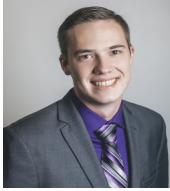




MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



I hope you are staying safe and have recovered well from the snow and windstorm that wreaked havoc on our region last month. I am thankful to the public works and utility staff that worked diligently to respond to dangerous road conditions and residents without

power as a result of the storm. Their work can be treacherous during challenging weather events and we appreciate their effort and risk to keep us safe. In this month's newsletter I will be highlighting our Sultan Visioning Project as well as steps we are taking to address traffic concerns in Sultan.

Sultan Visioning Project

This year, the City of Sultan will be conducting a visioning project to identify economic development and community improvement opportunities in town, focusing on the downtown core and public spaces. This process kicked off in November last year when I assembled a steering committee to help set the scope of the project. The committee membership included Simeon Roth of Invara Pharmacy, Cherise Crawford of the Sultan Boy's and Girl's Club, Debbie Cople of the Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Sultan City Councilmember Christina Sivewright.

Last month, City staff and I presented the proposal from the Steering Committee to the City Council for their consideration. At their February 11th meeting, Council approved the project including contracts with Professor Steve Page and three Masters in Public Administration interns from the University of Washington.

Over the course of the visioning project, the team will conduct extensive public outreach to identify priorities of the community and ideas for the future of our downtown and public spaces. The project will culminate with an implementation plan that will guide our future investments and community partnerships to enhance our community experience for residents and visitors.

Addressing Traffic Concerns

Traffic congestion on US-2 continues to be one of the highest concerns of City officials. We are beginning work on two projects that will help to address some of the traffic concerns facing residents. At their workshop last month, the City Council indicated support to begin design work on two projects focused on improving traffic in town.

The first project is a new proposed roundabout and lane reconfiguration on US-2. This project would construct a roundabout at Main St. and US-2 (near the old Dutch Cup) as well as reconfigure the lanes at 5th Street and US-2. Both of these intersections have been identified as contributing to the congestion on the highway. This project will help address some of those issues.

The second project would construct a new east-west connector road in town going from the Sultan Basin area to downtown. This road would create more accessibility for residents to travel across town as well as create an additional emergency route for downtown residents in case of major flooding.

We intend to begin design on both of these projects soon and will continue to work with our partners at the State and Federal level to pursue additional improvements to US-2.

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,

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 May 31, 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.

MARCH 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 |
| MARCH 2 | Planning Board—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone |
| MARCH 11 | City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone |
| MARCH 16 | Planning Board Meeting—7:00 pm Optional—Please check website |
| MARCH 25 | City Council Meeting—7:00 pm Remote Attendance via Zoom or Phone. |

BUILDING CORNER

Will it ever stop raining?! I don't know about you folks, but I have had enough rain for this wet season. All our contractors are tired of working in the rain as well. Its hard on them because they have to get their wet gear on, which is hard enough to work in, then the clouds split for ten minutes and they get hot and sweaty wrapped in plastic!! But we are headed into the spring soon and hopefully more dryer days than wet ones.

Another big item happening is the 2018 Building Code update has been adopted by the City Council. We are now under the 2018 International Building Code group! I know, doesn't that just ring your bell?! Being an old dog in this business, I have gone through these code changes every 3 years for 27 years now. There always seems to be a better way, a new and improved product or a faster way to build a structure. But for our residents, most of these changes are very minimal in nature, and affect very little when it comes to remodels, room additions and exempt structures like playhouses and sheds.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact me at 360.793.2231 or email me at rick.karns@ci.sultan.wa.us

As always stay safe and build well!

Your building guy,
Rick Karns, CBO

PASSPORT PROCESSING

THE CITY OF SULTAN IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING PASSPORTS ON A LIMITED BASIS.

We are scheduling passport appointments on Wednesday afternoons only. Once your appointment is scheduled, you will receive an e-mail confirming your appointment time and a checklist of items you must bring to the appointment. If you do not have all items required, you will have to re-schedule your appointment.

The State Department processing time for regular passports is currently 10 - 12 weeks and expedited processing is 4 - 6 weeks.

Please contact Janice Mann at 360.793.1129 to schedule an appointment or receive further information.

*YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK TO YOUR APPOINTMENT



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

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.merchanttransact.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

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.