



# CITY OF SELAH

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## Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

November 2024

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

The City Council approved the 2025 budget. This ordinance was approved with appropriations of \$29,931,719.00. Many thanks to the folks that have worked on this over the last 5 months and especially to Kim Grimm, our finance Director.

You might have noticed a change in how your utility bill looks as we are streamlining our billing process. The City Council voted recently to make a change on utility taxes. Your October bill was consistent with that change. Henceforth, utility taxes will occur as an inter-fund "tax" on gross revenues the City receives. Customers will no longer have to pay utility taxes to the City. This is similar to how most municipalities handle utility taxes. Rest assured, the same percentages of utility monies that have historically gone towards helping pay for the police and fire departments, will continue to go toward those things; no funding will be cut.

Yes, the rates are going up. The Council also voted- as it always does near the turn of a year- to adjust rates for water usage, sewer service and garbage pickup. Those rates were increased for inflation and upcoming needs. For water we need to replenish the reserves being spent to drill the replacement of the failed well number 5. The sewer rate increase is to build capacity to finance the new wastewater treatment plant that we must move forward with over the next couple of years and this must be paid for by what is called enterprise funds. (funds raised by that utility's rates charged). The garbage rates must increase just to breakeven on what it costs the City to provide that service. The garbage rates will increase January 1<sup>st</sup> and the water and sewer rates are effective immediately.

The City Council held a public hearing at the first meeting in November to take input on the revenue sources expected to come in during the 2025 calendar year. At the second meeting they certified those numbers as required by state law for presentation to the County.

A couple of resolutions were passed to move forward with the Civic Center improvements during January 2025. These are being paid for with the ARPA funds. The Civic Center will be closed during construction for safety reasons for the public and workers.

The Council also adopted the City's 2025 Legislative Agenda. This sets the priorities for our Legislative Committee to present when we talk with our County, State and Federal elected officials and Departments. The priorities include the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Police Station/City Hall, additional renovation to Civic Center, Naches Avenue Extension (Fruity Pebbles). Transitional Housing local control and adoption in general the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Legislative Priorities.



Community Pride Awards were presented to Mindy Clark and Jakob Greene. Clark as the lead designer and artist for the completed mural on north 1<sup>st</sup> across from the schools. Greene was recognized for his commitment to excellence and leadership as a high school student.

**My hope is that you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends**

**I am looking for some help.** I would like to display a complete set of “Community Days” buttons at City Hall and I am missing some. If you would be willing to donate some, please drop them off at City Hall attention Mayor Bell. The years I am missing are: anything prior to 1958, 1959 thru 1981, 1986, 1987, 1994, 2013 thru 2016 and anything after 2018.

The upcoming month is a busy one including the Lighted Parade on December 6<sup>th</sup>; judging of the best residential and business light displays and a bus tour of homes around the area on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Don't forget to support our local businesses as you shop for Christmas. Plan now for this Christmas Season to be the best one possible for you and those you care about.**

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

**That's all folks for this month.**

**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

