, stormwater system, parks, and cemetery. Specifically, we will design improvements to the wastewater plant to increase capacity and improve redundancy. We will also begin design on a new water treatment plant. Staff will also increase our attention on the underground aspects of the water and wastewater system to address deficiencies in our main lines and deferred maintenance throughout the system.

We will also be making additional improvements to the City's parks and trails system. In 2020, we conducted an update to our Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS) Plan. Part of the PROS Plan update included significant outreach to the community to receive feedback on your priorities for our parks system. We will be addressing your concerns and making necessary improvements to our parks to make your experience even better.

## **Expanding Digital Opportunities**

Over the past couple of years, City Staff has taken steps to move more of our operations and record keeping online. This year, we have an aggressive work plan to digitize many of our records and create additional functionality within the City's website. These improvements will create more ease of access for residents attempting to get information, apply for permits and licenses, and report concerns or issues to the City.

While we will continue to see the COVID-19 pandemic affect our operations for part of 2021, the City of Sultan staff and officials will continue to work to better our community and serve you.

I am excited for the year ahead and the many opportunities we have. If you have ideas or feedback on our work at the City, I encourage you to reach out to me. I am happy to talk with anyone about our great City. I can be reached at [russell.wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us](mailto:russell.wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us) or 360.454.4145. Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Wiita".

Russell Wiita, Mayor  
City of Sultan

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## **Moratorium on Utility Rate Increases**

The Mayor of the City of Sultan has issued a moratorium on utility rate increases for the City.

This postpones any rate increases for water, sewer, and stormwater through February 28, 2021 and on the scheduled rate increase that took effect on December 1, 2020.

We recognize this is a difficult time for residents and businesses financially which is why the rate increase was delayed. The Mayor will work with the City Council in the new year to review utility rates, payment plans, and impacts of the moratorium on late fees and disconnections mandated by the State.

Please contact City Hall at 360.793.2231 with your questions or concerns.

# JANUARY 2021 CALENDAR

# BUILDING CORNER

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

ON HOLD	Community Alliance Meeting Check website for updates
JANUARY 5	Planning Board—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone
JANUARY 14	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone
JANUARY 19	Planning Board Meeting—7:00 pm Optional—Please check website
JANUARY 28	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone.

Happy New Year!!

As we continue through these dark days and dream of those long sunny days coming, now is the time to start planning your home improvement projects.

Planning for your projects is most of the work. Material lists, contractors or DIY, permits or no permits. All these can be overwhelming and derail your plans. DON'T LET THEM! Let your building department help you. I have lots of knowledge, books, pictures, and I know we can take the uneasiness out of your next project. Give me a call and lets discuss what you would like to accomplish this upcoming building season and see what your building department can do for you!

**Remember, building permits are required for most things done in your home, connected to your home or remodeled in your home.** I would like to suggest contacting the City prior to any DIY projects for the simple

reason of insurances. If there is an incident, and I pray nothing ever happens to you or your loved ones, insurance carriers first stop is the city's building files to see if a permit was issued for the work associated with the structure. If not, that's their way out of assisting with any recovery/claims costs. If a permit was required and no permit was issued then sorry, there is nothing we can do. It is not my intent to scare anyone, but this is reality! I want to get this information out to you so you can make informed decisions. Your building department will do our very best to keep costs down and to inform you if you need permits or not. We work for you, and YOU are our concern and top priority!!

Here's to a great new and prosperous year!!

Richard Karns, CBO  
Building Official, City of Sultan

## GARBAGE SERVICE CHANGE COMING JANUARY 2021

As of January 1, 2021, Republic Services will provide weekly collection of all garbage, recycling and compostable services for the City of Sultan.

Residents will have either a Monday or Tuesday garbage/recycle pickup. All residents will receive a 32-gallon garbage cart unless the online form is completed and you choose to keep your current size. Please visit this website at [www.RepublicServices.com/SultanWA](http://www.RepublicServices.com/SultanWA) for details, service day maps and cart size information.

Please note: Garbage and Recycle Service is mandatory within Sultan City limits and Compostable Service is voluntary.

For further information or questions, please contact Republic Services at 425.977.4125.

### ***PAY YOUR BILL ON-LINE! NO FEES!***

***Want to save some paper? SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS OR AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS!!***

***Go to our website at [www.ci.sultan.wa.us](http://www.ci.sultan.wa.us)***

***PHONE IN BILL PAY—ONE MORE WAY TO PAY YOUR BILL.***

How can I pay my City utility bill? Let me count the ways.

1. Mail a check or money order to PO Box 1199, Sultan, WA 98294
2. Drop Box a check or money order in one of two drop box locations.  
There is one located at the post office outside the main entrance and another in City Hall just inside the entrance doors on Main Street.
3. Online with Credit, Debit, or Checking Account at:  
<https://sultanwa.merchantransact.com/default.aspx> - (no fee for this service)  
Via phone with Credit, Debit, or Checking Account by calling (360) 799-3007. (no fee for this service).

If you have questions, please contact City Hall at 360.793.2231

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

***DUE TO CORONAVIRUS AND DIRECTIVES FROM THE GOVERNOR, CITY HALL IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC BUT WE ARE STILL CONDUCTING BUSINESS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE, WE ARE AVAILABLE BY PHONE AT 360.793.2231.***

#### **Physical Address**

319 Main Street #200, Sultan WA 98294

#### **Mailing Address**

PO Box 1199, Sultan WA 98294

#### **Office Hours**

Monday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Tuesday through Friday**

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**(Closed daily between 12:00 pm—1:00 pm for lunch)**

**Phone 360.793.2231 • Fax 360.793.3344**

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

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

## ***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.**

The City has temporarily suspended shutting off utilities for non-payment due to the Governor's proclamation.