

CITY OF SUMAS

City of Sumas Newsletter

January 2016

Events at the Sumas American Legion Post 212

- Every Friday Night: Hamburger Feed 5-8pm
- 2nd Saturday of Every Month: Dinner 5-8pm
- 4th Saturday of Every Month: Breakfast 7-10am. All you can eat for \$7!

Look for us on Facebook!

The City of Sumas Civil Service Commission is in need of a resident to serve a 4-year term. If you are interested, please contact the Mayor or the Police Chief. The Commission meets rarely, usually only when filling a vacant position.

The Mayor and City Council recently appointed 3 new members to the City of Sumas Planning Commission. Currently the Commission has meetings with regard to updating the City of Sumas Comprehensive Plan. The three new members are Cinammen Zeilstra, Henry Hoefakker, and Mike Goree. If any other residents are interested in serving on any committees for the City, please contact the Mayor so he knows you are interested. When a spot becomes available all interested parties will be considered. The Planning Commission meets usually only when the City has to do Comprehensive Plan, Growth Management, or Shoreline Updates where citizens are needed for input regarding issues about Sumas. These meetings are usually in the evening.

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Events at the Sumas Library

451 2nd Street 360-305-3600

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

Teen Gaming: Take a break and do some gaming. Use our tabletop games or bring your own. For: Grades 6-12. **Wednesday, January 6, and Wednesday February 3, 4 PM to 5 PM.**

Sumas Preschool Storytime: Stories and more for ages 3 - 5. **Wednesdays, beginning January 13, 10:30 AM to 11 AM.**

Sumas Book Club: Join us for a great read and great discussion (with coffee and treats as a bonus!). Book club meets monthly on the second Saturday. For January, the group will discuss *The Crying Tree* by Naseem Rakha. Stop by the library to pick-up a copy! For: Adults, Grades 9-12. **Saturday, January 9, 10 AM to 11 AM.**

Friends of 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! For: Adults, Grades 9-12. **Monday, January 11, 7 PM to 8 PM.**

LEGO Create and Build: Build, create, show, and share your building skills at this LEGO program for all ages (under 10 must have an adult present). Each session will have a different challenge theme. LEGO bricks provided, you provide the creativity. For: All Ages/Family. Occurs the 2nd Wednesday of the month. **Wednesday, January 13 and Wednesday, February 10, 4 PM to 5 PM.**

Teen Create and Take: Create with duct tape, paper crafting, and more at this monthly open creation space. We'll provide the space and supplies, you provide the creativity. Feel free to bring your own projects to work on too. For: Grades 6-12. Occurs the 3rd Wednesday of the month. **Wednesday, January 20 and Wednesday, February 17, 4 PM to 5 PM.**

Friend Feud and Ice Cream Sundaes Like Family Feud? Love ice cream? Join us for an evening of "Friend Feud" and ice cream! For all ages, including families! Hosted by the Friends of Sumas Library and the Sumas Community/Senior Center. Event will be held at the Community/Senior Center. **Wednesday, January 27, 7 PM to 8 PM.**

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! For: Adults, Grades 6-12. **Saturday, January 23 and Saturday February 27, 10 AM to 11 AM.**

Family Make and Take: Create with paper, crafts, and more at this monthly open creation space. We'll provide the space and supplies, you provide the creativity. Feel free to bring your own projects to work on too. Open to all ages; children under 10 must have an adult present. Occurs the 4th Wednesday of the month. **Wednesday, January 27 and Wednesday February 24, 4 PM to 5 PM.**

Ancestry Library Edition Workshop: Looking to research your family history online but don't know where to begin? Learn the basics of searching census, vital, immigration, and military records and gain access to charts and forms to help you organize your research. Registration required; call the library or register online at WCLS.org. We will have laptops available, or you may bring your own. Program led by Deborah Morgan, experienced ancestry researcher and local Sumas historian. For: Adults. **Saturday, January 30, 1 PM to 2 PM.**

Pigeons! Come learn about pigeons in the local 4H club and see a video of local students with their pigeons. Stop by or call the library for more detailed information. For: All ages. **Saturday, February 27, Time TBD.**

SUMAS COMMUNITY/SR. CENTER Jan. & Feb. Events 360.988.2714 461 Second St. (end of Second St. same building with Library)

Mondays & Fridays 10:30-1:30

Lunch @ noon: suggested donation for ages 60 and older \$5. Under age 60 is \$6.

Activities include: Wii bowling, puzzle area, pool, darts, brain teasers & trivia & jokes, games & crafts & special presentations & entertainment.

JANUARY EVENTS:

Jonathan & Betty McNeely Wed. Jan 6

Yes! We are very pleased that Jonathan will be returning to share his voice and guitar with us. Favorites as well as original compositions. AND mom, Betty, will come along this time!

Nail Care Fri. Jan. 8

NAIL CARE by Connie, RN

Jan 8=full **Feb. 5 March 4**

FIRST FRIDAY of the month

Toenails evaluated for any concerns & carefully cut (those with diabetes welcome).

MUST make reservation. Call: 988.2714

Member's BINGO Wed. Jan. 13

Friendly Fun BINGO. Lucky number TP! Free for members. Guests \$5 donation please. Potluck at 6, Bring a dish to share or \$donation.

Martin Luther King Jr. Trivia Fri. Jan. 15

Closed Mon. Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Jr.

Larry Wheeler Wed. Jan. 20

Larry is quite the entertainer, engaging the audience with his songs from the 20's & 30's & 40's & 50's &...he takes requests!

Member's BINGO Mon. Jan. 25

FRIENDLY FEUD FUN!

Wed. Jan. 27

Similar to the TV show "Family Feud".

We'll team up-survey says...ALL AGES WELCOME. Ice Cream Bar too!

Follows potluck @ 6pm

Co-sponsor: WCLS/Sumas Branch

Wednesday Evenings: By donation

Open @ 5 Potluck @ 6

Program/Entertainment 7-7:45pm

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Entertainment: Surprise! Wed. Feb 3

Nail Care Fri. Feb. 5 Call by Jan. 29 to reserve a time, 30 min slots.

Member's BINGO Wed. Feb. 10

This month's BINGO will be sweet! Free for members. Guests \$5 donation please. Potluck at 6. Bring a dish to share or \$donation.

Sweet Fun! Fri. Feb. 12

Wear RED. Bonus for wearing HEARTS.

Root Beer Floats after lunch!

President's Day Mon. Feb. 15

How well do you know your Presidents?

President Who?? Wed. Feb. 17

Team trivia fun! Who's in charge?!?!



"GIBRALTAR: The Story Of My Heart"

Wed. Feb. 24

The story of what happened after a congenital heart defect struck, and author Johannes F. Lisiecki's journey from cardiogenic shock, extensive open heart surgery and a defibrillator at age 68 to being an Athlete at age 75. ALL WELCOME. Follows 6pm potluck. FREE

Co-sponsor: WCLS/Sumas Branch

Member's BINGO Mon. Feb. 29

Be ready to "leap" into some fun BINGO!

Sumas City Council Minutes

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2015

The Sumas City Council met in regular session with all members present except Mike Quinn. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

At 7:00 p.m. the continuation of the Public Hearing for the Marijuana Moratorium was reopened. Jim Wright briefly explained about the passage of Ordinance 1660 at the October 12, 2015 meeting and that there was no one present to give testimony, further there is no one present tonight either to speak for or against the moratorium. Gary Debont made a motion to close the hearing. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and the hearing was closed.

Bruce Bosch reported for the Finance Committee meeting where Geri Lewis reported on various new VMS software programs she feels the City should have. The software items cover business licensing, fixed assets, Tier 2 enhanced permits, receivables, and cemetery programs. All of the programs will enhance and facilitate more accurate record keeping strategies as all of these programs will interface with the programs we already have. Vision offers a 5-year payment plan with no interest, which makes the cost of \$47,700 more practicable as the annual payment of approximately \$8,800 will be 12 equal payments of about \$750. Bruce Bosch made a motion to go ahead with the purchase of the software as presented. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. It was also decided to raise the rate for fingerprinting services to \$20 per card for non-residents of Sumas. Residents will still be at \$10 per card. Gary Debont made a motion to set the new rate for fingerprinting. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Bruce also informed councilmen that we will be monitoring the Light Fund for fund balance improvement in order to determine if rates need to be changed.

Chief Haugen asked council for permission to replace 3 department tasers that are old and out of date this year and the other 3 next year.. The cost is approximately \$1100 plus tax for each taser. Gary Debont made a motion to allow the purchase of the 3 tasers right now. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

The Clerk asked that a Preliminary Budget hearing be set. Gary Debont made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget and Property Tax Revenues for November 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and the hearing was set. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Resolution #756 dealing with Unclaimed Property and turning it over to the state. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Resolution #757 cancelling a previously approved check that was never received or cashed. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Geri Lewis asked the council to take note of the 2016 Budget Message included with their agendas. Geri introduced a letter asking for permission to have alcohol when using the Sr. Center in November. Gary Debont made a motion to allow this request. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Finally Geri wanted council to take note of a letter submitted by residents using May Rd. about the condition of the road. This is a county road and a copy was also sent to Whatcom County Roads.

Ruben Hernandez updated the council on an issue with the LED street light upgrade with regard to unforeseen expenses. He has been in contact with TIB to see if they might give us more money to cover these costs. The Superintendent also informed councilmen about fuse & circuit layouts which will make the required and delinquent arc flash test an easier task. He is waiting for cost estimates for the layouts.

The Mayor informed the council that he is in receipt of a resignation letter from Councilman Mike Quinn that is effective as of October 30, 2015. The Mayor also told everyone that he is in receipt of several letters of interest in the vacated position and expects we may get a few more. The Mayor would like to keep the position open for a couple more meetings.

Jim Wright, City Attorney, explained the Property Damage Settlement & Release form that is required to be signed before we will be reimbursed for City expenses incurred after the incident with the transformer at Pay n Run. Gary Debont made a motion to approve the settlement & release form. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. The City Attorney also had prepared a Services Agreement between the City and Rod Fadden for consulting services as needed while Ruben is getting to know the job. Gary Debont made a motion to approve the agreement. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Resolution #758 calling for the Public Hearing for the Merk Street Vacation was passed after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Todd Daniels which carried.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval. Claims Vouchers #36604 through #36643 in the amount of \$105,374.09 and Payroll Vouchers #20676 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$20,600.00 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried.

The council went into Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes regarding possible litigation.

At 7:55 p.m., council resumed the regular session.

Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn. Gary Debont seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2015

The Sumas City Council met on the evening of November 9, 2015, with all councilmen present except Gary Debont and vacated Position 4. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

The Merk Vacation Public Hearing was opened at 7:00 p.m. Supt. Hernandez briefly went over the details of the requested vacation. There were no written comments and no one from the public was present. Todd Daniels made a motion to close the hearing. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Ordinance 1662. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

The Preliminary Budget and Property Tax Revenues hearing was opened immediately after the first hearing. Geri Lewis told the council that there were no changes since she handed out the budget in early October, but changes were expected due to the passage of the Fire District Proposition. This will impact current expense in a very large way. There are also some other options being looked at to enhance revenues other than property tax. The Clerk asked the council to raise the 2016 property taxes the allowed 1%, which is \$5,303.61 for the year. Todd Daniels made a motion to close the hearing and Bruce Bosch seconded the motion which carried. Todd Daniels then made a motion to pass Ordinance #1661. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. The Finance Committee will meet regarding the Fire District contract and Policing issues.

The clerk asked for another public hearing to be set in December. Bruce Bosch made a motion to set a public hearing for the Final Budget Hearing on December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Geri updated council on the current audit.

Superintendent Hernandez reported on the Arc Flash Study after meeting with Gary Debont and Todd Daniels, by letting councilmen know he was still waiting for another bid to come in. The committee will meet again when they get that information and will also meet on the request for help in purchasing a reader board. Ruben also updated councilmen on TV programming issues and ideas. Ruben also updated councilmen on progress of the LED Street Lighting project.

The Mayor announced that the open council position will be filled at the next meeting.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval and payment. Vouchers #36648 through #36681 in the amount of \$173,434.60 and Payroll Vouchers #20677 through #20685 plus the Direct Deposit in the amount of \$123,507.11 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Todd Daniels which carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to approve the Manual Checks for October. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Postma seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2015

The Sumas City Council met on the evening of November 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with all councilmen present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

The Electric Committee, Gary Debont and Todd Daniels, met with Supt. Hernandez regarding a second bid that came in for circuit coordination and arc flash study. The second bid which was from Seahurst Electric came in at double the bid from Braaksma Engineering. Gary Debont made a motion to take the bid of \$29,085 from Braaksma Engineering. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Jim will be preparing a generic service contract for this project.

Geri Lewis presented the salary ordinance for 2016 to councilmen for passage. Since there is no social security COLA, there are no COLA for city employees. Gary Debont made a motion to pass Ordinance #1663. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez reported on progress of the LED Street Light Replacement Project. Ruben also informed councilmen that Liquivision will be doing reservoir cleaning for the City's reservoir and also the rural water tank, saving us quite a bit of money. This will happen December 9, 2015. He also let council know about a street light that was taken down by a stack of lumber and a fence on Mtn. View Reload property. They will be paying for the replacement of the light.

The Mayor addressed the council about filling Position 4 from the letter of interest received. Mayor Bromley asked that the council approve Josh Clawson to finish the term vacated by Mike Quinn.

Todd Daniels made a motion to approved Josh Clawson to fill Position 4 on the Sumas City Council. Rich Postma seconded the motion and it carried.

The new bills were presented to the council for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #36689 through #36718 in the amount of \$104,884.30 and Payroll Vouchers #20686 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$19,600.00 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to place the October 2015 Treasurers Report on file. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried.

Council exited to Executive Session regarding possible litigation for 10-15 minutes at 7:25 p.m.

At 7:35 p.m. the council reconvened the regular meeting.

Todd Daniels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Postma seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2015

The Sumas city Council met in regular session on the evening of December 14, 2015, with all councilmen present. The Mayor welcomed newly appointed councilman Joshua Clawson. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

At 7:00 p.m. the Final 2016 Budget Hearing was opened. There was no one present from the public to speak. Clerk-Treasurer Geri Lewis spoke briefly about minor adjustments to the final budget totals. Todd Daniels made a motion to close the public hearing. Gary Debont seconded the motion and the hearing was closed. Bruce Bosch made a motion adopting the Final 2016 Budget with Ordinance #1664. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Gary Debont reported for the Finance Committee regarding the Light Fund's dwindling cash and the need to raise rates effective with the next billing cycle, January 31, 2016, rather than waiting any longer. He spoke about the change in beginning and ending cash for the last couple of years and that we went too long without a rate increase. Gary Debont made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1665 raising electric rates 7 ½%. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Geri Lewis asked for passage of an ordinance closing Fund 701. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Ordinance #1666. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried. Gary Debont made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1667 establishing a Light Deposit Fund. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Gary Debont also made a motion to adopt Ordinance #1668 establishing a TV Deposit Fund. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Gary Debont made a motion to renew the contract with Sehome Planning for 2016 with no changes. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Bruce Bosch made a motion to renew the Animal Control contract for 2016 with no changes. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Gary Debont made a motion designating Ruben Hernandez as a voting member to the Transportation Technical Advisory Group and Rollin Harper as First Alternate. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried. Clerk-Treasurer Lewis informed the Mayor and council that the Planning Commission has a couple vacancies. Mayor Bromley appointed Cinammen Zeilstra to one position and suggested putting these openings on Channel 40. The Civil Service Commission has one vacancy as well and this will also be posted on Channel 40. The Department of Commerce has notified us that a grant of \$5,000 is available for the revisions to our comp plan as required by the Growth Management Act. Gary Debont made a motion to allow the Mayor to execute a contract with the Dept. of Commerce. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

Chief Haugen brought up and spoke about the contract with Whatcom County to provide jail services. Because the Jail Facilities Sales and Use Tax measure did not pass, it is imperative to get a new agreement in place as our current agreement expires on 12-31-15. Gary Debont made a motion to allow the Mayor to execute a contract extension for jail services with Whatcom County through June 2016. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez reported on some successful negotiations for television programming retransmission contracts for KING (NBC), KONG (IND), and NWCN, with rates for 2016-2017. Ruben informed councilmen of a current problem with Well #3, informing them of the steps that will be taken to determine what can be done to solve the problems. Ruben also updated councilmen on the Braaksma Engineering contract for electrical work, which was recently signed.

Mayor Bromley reported that Jim Ackerman, Mayor of Nooksack, is willing once again, to serve as the WTA Representative for Sumas, Everson, and Nooksack. Gary Debont made a motion to re-appoint Jim as the small cities representative to WCOG for 2016.

Rich Postma asked Ruben to look into a street light issue on Boon Street.

The Economic Development Committee, Gary Debont and Bruce Bosch, were asked to meet with Ruben Hernandez and Chris Haugen regarding the request from the Friends of the Library for an Informational Reader Board for the City of Sumas.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Claims Vouchers #36723 through #36779 in the amount of \$171,946.61 and Payroll Vouchers #20695 plus the Direct Deposit Run in the amount of \$138,579.54 were approved for payment after motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont that carried. The November Treasurer's Report was placed on file after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried. The November Manual Checks were approved in the amount of \$13,341.05 after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried.

Council went into Executive Session for approximately 10 minutes regarding possible litigation at 7:45 p.m.

At 7:58 p.m., council reconvened the regular session.

Chris Haugen reminded everyone that Josh and probably Ruben need to take the Public Records and Open Public Meetings Training for city officials.

Gary Debont made a motion to extend the Solid Waste Ordinance #1659 which is set to expire Dec. 31, 2015, for three months, to March 31, 2016. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

The Mayor suggested that someone might want to serve on the Sumas/Everson/Nooksack Flood Control Subzone Advisory Committee that currently has 2 vacancies.

Gary Debont made a motion to adjourn. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2015

The Sumas City Council met in regular session on the evening of December 28, 2015 at 7 p.m. with all councilmen present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved for filing.

The Committee has not met on the reader board and hopes to before the next meeting.

Chief Haugen spoke briefly about the Jail Contract with regard to the Sheriffs intent to reduce the county jail population to alleviate some of the current inmate housing problems. With this being known, it has become apparent that we need to look for alternative housing if needed. Chris is advising that we sign 2 alternative contracts so we have a choice in case of running into a problem. He is currently looking at South King County (expensive) and Yakima (more reasonable). He will report back.

Geri asked for passage of a 2015 Budget Amendment ordinance. Bruce Bosch made a motion to pass Ordinance #1669 amending the 2015 Budget. Gary Debont seconded the motion and it carried. Whatcom County Council of Governments needs to have an alternate to the Mayor to represent the City in 2016. Gary Debont made a motion to name Bruce Bosch as the alternate representative for COG for 2016. Todd Daniels seconded the motion and it carried.

Ruben Hernandez gave a brief Braaksma Engineering update to council. He also told council that a pump, motor, and piping has been ordered for Well 3 repair. Also that they put a camera in the well and compared the visual to the 2000 shots and it looks to be in better shape now than it was then. Ruben also reported on the generator regarding a faulty voltage regulator. It also needs a load breaker to run a full load. The May Rd. generator needs new timers.

Jim Wright explained an ordinance he prepared for the council to extend the effective date of the solid waste tax. Gary Debont made a motion to approve Ordinance #1670 amending the effective date of Section 2 of Ordinance #1657 as previously amended by Ordinance #1659. Bruce Bosch seconded the motion and it carried.

The new bills were presented to the Finance Committee for approval and payment. Claims Voucher #36782 through #36810 in the amount of \$21,933.71 and Payroll Vouchers #20696 and the Direct Deposit Run of \$19,600.00 were approved after a motion by Bruce Bosch and a second by Gary Debont which carried.

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:20 pm regarding legal issues for approximately 5 minutes.

At 7:27 pm council reconvened the regular council session.

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

Winter Fun Facts!

(Fun Facts taken from <http://facts.randomhistory.com/winter-facts.html>)

- Even today, the Kwakiutl Indians of British Columbia change their names and take on the names of their ancestors at the beginning of winter. They believe this will protect them from the spirits of the dead who return at this time of year.
- Mt. Baker ski area in Washington state holds the world record for snowfall at 1,140 inches of snow during the 1998–1999 winter season.
- Some plants, both annual and perennials, require “vernalization” (from Latin *vernus*, meaning “of the spring”) to flower. This means that a plant needs to experience a period of low winter temperature to initiate or increase the flowering process. Researchers believe this ensures that seed production begins in spring and summer rather than in the fall.

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

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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.*