

Cell Tower Update

Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

November 3, 2015

7:00 Regular Meeting:

- [Public Hearing](#) on Ordinance 2292 to adopt 2016 property tax levy
- [Public Hearing](#) on Ordinance 2293 regarding City Manager recommended budget
- [Public Hearing](#) on Ordinance 2295 to approve 13th Street/Avenue A Annexation
- [Action](#) on Ordinance 2294 to adopt 3rd quarter 2015 financial report and budget amendments
- [Action](#) on Resolutions 1332 and 1334 to pay off USDA Loans 3 and 4

The agenda list above is partial and tentative. For further information, click here for the City website:

<http://www.snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/City-Council-Agendas-1>

2015 Calendar:

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 28
Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
City Hall Conference Room
116 Union Avenue

This week, the applicant for the proposed Verizon Wireless cell tower at 402 Second Street, site of the Boys and Girls Club and skate park, filed a request that the City suspend review of the application. The letter stated the intent of the suspension is “to investigate additional options and possibilities that will allow for adequate wireless coverage in our search area”. Suspension of review places the application on hold, as opposed to withdrawal of the application, which would terminate review. Suspension would also preserve the applicant’s vested rights under the current application. A request to suspend review is unusual but not unique.

The proposal for a cell tower on the City-owned property has faced strong and organized community opposition. Review of the Verizon Wireless application to construct the 100-foot monopole and a 750 square foot addition to the Boys and Girls Club to house the base station equipment has been ongoing since March. A public hearing for the conditional use permit, required for new cell towers under the Snohomish Municipal Code, was held before the City’s Hearing Examiner on July 31. At the hearing, seven citizens spoke against the proposal.

After consideration of the written record and the testimony of citizens who expressed strong concerns that the facility would have a detrimental visual impact on the community, the Hearing Examiner issued a Post Hearing Order directing the applicant to provide additional information on less conspicuous alternatives to improving cellular service and justification for certain aspects of the proposal. The Hearing Examiner continued the hearing until the directed information is submitted and available for public review. Supplemental information was initially received on September 7 with revised documentation provided on October 5. The September 10 balloon test was among the directed actions.

Not all of the materials required under the Hearing Examiner’s Post Hearing Order have been received to date. Out of concern that the hearing process was being drawn out unnecessarily, on October 6 staff requested a hearing date from the Hearing Examiner. The hearing is currently scheduled for Thursday, November 5th at 6:00 p.m. If that date remains, it will be held in the George Gilbertson Boardroom at the Snohomish School District Administration building, at 1601 Avenue D.

Continued Next Page

October 23, 2015

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The applicant's letter requesting suspension of review was forwarded to the Hearing Examiner, who has jurisdiction to grant the request and postpone the November 5 hearing to a future date, or to deny it, in which case the hearing will proceed as scheduled. According to the Post Hearing Order, the Hearing Examiner may also dismiss the application if he determines that response to the Order was not timely. As of this writing, no decision has been received from the Hearing Examiner. If the Hearing Examiner cancels the public hearing by either granting the suspension of review or dismissing the application, notice will be disseminated to all parties of record and posted at the site and on the City's website.

Information submitted by the applicant in support of the proposal may be found on the City's website at the following link: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/442/Stay-Informed>. Please contact Brooke Eidem at eidem@snohomishWA.gov if you have questions on the application.

Citizens Invited to Apply for Open Government Committee

Snohomish residents and business owners are invited to apply to join a new ad hoc committee designed to create improvements to the City's open government programs.

The seven-member committee will begin meeting mid-January 2016 with the goal of creating a comprehensive plan for improved two-way communications between citizens and City officials. A post card about the application process is being sent next week to all households in the City and applications are due to back to the City by November 18, 2015.

"This is about taking the practice of open government to the next level," said Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak. "The City Council recognizes that it can be challenging for citizens to have meaningful participation in their city government. The goal of this new committee is to find ways to more effectively exchange information and encourage our citizens to participate in City decision-making in ways that have a positive impact on our community."

The committee is expected to meet at least once per month for six to eight months, with a facilitator assisting the committee in working through various ideas to improve the ways citizens access information about and contribute their ideas for their local government's policies and decisions.

Meetings are expected to occur Monday evenings, and applications to join the committee are available at the City's website: <http://snohomishwa.gov/233/Open-Government>. Citizens selected for the committee are expected to be notified in December. Selected committee members will be receiving a packet of reading materials regarding current best practices in open government programs as a starting point for the group's discussions.

"We're aiming to select a diverse group of citizens, demographically, geographically and ethnically, so that we create a truly representative committee capable of providing the best recommendations to our City Council at the end of this process," said Guzak. "We do not expect committee members to have experience working with our local government but are seeking individuals who can assist us in finding the most effective, feasible and efficient ways to improve the public's access to their government."

The recommendations of the committee will be transmitted directly to the City Council at the end of the group's meeting process.



Snohomish County to Launch New Countywide Dispatch System

Public safety leaders from across Snohomish County have voted to launch New World Systems (NWS), a new countywide public safety dispatch and records management system. The system will go live on the morning of Tuesday, October 27 for all of the 50+ first responder agencies. It has been more than 20 years since the county's last overhaul of the CAD/RMS system (computer-aided dispatch/records management system).

Approval to go live with the system was finalized today at a meeting of representatives from all law enforcement, fire, EMS, corrections, and PSAPs (the public-safety answering points, or 911 dispatch centers) agencies.

"I look forward to a successful launch," said Chief Bob Crannell with the Mill Creek Police Department at this morning's meeting.

"That we are in unanimous agreement to go live is a tribute to the hard work by SNOPAC and SNOCOM," said Chief Murray Gordon of the Everett Fire Department.

NWS will allow first responders to share information across Snohomish County jurisdictional boundaries. For example, an officer in Lynnwood would know a suspect had recently been arrested for a violent crime in Marysville. The previous technology developed by Northrop Grumman in the early 1990s does not support seamless sharing of information, which created "silos" of information in each jurisdiction.

Examples of the type of data sharing NWS provides include:

- Access to state driver's license photos, which means police will be able to verify someone's identity faster, or more importantly, determine when someone is trying to conceal their identity because of a warrant.
 - An integrated booking process for the county's three jails, streamlining transfer times, which allows police to spend more time performing law enforcement duties and less time doing paperwork.
 - Shared CAD between PSAPs leading to processing calls faster across geographical boundaries.
- Other technology improvements include:
- GPS information, allowing incident commanders in the field to establish a perimeter around a fleeing suspect using real-time location information.
 - Proximity dispatch for the closest unit is based on actual location, improving response times for calls where seconds can save lives.
 - Processing mutual aid requests faster across the county.
 - Automatically assigning fire and police units across jurisdictional boundaries almost instantaneously.
 - The ability to analyze data trends in areas such as crime or health across jurisdictional boundaries.

HISTORY: The first computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system was launched in Snohomish County in the early 1990s. At that time, the county's PSAPs, SNOCOM and SNOPAC purchased the same software (Northrop Grumman) but different systems. In 1998, agencies purchased their own RMS, which had little or no interface with CAD. In 2009, SNOCOM and SNOPAC signed a contract with NWS.

The cost outlined in the contracts signed at the beginning of the project was \$6.8 million for software licensing and implementation. In addition to these costs, each agency has related ancillary costs, such as covering overtime for training of commissioned personnel and upgrades to hardware (e.g. laptops).

The 5th Annual Snohomish BrewFest Kicks off Tonight

Twenty local breweries and cider houses will bring their best brews to the annual Snohomish Brewfest on Friday and Saturday, October 23rd and 24th at the Snohomish Event Center located at 1011 Second Street, Snohomish. In addition to the brew tastings, tickets include a voucher toward the purchase of the famous brat.

The event is a fundraiser benefiting the Snohomish Senior Center. There will be three sessions: October 23rd from 6-9 p.m., October 24th from 1-4 p.m., and 6-9 p.m. VIP tickets which grant entry to all three sessions are \$50 and include a commemorative beer mug, 14 taste tokens, brat voucher, and a private hour with the brewers. Tickets for individual tasting sessions are \$30 and include a souvenir tasting glass, 7 taste tokens, and a brat voucher. Additional tasting tokens will be available to purchase onsite. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.snohobrewfest.com.

Highlighted Land Use Applications in Process

The applications listed below are currently pending or under review. During the comment period associated with a development proposal, interested parties may submit comments for the project record. For additional information on any of these projects, the project file may be reviewed at City Hall during normal business hours. Staff is also available to respond to questions at the contact information below.

Brandvold Critical Area Variance to construct two single family homes: 302 Cedar Avenue
File #11-14-VAR

Public hearing November 5, 2015, 2:00pm, 1525 Avenue D.

Public comment may be submitted prior to or at the hearing.

More information: contact staff

Staff contact: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

Wireless Facility (Cell Tower) Conditional Use Permit: 402 Second Street (Boys & Girls Club)

File #06-15-CUP (see separate article in this newsletter)

Continued Public Hearing November 5, 2015, 6:00pm, 1601 Avenue D.

Public comment may be submitted prior to or at the continued hearing.

More information: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/442/Stay-Informed>

Staff contact: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

Posey Short Plat (two-lot short plat): 1706 Seventh Street

File #19-15-SP

Complete application determination issued October 6, 2015. Notice of Application issued October 16, 2015.

Public comment may be submitted until 5 P.M. on November 2, 2015.

More information: contact staff

Staff contact: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

Cady Landing Pedestrian Bridge: 40 Maple Avenue

File #21-15-SEPA

Pending SEPA Threshold Determination

More information: contact staff

Staff contact: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, eidem@snohomishWA.gov

For a complete list of all land use and development projects currently in review, please visit the City's website. <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2376>