



# CITY OF SELAH

115 West Naches Ave  
Selah, WA 98942

P: 509-698-7328  
F: 509-698-7338

## Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

January 2024

Hello Selah Community! This is the first monthly report you will see from me. January certainly started out the new year with unusual activity.

First off, as of January 1<sup>st</sup> we have a unique situation wherein we have five new people filling key positions at the City. We have a new Mayor in Roger Bell, a new City Administrator in Rich Huebner, a new City Clerk/Treasurer in Kim Grimm and two new Councilmembers in David Monaghan and Willie Longmire. Combined they represent an opportunity for positive change for Selah. Stop by, meet them and welcome them to their new roles.

Secondly, the City Council made a very sound financial decision to purchase the building that our police station is currently located in. Several people voiced that this is **NOT our permanent police station**; but rather a temporary solution. Here is a brief explanation why this is a smart decision: With the projected raise in rent and triple net charges, the City would have paid over \$100,000.00 per year in rental charges. With a projected 3-year minimum time line to move into a new permanent location, the City will save at least \$300,000.00; and the building could then be repurposed or re-sold. The market value purchase price was \$950,000.00 plus closing costs. Most of this is being paid for with restricted use federal COVID funds.

Third, we experienced the first Police Officer involved shooting for Selah while responding to a Yakima County Sheriff's Office request for assistance. We are in full support of our officers as we await the official report from the independent investigative unit. Our department and officers are top notch and we all need to continue to value what they do for Selah.

The fourth major item is the City Council has passed a resolution to adopt our Housing Action Plan putting us in compliance with state law. This has taken a year of gathering public input, working with our consultant, Tom Beckwith and reviewing our planning commission's recommendations. There is still work to do and you will hear more about this in the coming months.

Lastly, you might want to stop by the Civic Center and check out some of the face lift improvements made in January. The old non-functional stage has been removed and trim work completed with a fresh coat of paint in the lobby and interior doors. All thanks to the great work of our public works employees and some volunteer labor from the community. Look for more to come in the future.

Here's a preview of what is to come over the next 2-3 months:

Our five-member Legislative Committee will be developing an agenda to present to our state and federal legislators. This will put the City in position to access our fair share of state and federal funds when they become available. If they do not know our needs, then they cannot advocate for us.

The City Council and staff has traditionally held an annual retreat to develop plans and goals for the year. This year we are re-naming it to be a workshop. This is more descriptive of what really happens. It will take place Monday evening and all-day Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The public is welcome to attend.

You will want to be on the lookout for the next steps in the Housing Action Plan and the options for our permanent Police Station. Both of these can be followed by checking the City Council Agendas posted on line on the Selah City page. These are posted the Friday before the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. **That's all folks for this month.**

If you wish to be removed from the Mayor's Monthly email please send an email to [treesa.morales@selahwa.gov](mailto:treesa.morales@selahwa.gov)

Roger Bell, Selah Mayor

