

CITY OF SUMAS

City of Sumas Newsletter

November 2015

We would like to wish a warm farewell to Rod Fadden as he ventures in to retirement! And a big Welcome to Ruban Hernandez, who is replacing Rod as the new Utilities Superintendent!

Holiday Decorating Contest!

- * Decorate your home for the holidays for a chance to win a gift certificate to El Nopal!
 - * Judging will take place on December 19th.
 - * Prizes awarded for the top 3 most festive homes!
- Sponsored by the Sumas Chamber of Commerce*



Santa in the Park!

Dec. 7th @ 7 PM in Sumas City Park
Enjoy a night of Christmas Carols, Hot Apple Cider, and Santa will make an appearance with treat bags for the kids!
Sponsored by the Lions Club



The Cost of Dog Tags will be going up in January 2016.
\$15 Spayed/Neutered and \$25 for Non-Spayed/Neutered Dogs



Mt. Baker

In This Issue

- Events/Announcements
- Library Activity Calendar
- Senior Center Activity Calendar
- City Council Minutes
- Contact Information

Events at the Sumas Library

451 2nd Street

360-305-3600

Hours: Monday 10 – 5, Wednesday 10 – 7, Saturday 10 - 5

Preschool story time - Wednesdays at 10:30am (through December 16)

Teen and Kids Programs – Wednesdays at 4pm – a different activity every week! The second Wednesday of the month is Legos!

Monday, November 9th at 7pm - **Friends of the Sumas Library meeting**. Join the Friends of Sumas Library at their monthly meeting to find out what they are doing to support the library. Share your ideas, volunteer to help out at upcoming events, or just find out what is going on! Meets the second Monday of the month.

Wednesday, November 11th – **Library Closed**

Saturday, November 14th from 8am to 11am – Friends of Sumas Library **cookie sale!** Yum! Yum! Homemade cookies! Stop by and purchase a bag of homemade cookies to support the Friends of Sumas Library. You will get to choose which cookies to take home and enjoy! This event is in conjunction with the pancake breakfast at the Sumas Senior/Community Center, so stop by for breakfast too! We won't tell if you have cookies for dessert!

Saturday, November 14th at 10am – Sumas **Book Club**. Join us for a great read and great discussion (with coffee and treats as a bonus!). For November, the group will discuss "Ahab's Wife, Or, The Star-gazer" by Sena Jeter Naslund. Stop by the library to pick-up a copy!

Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm. **Oolong teas of China and Taiwan**. Oolong is commonly thought of as a simple Chinese restaurant tea in the West. However it is one of the largest families of tea with many hundreds of extremely diverse types, from the light green baozhong of Taiwan to the heavily roasted cliff teas from Wuyi, China, and command some of the highest prices in the tea industry. This presentation will explore dozens of these teas and will be accompanied by a tasting of a variety of high-end oolongs.

Saturday, November 28th at 10am – Sumas **Writers Group**. Are you an aspiring writer? Come join us to improve your writing techniques, get feedback on your writing, and gain information on how to get your work published. All writing styles welcome (novel, short story, comics, etc.). This group meets monthly on the 4th Saturday. Can't make it every month? No problem -- come when you are able!

Saturday, December 5th at 1pm. **Of Bees and Beekeeping**. The joys, challenges, and a bit of biology about caring for naturally treated hives. Karen Bean of Brookfield Farms shares stories and suggestions from her 15 years as a beekeeper. Local honey based products will be available to purchase.

Wednesday, December 9th from 4pm to 7pm. **Help with Health Insurance Enrollment**. Drop in for help finding health insurance on the WA Healthplanfinder (Washington State's online health insurance marketplace). A representative from Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) will assist you in enrolling in free or low-cost health insurance (open enrollment ends January 31). Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA volunteers) will also be available to help Medicare beneficiaries explore their Medicare prescription drug plan options (open enrollment ends December 7). What to bring: names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers for all members of your household, proof of household income, Immigration documents (if applicable).

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SUMAS COMMUNITY/SR. CENTER: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

360.988.2714 461 Second St



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, NOV 14TH 8-11am

Sumas Lion's Club & the Senior Center join together to offer a pancake breakfast with eggs, sausage & beverage.

By donation. **CLOSED WED & FRI Nov. 25 & 27**

Monday & Friday Program:

Free to attend *Open from 10:30-1:30*

Lunch @ noon: suggested donation

Age 60 and older. \$3-\$5. Under age 60 is \$6.

The Program is NOT for OLD FOLKS!!! Unless you consider those who have reached their 50th Birthday old!

Ongoing happenings on Mondays & Fridays:

Wii bowling, Pool, Darts

Puzzle area, games, crafts

Brain teasers & Trivia & Jokes

Special Programs & Entertainment follows lunch

OPEN POOL Mon. 8:30am Wed. 1:30 pm

Wednesday Evenings Program:

By donation *Open @ 5 Potluck @ 6*

Program/Entertainment 7-7:45pm

WED. Nov. 4 Van Hofwegen's

One of our favorite groups! Always enjoyable! And I hear rumors they have a new member!

MON. Nov. 9 Honoring our Veterans

Lunch @ noon followed by cake & ice cream. Please RSVP for lunch.

WED. Nov. 11 Honoring our Veterans

All welcome to join us in recognizing those who served our Country. Chili & buns provided. Bring a salad if you'd like. Cake too!

Followed by: **Bingo!**

WED. Nov. 18 Tea with Laurie & Charles

Learn about the history of tea AND enjoy some tea prepared in the "traditional way". Cookies too!

Cosponsored by WCLS

FRI. Nov. 20 Turkey "Dinner" @ Lunch!

MUST RSVP. \$5 Served at noon.

Sumas City Workers will be joining us too!

MON. Nov. 30 BINGO!

FLU SHOTS! ALL AGES Welcome

Friday, Nov. 13th 10:30am – noon

Bring Medicare, other insurance cards.

\$30 without insurance.

Thank you Nooksack Valley Drugs

for providing service

DECEMBER

CLOSED WED & FRI Dec. 23 & 25

WED. Dec. 2 Probate & Wills

Terry Bronkema will share a *brief* overview of things to know about planning your will and probate. After Terry makes us smart, we'll play the "**Gift game**"! Bring a gift wrapped item - new or not, beautiful or not, useful or not & we'll have fun! We'll have extra "gifts" if you forget.

MON. Dec. 7 Remembrance Day

WED. Dec. 9 BINGO

FRI. Dec. 11 Gift Game:

Bring a wrapped gift & we'll play "the game".

MON. Dec. 14 Holiday Music

WED. Dec. 16 Holiday with Reminisce

'Tis the season. Carol & Allan will be sharing a variety of music for the season including favorite Christmas carols. Listen some, join in some, enjoy all! (don't expect any chickens this time).

FRI. Dec. 18 Holiday Surprise

MON. Dec. 28 BINGO

WED. Dec. 30 New Year's EveEve

Looking back at 2015 and looking ahead to 2016.

CLOSED FRI. Jan. 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NAIL CARE Open to All:

Nov 6 Dec 4 Jan 8

Connie, RN, is now coming the 1st FRIDAY of every month. Have toenails evaluated for any concerns & appropriately cut (those with diabetes welcome) includes foot massage. LIMITED SPACE. Call:360.988.2714.

Council Minutes

MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2015

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of August 10, 2015. All councilmen were present except Gary Debont and Todd Daniels. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

There were no committee meetings to report on.

Geri Lewis presented a letter from Bob's Burgers and Brew for permission to run a beer garden at the September 26, 2015, Demolition Derby at the rodeo grounds. The beer garden would be open from 6:00 p.m. until 12:30 a.m., so people would be gone by 1:00 a.m. Bruce Bosch made a motion to allow the beer garden as presented. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried. Geri also talked to the council about the fact that we are in need of updating our server for all of our city programs. Vision IT has done as much as they can to the server we now use in order to update it enough that it still works for us. She presented a Purchase Agreement which spells out exactly what they think we need. As this is just information right now, councilmen had a few questions that they would like answered before entering into an agreement. Geri and Chris will talk this over and Geri will contact Vision for answers.

Rod Fadden wished Chris Haugen a happy 50th birthday. Rod updated councilmen about WSDOT and the work that we have waited about one year to get started. We should soon see the changes that we asked to be done such as, no right turn onto Cherry St. for westbound traffic, 4-way stop at Cherry and Garfield Sts., new striping, and signs indicating the penalty for certain violations. Rod also informed the council about the accident that happened at Super Duper during the previous week that left them without power all day long. Luckily we had a transformer that could be used to replace the one that was damaged and power was restored by 7:30 p.m. Now we play the insurance game.

Jim Wright let councilmen know about the letter from Williams, Kastner, & Gibbs regarding the garbage ordinance.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #36387 through #36431 in the amount of \$152,135.95 and Payroll Vouchers #20647 through #20655 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$121,681.33 were approved for payment after a motion by Mike Quinn and a second by Bruce Bosch.

Mike Quinn made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Mike Quinn made a motion to approve the July Manual Checks. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Bruce Bosch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2015

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of August 24, 2015, with all councilmen present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

At 7:00 p.m. the Public Hearing for Hovel Estates Variance and Long Plat application was opened. Rollin Harper of Sehome Planning, spoke to the council about the process which includes the Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, Decision, and Method of Appeal; focusing on the Conditions of Approval. The issue of sidewalks on one side of the road was pointed out as a special condition of approval. Jason Heutink, a proponent of the project, addressed the council about the subdivision and all the benefits he can see for the City of Sumas as a result of approving the 48 lot project. Mike Quinn made a motion to close the hearing. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve the variance and subdivision with additional approval of sidewalks on only one side of the street. Mike Quinn seconded the motion and it carried.

Geri Lewis presented a resolution cancelling previously approved checks that were issued in error or never received. Resolution #754 was passed after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Mike Quinn that carried. The Vision IT Purchase Agreement was presented to councilmen again with an explanation email from a Vision IT Specialist. The email answered clearly all questions councilmen had at the previous meeting. Everyone was in agreement to budget for this purchase in 2016.

Rod Fadden reported on the new DOT signage on Cherry St. Councilmen were eager to find out when the penalty signs for blocking intersections would be installed. Rod will call about that.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #36435 through #36462 in the amount of \$19,346.36 and Payroll Vouchers #20656 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$19,100.00 were approved after a motion by Mike Quinn and a second by Gary Debont which carried.

Council went into Executive Session for 15-20 minutes regarding possible litigation at 7::30 p.m.

At 7:50 p.m. the regular session was reconvened.

Ordinance #1659 which amends Ordinance #1657, was passed after a motion by Mike Quinn and a second by Bruce Bosch which carried.

Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

The Sumas City Council met on September 14, 2015 at 7:00pm with all councilmen present except Gary Debont.

The minutes of the August 24, 2015 meeting were approved.

At 7:04pm Lawrence Nelson residing at 701 Arthur's Way approached the council. Mr. Nelson stated he had been the neighbor of Superintendent Rod Fadden for eight years. He then spoke about the new construction at 703 Arthur's Way. He has concerns about set back, drainage and inspection issues at the property. He feels there are clear violations of numerous Municipal and International Codes. He requested an immediate stop construction order be issued, Superintendent Fadden be removed from all inspections, another building inspector do further inspections, contractor follow Sumas Municipal Code and correct all code violations.

Shelley Schultz, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, filling in for Clerk-Treasurer Geri Lewis, advised the council of an EDRF loan application from Cross Investments, LLC. Mayor Bromley called for a finance committee meeting to review the application. Meeting will be set when Clerk-Treasurer Lewis returns.

Superintendent Fadden reported he was waiting for a response from WADOT on the requested penalty signs for border line-up violations.

Mayor Bromley reported Fire District 14 had filed for a levy increase. And stated he would be meeting with them regarding the matter.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval. Claims Voucher #36467, #36476 through #36518 in the amount of \$162,197.37, Payroll Voucher #20657 through #20665 along with the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$58,492.27, and Manual Checks were approved for payment with a motion by Mike Quinn and a second from Bruce Bosch and it carried. Mike Quinn then made a motion to approve the August 2015 Treasurer's Report, Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

At 7:40pm the council then went into executive session regarding personnel and legal matters.

At 8:25pm the council reconvened the regular meeting.

Chief Haugen reported to the council that September 2015 was Law Enforcement Appreciation month. He then asked for permission to have volunteers put blue ribbons on Street lights throughout the city. The council agreed.

At 8:29pm Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

The Sumas City Council met on the evening of September 28, 2015, with all councilmen present. Our new Utilities Superintendent, Reuben Hernandez, was also present at the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

Meg Krieg, of 601 1st Street, Sumas, WA, and President of Friends of the Library, addressed the council regarding the possibility of purchasing an electronic reader board for the community. She handed out a couple of quotes and sample policies for use, as well as a form for requesting use of the reader board. She has been in contact with various community service groups and would like to coordinate some fund-raising to help pay for the board. She also asked for some financial help from the City, as well as installation help and maintenance of the board. This will be sent to a committee for consideration.

The Economic Development Committee, Mike Quinn and Bruce Bosch, reported on their meeting regarding a request from Cross Investments for a \$150,000 loan at 0% interest. Since no money has ever been loaned for 0%, the committee is recommending that the standard 2% interest be applied to the \$150,000 requested for a term of 5 years. Mike Quinn made a motion to include all of the aforementioned information. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. A lien would probably be placed on their 5-acre parcel as collateral for the loan.

Chief Haugen reported on the recently completed Police Manual which has been made possible by securing a contract with Lexipol, the company who provides all the materials and coordination with State Laws for future updates. Chris has been working on this for about 2 years. Gary Debont made a motion to accept the new PD Policy Manual. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

A resolution was presented to councilmen supporting the proposition for a jail facilities sales and use tax. After a brief discussion, Mike Quinn made a motion to adopt Resolution 755. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Rod Fadden told the council he has been after the WSDOT to provide all the signs that were agreed to for alleviation of traffic problems on Cherry St. Rod also let councilmen know that an LED Street Light Conversion Program has been approved to replace 201 fixtures that is 100% grant funded.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval. Claims Vouchers #36521 through #36554 in the amount of \$23,669.83 and Payroll Vouchers #20666 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$19,100.00 were approved after a motion by Mike Quinn and a second by Gary Debont which carried.

Council went into Executive Session for approximately 15 minutes regarding possible litigation.

Council resumed the regular session.

Gary Debont made a motion to pass Ordinance 1660 establishing a moratorium on all marijuana-related activities pursuant to WA State Initiative 502. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Todd Daniels made a motion to hold a Public Hearing to hear additional testimony regarding the moratorium on October 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Gary Debont seconded the motion and the hearing was set.

Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2015

The Sumas City Council met on the evening of October 12, 2015, with all members present except Bruce Bosch. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

Clerk-Treasurer Lewis asked councilmen for an increase in the dog licensing fee. Mike Quinn made a motion to raise neutered or spayed dogs to \$15.00 and non-neutered/spayed dogs to \$25.00 beginning January 1, 2016. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Geri also asked for a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss business licenses and utility rates. The banking situation was brought up to inform everyone that the City has been given 90 day notice that our Bank of America accounts will be closed. Peoples Bank, which is a local bank, will be the new banking institution for City of Sumas. This entails quite a bit of work to accomplish, so hopefully it can be done as quick as possible.

The Mayor brought up the need to select new Mayor Pro Tem as Mike Quinn will only be here for a short period of time. Todd Daniels made a motion to appoint Gary Debont as Mayor Pro Tem. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez addressed councilmen regarding a request from Tirza Merk for vacation of certain streets and alleys in parts of Block 34, 35, & 36, near W. Third St. and Fourth St. Ruben went on to tell the council that these areas are of no use to the City and that there are no utilities involved. The council concurred with Ruben and Mike Quinn asked that a Public Hearing be set for November 9, 2015, at 7 p.m. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Reuben also shared a few pictures of the street area regarding run off that Mr. Nelson is concerned with. After reviewing the situation and being at the site while it was raining considerably, he does not think this is of significant concern.

Jim Wright remembered that a public hearing had been set for tonight regarding the moratorium on marijuana uses and was left off the agenda. Since no one appeared for the hearing, he suggested we continue the hearing at the next meeting.. Mike Quinn made a motion to continue the public hearing on the marijuana moratorium for October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Gary Debont seconded the motion and the hearing was set.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #36557 to #36599 in the amount of 163,573.66 and Payroll Vouchers #20667 to #20675 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$121,080.21 were approved after a motion by Mike Quinn and a second by Gary Debont which carried.

Mike Quinn made a motion to approve the September Manual Checks. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried.

Mike Quinn made a motion to approve the September Treasurer's Report. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried.

Council adjourned to Executive Session for approximately 10 minutes regarding possible litigation.

Council reconvened the regular meeting at 7:32 p.m. and Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried.

Brain Teasers

1. Why is it against the law for a person living in New York to be buried in California?
2. There is a fishing trawler, with a ladder in it, leaning against a wall at the harbor. There are 5 oars and 2 fishing nets in the trawler. The distance between two consecutive steps on the ladder is 1 meter. If waves lashing against the wall rise half meter in every half hour, in how much time will 6 steps of the ladder get under the waves?
3. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps?

Answers:

1. He is Living
2. The trawler rises with the waves, so no steps will go under water.
3. A River



This newsletter is meant to increase awareness and communication of events and news to the citizens of the City of Sumas. If you have any comments/suggestions or if you would like the newsletter sent directly to your email address, please send an email to mbost@cityofsumas.com

Contact Us

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Sumas, WA 98295

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Fax: 360-988-8855

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

www.cityofsumas.com

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**Note there is a \$2 fee to use a credit card to make your payments.*