

Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

June 2024

Hello Selah Community! Here are the highlights from June for the City of Selah.

At the Council Meeting on June 11th, we started out with a Study Session to get an update on our Climate Element from our contracted partner, YVCOG. In 2023, the state legislature passed a law that requires all cities to add a climate element to their over all comprehensive plan in order to minimize impacts caused by climate change. This study session was an introduction as to what we can expect moving forward. You will get more information as the process is developed. We started the regular Council Meeting by swearing in our new Police Lt, Dustin Soptich, as Selah's interim Police Chief.

Next on the agenda was a couple of Public Hearings. The first was to consider a zoning change for 2 properties located at 203 and 205 W. Naches Ave from Business Professional (B-1) to Business General (B-2). The second was to adopt the 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan for secondary and arterial streets within the City. The Council subsequently passed an ordinance and a resolution approving each of them. There were also resolutions passed concerning the City Attorney's contract and one approving the negotiated agreement with the Selah Downtown Association. They also passed an ordinance amending the budget for Lodging Tax Expenditures and agreements with Community Days and SDA on use of those Lodging Tax funds. Two additional resolutions were passed on the consent agenda. The first was to authorize submitting a funding application for the Hillcrest water main replacement project with the second one being a FEMA grant for the Fire Department to purchase generators.

Just because there is only one Council Meeting in June does not mean that it has been a slow month for the start of summer. Speaking of summer, the Bruce Buchannan Memorial Aquatics Center has opened for the season with a full schedule of activities and events to improve the quality of life for all area residents and visitors. In my opinion it is the best run aquatics center in the entire region. They still have a few private rental times available so get ahold of them and schedule your own private party rental. Of course, there is nothing better than a dip in the pool on a hot day during an open swim session; or maybe swim lessons or water aerobics is your cup of tea. Even though the pool is not owned or operated by the City; it is still a great value and asset for everyone and I am in full support of keeping it going as one of those community amenities we all treasure. They are running a M & O levy on August 6th; so be sure and vote. Check out the facts at selahaquaticcenter.org.

One of the most popular events in Selah occurred on June 15th, Hot Rods on First Street. I hope you did not miss it. We had over 160 vehicles on display; all vying for your attention from Oldies to a Dodge Viper to Rat Rods to Classics and everything in between. If you happened to miss it; plan on coming next year in June.

Talking about events, you won't want to miss the 4th of July celebration at Carlon Park. The Selah Downtown Association is working up this exciting event again this year with something for everyone all day long and culminating with a great fireworks show at 10:00 PM. Another event in July is the Annual Lavender Harvest Days. While this is just outside the City at 330 Rankin Road, it is truly a must experience event as part of our greater Selah Community. Visit Selah Ridge Lavender Farm on July 12th – 14th this year. Check 'em out for a unique family time.

Our first responders are having a June they won't soon forget. Wild fires are crazy this year and we still have prime wildfire season to come. Do your part and protect our community by making smart decisions to prevent fires. If you need some information on how to reduce the risk of fire, please contact the fire department on Fremont and 3rd. You have probably noticed that we have had a few power outages when fires are burning out of control. This is due to Pacific Power shutting power off as a safety measure to protect assets and first responders. The best resolution is to prevent the fires in the first place.

Once again, the City sent representatives to the annual Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Convention held in Vancouver this year. The five key takeaways for staff and elected were:

1. Treat people with respect, even when you disagree.
2. Don't wait for a crisis. Plan your emergency response now.
3. To build a loveable city, ask yourself, "Where's the Fun?".
4. Advocacy is a year-round job. Cultivate good, strong relationships.
5. Take care of yourself, especially your own mental health, in order to sustain your ability to your job well.

Another highlight for me personally was to introduce Indiana Hilmes as a Selah High School graduate receiving one of three statewide scholarships awarded by AWC for \$3,000.00. Her acceptance speech was superb. This is a well-deserved honor.

That's all folks for this month.

Enjoy your summer and plan safe and fun activities that enrich your life and those close to you. This will continue to make for a thriving community, one that you will always be proud to call home.

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