



CITY OF SELAH

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Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

January 2026

Hello Selah Community! Yes, it is a new year, and it is filled with opportunities for all of us.

We started the first Council Meeting of the year by swearing in our new Police Chief, Michael Gause. Stop by and congratulate him. The Council also elected Mike Costello as the Mayor Pro Tempore. In addition, all Councilmembers were given their committee assignments for the year.

The rest of that meeting was finalizing the projects that were completed in 2025 and preparing for the work on 1st Street that will be done this summer.

Our Legislative Committee traveled to Olympia and met with legislators from both the 14th and 15th Districts to explain the priorities and needs that Selah has over the next couple of years.

We are moving forward with filling our City Administrator and Public Works Director positions, with the expectation of having some announcements on those in the next few weeks.

At the second Council Meeting, approval was granted for Telecommunication Franchises with two companies. The Council also decided to explore the possibility of moving the current District/City Fire Department arrangement to a Regional Fire Authority structure. You will hear more about this in the future.

For nearly 40 years, I have had a small 8 x 10 quote by Charles Swindoll hanging on the wall of my office wherever I was working. It is titled "Attitude." Our former Police Chief, Dustin Soptich, thought it should be larger so that it was noticeable to anyone coming in. It was important to me that at Dustin's last meeting as Chief, he presented me with a beautiful 24 x 34 wood plaque with the same quote. It now proudly hangs on my office wall. I would like to share the quote with you and, at the same time, challenge all to take the message to heart and strive to incorporate it into your daily life. Here it is:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts, it is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."

Thanks again Dustin Soptich.

Get engaged with what's going on in Selah by being an active participant.

That's all folks for this month and there will be more great news next month.

If you wish to be added or removed from the Mayor's Monthly email please send a message to michelle.damron@selahwa.gov

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor