

## Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

March 1, 2016

### 6:00 Council Workshop

- Wastewater utility system & rate analysis update

### 7:00 Regular Meeting

- [Public Hearing](#) to adopt Ordinance 2296 regarding wireless communications regulations
- [Public Hearing](#) to adopt Ordinance 2304 regarding fireworks regulations
- [Action](#) to pass Resolution 1335 to adopt personnel policies

*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>

### 2016 Calendar:

#### Parks and Recreation Board

Wednesday, February 24  
Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
City Hall Conference Room  
116 Union Avenue

## City Council Discussion of Recreational and Medical Marijuana

At its February 16 meeting, the City Council decided to maintain the City's current ban on state-licensed medical and recreational marijuana businesses, at least until an advisory measure can be placed on the ballot in 2017. The City's regulatory prohibition on commercial marijuana production, processing, and retail facilities was enacted in October 2014.

Passions were high in the packed City Council chambers as over forty people commented on whether the City should change its position. The majority of speakers urged the City Council to maintain its current ban, although some spoke to the importance of keeping marijuana easily available to qualifying patients. Others expressed the belief that local support for the state's Initiative 502, passed by the voters in 2012, sufficiently represents the wishes of the community.

As the Washington State legislature continues to refine its approach to the regulation of medical and recreational marijuana uses—and its requirements for cities and counties—the City Council may need to re-address this issue. For the time being, however, the current ban will remain in effect.



## Send in Your Solid Waste Survey!

The second garbage and recycling survey will be included in the upcoming utility statements at the end of February. Customers in the western part of Snohomish (Billing Cycle 1) will be receiving their surveys! The first garbage and recycling survey was included

in the January 31, 2016 utility bill for customers in the eastern part of Snohomish (Billing Cycle 2). The City Council would like to hear from utility customers and is conducting this survey to gather customer feedback about garbage rates, types of services preferred, customer service and general feedback on our garbage, recycling and yard waste programs. Please complete the survey and return it to City Hall by including the survey with your utility billing payment, drop the survey in the utility bill after-hours drop box, or mail to City Hall. Survey results will be tallied and feedback will be provided to the City Council and community at a future City Council meeting this Spring 2016.

February 19, 2016

[www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov)

# Join us for the Riverfront 20-Acre Park Planning Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend and participate in a community planning meeting to be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the Snohomish Aquatic Center, 516 Maple Avenue. This is the first in a series of planning meetings for this yet-to-be-named Riverfront 20-acre Park.

The meeting's purpose is to provide background information and learn the community's vision for the property. Comments resulting from this meeting will be included in the first draft of the park's master plan. The draft will be presented to the community fall 2016.

The City of Snohomish was awarded funding from the Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program to acquire the 20-acre property in 2014. It is located along Lincoln Avenue, south of First Street, north of the train trestle, west of the soccer fields and east of the Snohomish River (see aerial photo below). Funding for park development has yet to be identified.

The City of Snohomish welcomes your ideas and hopes you join the conversation to develop a shared vision for the park's future!

Please contact Denise Johns, City of Snohomish Project Manager, at (360)282-3195 or [johns@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:johns@snohomishwa.gov) with any questions or if you are unable to attend and have any ideas or suggestions regarding this project.



20-acre Park Property Master Planning Area

# Wireless Communication Facility Regulation Public Hearing

Interested parties should be aware that the City Council's public hearing on Ordinance 2301 to significantly update the City's regulations for wireless communication facilities has been continued to the March 1 City Council meeting. Due to the extended public comment on the marijuana business ban, there was not sufficient time at the February 16 City Council meeting to provide citizens an opportunity to provide input on the wireless communications ordinance.

Following the public hearing, the City Council will be considering adopting the amendments to the Snohomish Municipal Code as recommended by the Planning Commission. The City Council may also make additional changes to the draft ordinance, remand it to the Planning Commission for further review, or direct staff to bring additional materials to a future meeting to help inform its decision.

The term "wireless communications facility" includes, but is not limited to, cell towers. Regulation of these facilities is somewhat complex as it must address certain federal requirements and at the same time respond to a wide range of types of facilities and potential contexts where they may be installed. The Planning Commission's recommended ordinance would require applicants first to consider locations and sizes that will have the least visual impact on the landscape before proposing a more conspicuous alternative.

The proposed regulations may be found on the City's website at: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2501>. Citizens are encouraged to review the draft ordinance and provide comment to the City Council at the March 1 public hearing. Please contact City Planner Owen Dennison at [dennison@snohomishWA.gov](mailto:dennison@snohomishWA.gov) with any questions on the proposed amendments.

## March 1 City Council Workshop to Review Sewer Rates for 2017-2019

The City Council will review the current state of its sewer treatment system and consider whether to implement a rate increase, maintain current rates or a rate reduction for sewer services as part of a March 1 workshop meeting.

The staff recommendation is that the Council consider setting rates for the next three-year period, which is 2017-2019.

The meeting, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Snohomish School District Resources and Services Center, 1601 Avenue D, will include updates from staff regarding the treatment plant's continued operational progress. The treatment plant achieved a 100 percent compliance with its required state permit standards in 2015.

While sewer rates have been frozen for the past three years, required multi-million dollar improvements to treatment operations had previously ruled out any reduction in sewer rates for Snohomish ratepayers. However, with major improvements now completed, the Council will consider rate options ranging from a 2 percent increase to a 10 percent reduction for the next three years.

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Operationally, sewer treatment is the City's most expensive system of community services. Over the next 10 years, the City is planning to invest approximately \$16 million in capital improvements to the wastewater system. Improvements in sewer treatment are required from time to time by the State Department of Ecology in order to protect and improve the aquatic environment of the Snohomish River and, ultimately, the Puget Sound.

Weighing the risks of potentially new, currently unknown, state treatment requirements and resulting capital improvement costs against the opportunity to minimize sewer service costs to residents will be key elements of the March 1 workshop discussion.

Staff is requesting that the City Council provide its desired direction for setting the 2017-2019 rates, which would be officially implemented by resolution sometime later this year.

## **March 1 Public Hearing to Consider Reduction of Days Permitted for Fireworks Discharge**

The City Council will hold a public hearing on March 1 to consider adoption of a new ordinance that would reduce the permitted days of fireworks discharge to just one day, on July 4, each year.

The regular City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Snohomish School District Resources and Services Center, 1601 Avenue D.

At its January 5, 2016, regular meeting the City Council discussed fireworks regulations and directed staff to develop an ordinance to revise Snohomish Municipal Code (SMC) to reduce days for permitted discharge of fireworks to July 4. The City's current regulations allow the discharge of fireworks from June 28 through July 4.

The public hearing is designed to take public testimony regarding proposed Ordinance 2304. The City Council also directed staff during the January 5 meeting to prepare a resolution for placing a complete ban before the voters as an advisory measure for the general election in November of this year. That resolution for an advisory ballot measure will not be part of the March 1 public hearing but could be brought forward at a later date this year for Council action.

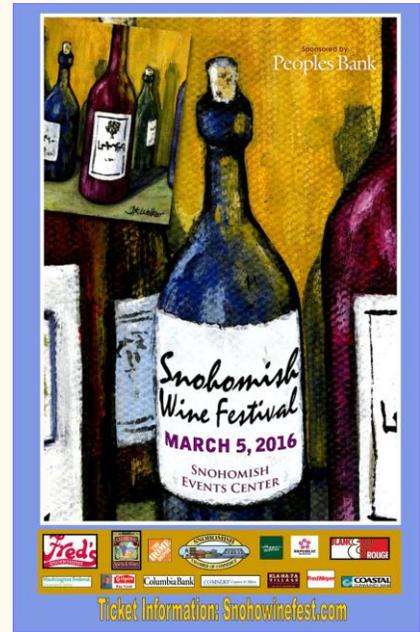
Although an advisory ballot measure would not have the force of law in order to revise City codes, the City Council has viewed this option as a means to provide voters a voice in this policy decision. The City's Public Safety Commission, the Chief of Fire District No. 4 and the City's Police Chief have all indicated their support for a complete ban on the sale and discharge of fireworks.

Regardless of future changes in fireworks codes, the enforcement of fireworks regulations will continue to be challenging. This is due to the number of individuals discharging fireworks across the community at roughly the same time compared to the relatively small number of police officers that can be deployed to respond to all 9-1-1 calls, many of which have greater urgency than fireworks complaints.

# Plan to Attend the Snohomish Wine Festival

The Snohomish Chamber of Commerce presents the 7th Annual Snohomish Wine Festival on March 5, 2016 at the Snohomish Event Center, 1011 Second Street. This wine lover's "must attend" will feature two sessions this year, attend from 1 - 4 p.m. or 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Both sessions are a special value this year, with tickets priced at \$30 each. A special *VIP Clients, Family and Friends* ticket package is available at \$125 for 5 tickets and the 6th ticket is free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at: [www.SnoHoWineFest.com](http://www.SnoHoWineFest.com).

This year's festival will showcase 24 Washington state wineries including 4 from Snohomish. Special vendors will include: A Bit of Wine Finery, Karen Hart Design, Woodinville Wine Country, Forte Chocolates, SnoTown Brewery and Vista Clara Coffee. Three local food trucks will be serving guests: J & L BBQ, Atsukis Food Truck, and Ixtapa Street Tacos Truck. All wineries and vendors are listed on the [www.SnoHoWineFest.com](http://www.SnoHoWineFest.com) website.



The 2016 Wine Festival presenting sponsor is Peoples Bank. Main sponsors are Blanc & Rouge, Fred's Rivertown Alehouse Restaurant, and Clearview Spirits and Wines. All who attend must be 21 or older and I.D. is mandatory at the door. All proceeds benefit the Snohomish Chamber of Commerce a 501(c)6 nonprofit.

## 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.

**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. Administrative Approval and Notice of Decision issued on February 4, 2016; revised Notice issued on February 8, 2016 (location corrected and appeal period adjusted): <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/950>.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, [eidem@snohomishWA.gov](mailto:eidem@snohomishWA.gov)

**Park Avenue North Short Plat** (four-lot short plat): 1915 Park Avenue  
File #22-15-SP

Complete application determination issued December 16, 2015. Notice of Application issued December 23, 2015. Application is currently in review.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, [eidem@snohomishWA.gov](mailto:eidem@snohomishWA.gov)

**Park Avenue South Short Plat** (three-lot short plat): 1909 Park Avenue  
File #23-15-SP

Complete application determination issued December 16, 2015. Notice of Application issued December 23, 2015. Application is currently in review.

More information: Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner, 360-282-3167, [eidem@snohomishWA.gov](mailto: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>