



# **CITY OF SELAH**

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## **Mayor's Monthly Newsletter**

### **February 2025**

Hello Selah Community and here's this month's news! This is a year filled with great possibilities.

If you have not stopped by to meet our new Court Clerk, Danae Merritt at City Hall or our New Community Development Supervisor, Steve Zetz at Public Works; please do so. I believe they are excellent additions to our staff.

At the first Council meeting a resolution was approved allowing the Fire Department to purchase a new command vehicle replacing one that has reached its operational age limit. They also approved the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee recommendations in support of Community Days, 4<sup>th</sup> of July support and other community events support.

The Council approved a resolution that moves the Eagle Ridge Development forward and a resolution correcting an error in the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. As a part of the ongoing process of modernizing and revising the Selah Municipal Code, they also approved 5 separate changes. The last item was to pass an ordinance approving the actual 2024 financial numbers from the estimated ones.

At the second Council meeting they approved for the Mayor to sign a 1-year inter-local agreement for corrections/detention services with the City of Sunnyside. In addition, they approved the Mayor and City Attorney to sign a contract with the Washington State Public Works Board in order for the City to obtain a grant and very low interest loan for financing the Hillcrest water main replacement project.

Continuing my program of recognition, I presented a "Selah Community Pride Award" to Mario Lamas. Mario is a junior at Selah High School and was recognized for his exemplary leadership, citizenship and sportsmanship. Councilman Iverson also noted that Mario has just placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the state wrestling championships. Way to go Mario!

Improvements to the Civic Center are continuing to progress. We are closed for a couple of months during the construction; but you can anticipate reopening by the end of March. **We will have an open house on March 31<sup>st</sup> for the public to view the new improvements. Stop by between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM for your tour by staff.** There will be additional changes once we identify some funding sources to complete the makeover. While discussing the Civic Center, the base for the flagpole donated by the American Legion through their fundraising efforts has been poured and the pole will be installed once the weather has warmed up. Thank you to everyone that has made this possible and especially to Selah's American Legion Members.

This month we have had a team of staff and Councilmembers continuing to visit some alternative methods of construction for a new Police/City Hall building. The plan would still be to construct the facility without raising taxes. I would be happy to sit down with anyone and explain this concept for achieving one of the Council's top priorities over the next couple of years. Yes, we did buy the existing police building just a year ago; but at the time we very clearly said it was not a long-term solution, only a stop gap measure intended to save the high cost of rental and maintenance fees. There is still solid financial reasoning for having purchased the current building which can either be repurposed or sold once the new one is built.

Our Legislative Committee continues to work on securing Selah's fair share of state and federal dollars through meetings and lobbying efforts with agencies and legislators. Multiple conversations are ongoing with our legislators Senator Nikki Torres, Representatives Chris Corry and Jeremy Default who all remain extremely supportive of the needs of Selah. We have also remained in touch with Senator Curtis King, who while not our District 15 Senator, remains very supportive of all Eastern Washington. We have an excellent team in Olympia.

We attended, this month in Olympia, the AWC Action Days and met with all of them. In addition, I will be traveling to Washington DC latter this year to ask for federal support for Selah's needs.

The City Council Workshop (retreat) has been scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Selah School District Administration Office on West Naches Ave. It will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and is open to the public.

I am in the office almost every day and willing to meet with citizens to discuss your concerns and ideas for improving Selah. Please call to schedule an appointment if you want to make sure I am available at the time you will be here; or stop by and take your chances that I'm not tied up.

That is all for this month. I look forward to giving my next month's update.

**If you wish to be added or removed from the Mayor's Monthly email please send a message to [michelle.damron@selahwa.gov](mailto:michelle.damron@selahwa.gov)**

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor