

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



I hope you all had a great start to the year. While we said “goodbye” to 2020, many of our families, friends, and neighbors continue to struggle due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown. There is light on the horizon as vaccines make their way into the community and prospects of economic re-opening look good. In this month’s newsletter, I will highlight our recent action related to utility rates and how you can communicate and engage with your elected representatives.

Moratorium on Utility Rate Increases

On December 18, 2020, I signed an executive order reversing the automatic utility rate increase that took effect for 2021. Each year, City utility rates increase by a modest amount to keep pace with the increasing cost of labor, supplies, and infrastructure investments. In normal years, this increase takes effect without much fanfare or attention. This past year has been far from normal. That is why I signed the executive order pausing rate increases through February 28, 2021 while we discuss the future of utility rates with the City Council. I did not feel it was appropriate to increase the financial burden on Sultan residents at this time.

At their workshop on January 21, 2021, the City Council received a briefing from staff on options for utility rates after the moratorium expires. The discussion outlined a number of options, and the Council favored an option to delay the increase at least until halfway through the year. This will help provide relief to families struggling with financial hardship but maintain important funding for City utility operations and infrastructure. Council will take formal action in February related to the utility rates.

Engaging with your Elected Representatives

Civic engagement is more than voting in annual elections. Civic engagement also involves advocating for or against policies, making your voice heard, and sharing your thoughts with the individuals who have been elected to represent you. Important decisions are made at the city, county, and state level that affect all of us.

The legislature meets annually at the beginning of the year to consider changes to state law and adopt the state’s operating, transportation, and capital budgets. Right now, the legislature is in session and considering important policies including re-opening the economy, tax policy, and policing and criminal justice reforms to name a few. You can learn more about the bills under consideration and sign up to testify at public hearings at www.leg.wa.gov. You can also contact our State Senator and two State Representatives to let them know what is important to you.

At the County, we are represented by County Councilman Sam Low. You can learn more about his work on the County Council by visiting www.snohomishcountywa.gov/172/County-Council. At that website, you can find contact information for Councilman Low and he welcomes your feedback on issues related to Snohomish County.

Finally, you are represented at the City of Sultan by seven Councilmembers as well as myself as Mayor. We welcome your thoughts and feedback on any issue related to the City. You can email all of the Councilmembers and I by emailing sultanelected@ci.sultan.wa.us. You can also attend a City Council meeting and share your thoughts during public comment. Visit www.ci.sultan.wa.us to find our meeting times and how to connect.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful. As always, feel free to reach out to me at russell.wiita@ci.sultan.wa.us or 360.454.4145 if you have questions or concerns. Take care.

Sincerely,

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

Russell Wiita, Mayor
City of Sultan

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.

FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

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

ON HOLD	Community Alliance Meeting Check website for updates
FEBRUARY 2	Planning Board—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone
FEBRUARY 11	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone
FEBRUARY 16	Planning Board Meeting—7:00 pm Optional—Please check website
FEBRUARY 25	City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone.

BUILDING CORNER

At the January 14, 2021 council meeting, the City of Sultan adopted the 2018 Building Code cycle (after publication, the effective date is January 25, 2021) or as required by state mandate which is February 1, 2021. **The 2018 Code effective date is February 1, 2021.**

The International Building Codes may be viewed through the following site:
[I-Codes Building Codes - ICC Digital Codes \(iccsafe.org\)](http://iccsafe.org)

The Uniform Plumbing Code can be viewed here:
<http://epubs.iapmo.org/UPC/>

The National Electrical Code is adopted and amended by the Department of Labor and Industries. Please see their code site at:
<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360.793.2231 or email me at rick.karns@ci.sultan.wa.us

Thank you!

Richard Karns, CBO
Building Official, City of Sultan

GARBAGE SERVICE CHANGED JANUARY 2021

Since January 1, 2021, Republic Services has been providing weekly collection of all garbage, recycling and compostable services for the City of Sultan.

Residents have either a Monday or Tuesday garbage/recycle pickup. All residents should have received a 32-gallon garbage cart unless you filled out the online form and chose to keep your current size. Please visit this website at www.RepublicServices.com/SultanWA for any questions, 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.

PET LICENSES RENEWAL

HAVE YOU LICENSED YOUR PETS!

Pet licenses must be renewed annually in the City of Sultan.

To avoid late fees, please renew your licenses by the end of February. Pet licensing is mandated by Sultan Municipal Code.

If you didn't receive your letter in the mail, the licensing application is available on our website at www.ci.sultan.wa.us or can be mailed to you.

For any questions about animal licensing, 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

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.