

## Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

March 15, 2016

### 6:00 Council Workshop

- Financial Management Policy Updates – Revenue

### 7:00 Regular Meeting

- [Presentation](#) of Historic Downtown Snohomish annual report
- [Public Hearing](#) to adopt 2016 Stormwater Management Plan – pass Resolution 1341
- [Action](#) 2015 Transportation Master Plan – adopt Ordinance 2307
- [Action](#) to amend traffic impact fees – adopt Ordinance 2290
- [Action](#) to update 2015 Comprehensive Plan – adopt Ordinance 2308
- [Discussion](#) regarding unnamed right-of-way vacation request

*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>

## Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application Deadline Approaching

The Comprehensive Plan is the guiding document for development and growth in the City. The Plan expresses a vision for the City, and identifies characteristics the community intends to retain, reinforce, and achieve as the City grows. Goals and policies are established within the Plan to realize the City's vision. The Comprehensive Plan is required by the State of Washington Growth Management Act, and, in most cases, may only be amended on an annual basis. These amendments can be changes to the text of the document or to the Land Use Designation Map. As the Land Use Designation Map serves a dual purpose as the City's Comprehensive Plan and the zoning map, a rezone can only be approved as a Comprehensive Plan amendment through the annual cycle.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2016 amendment cycle is approaching. **Applications submitted by March 31, 2016, will be considered by the City Council for inclusion in the current year's docket of potential amendments.** The City Council has broad authority to accept or reject an application for the docket. If accepted for the docket, the application will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, which will make a recommendation to the City Council. Final approval or denial is a legislative decision of the City Council.

Any individual, organization, business, or other group may propose an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment cycle is a public process. Both the Planning Commission and the City Council will hold public hearings on the proposed amendments, and will seek comment. Interested parties are encouraged to attend these public meetings and provide comment.

Applications may be submitted before the deadline to the Planning Department at City Hall. Application forms and submittal checklists are available on the City's website: <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/405/Land-Use-Forms>. All applications received for consideration in the 2016 docket will be posted on the City's website at <http://www.snohomishwa.gov/470/Comprehensive-Plan-Amendment-Application>.

March 11, 2016

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

# City of Snohomish Proposes Wastewater Rate Reduction in 2017

***Snohomish's average wastewater rates are currently lower than the City of Monroe and proposed 2017 rates would be lower than the Lake Stevens Sewer District***

A 10 percent sewer rate reduction is in store for Snohomish City ratepayers in 2017 according to direction receiving from the City Council on March 1.

The Council reviewed the current state of its wastewater treatment system and considered new rates for 2017-2019 as part of its March 1, 2016 workshop. Councilmembers weighed the risks of potentially new, currently unknown, state treatment requirements and resulting capital improvement costs against the opportunity to minimize sewer service costs and directed staff to develop a rate plan for a 10 percent reduction effective in January 2017.

Operationally, wastewater treatment is the City's most expensive system of community services. About one out of every four dollars of the City's annual operating expenses is for the wastewater utility. Over the next 10 years, the City is planning to invest approximately \$16 million in capital improvements to the wastewater system. Improvements in wastewater 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.

The City Council provided direction for setting the 2017-2019 rates, which would be officially implemented by resolution later this year. The proposed rates would include a 10% rate reduction in 2017, followed by 0% (zero) increase in both 2018 and 2019. For 2017, a 10% rate reduction would save the average single family home about \$18.71 every two months or \$112 per year (based on 1200 cubic feet average use, *FSC Group 2014 Rate Study*). Below are rate comparisons for 2017 with two of our neighboring jurisdictions if the 10% rate reduction for the City of Snohomish is approved:

2017 Bi-monthly Wastewater Rate <i>Average Family Use (12 CCF)</i>		2017 Bi-monthly Wastewater Rate <i>Low Use (4 CCF or ≈ 3000 gallons)</i>	
<b>Snohomish</b>	<b>\$168</b>	<b>Snohomish</b>	<b>\$126</b>
Lake Stevens	\$170	Lake Stevens	\$170
Monroe	\$189	Monroe	\$189

The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) had a perfect performance year in 2015 with zero exceedences of its state permit, which sets treatment standards. This is the first year of perfect performance for the City in more than 20 years. The State Department of Ecology's online records go back to 1995, the same year our City's current plant configuration was built.

Over a four year period (2006 to 2009), the WWTP had 109 permit exceedences. In contrast, over the last four years (2012 to 2015), since the City installed innovative submerged fixed film (or "Bacteria Hotels") in 2012, the WWTP had only 3 permit exceedences. The dramatic turnaround in treatment resulted from the installation of innovative fixed film technology, never before used in Washington State. The City is continuing to pursue other performance improvements to meet or exceed today's strict and demanding permit limits.

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Based on recent progress, the City Council in 2013 was able to cancel a state-required project that would have resulted in a 90% increase in wastewater rates. That cancelled state plan would have required the City to build a 5-mile long pipeline to send its wastewater to the City of Everett for treatment.

In early 2014, the City renegotiated a State Department of Ecology Agreed Order requiring the City to send its wastewater to Everett. Over the next year, the City met all the stringent conditions of an amended Agreed Order. This success allowed the City to continue treating its wastewater at the existing plant which was first constructed in 1958. As a result, the City is no longer required to send its wastewater to Everett.

As part of its long-range preliminary estimate, the City of Snohomish is currently projecting 0% (zero) increases in 2020, 2021 and 2022. However, this assumes that environmental regulatory changes impacting wastewater treatment in the next six years are minimal. Currently, the City of Snohomish's wastewater rates are lower than its neighbor, the City of Monroe to the east, and in 2017, per the proposed rate reduction, will be lower on average than the Lake Stevens Sewer District to the north.

Last year the City of Everett announced its wastewater rate outlook for the next decade calling for rates to continue to rise from 5.2 percent to 10.2 percent per year, with single family rates nearly doubling to an estimated \$110 per month (*\$220 Bi-monthly*) by 2024. Snohomish's neighbors to the south, including the unincorporated Cathcart neighborhood, Mill Creek and the South Everett area are served by the Silver Lake Water and Sewer District, which sends most of its wastewater to the City of Everett for treatment. Based on these preliminary projections, the City of Snohomish's wastewater rate in 2023 could be lower than the City of Everett's and also those areas served by the Silver Lake District.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Steve Schuller, Deputy City Manager/Public Works Director at 360-282-3194 or [schuller@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:schuller@snohomishwa.gov)

## Don't Forget to Send in Your Garbage & Recycling Survey



The second garbage & recycling survey was included in the utility billing statements for customers in the western part of Snohomish (Billing Cycle 1). The first garbage & 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 program. Please complete your 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 in Spring 2016.

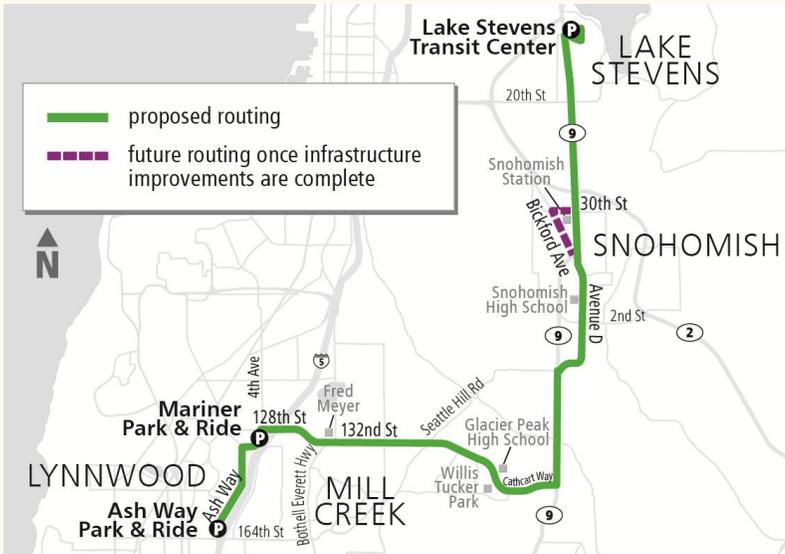
### 2016 Calendar:

**Council Workshop**  
Tuesday, March 15  
Special Meeting 6:00 pm  
George Gilbertson Boardroom  
1601 Avenue D

**City Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 15  
Regular Meeting 7:00 pm  
George Gilbertson Boardroom  
1601 Avenue D

<http://snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/03152016-583>  
<http://snohomishwa.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/03152016-582>

# Sales Tax Rate Rises to 9.1% on April 1



Last November voters in the Community Transit service area approved a .3% increase in the retail sales tax rate to fund additional transit services in their area. This increase will be implemented on April 1. Community Transit has announced that they will be adding an additional route this fall in the Snohomish area that will take riders from Snohomish to the Ash Way Park & Ride in Lynnwood. For more information on the increased services visit <http://www.communitytransit.org/newservice/>

## 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 or contact Brooke Eidem, Associate Planner at (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.

**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.

**Riverview South Preliminary Plat** (14-lot Planned Residential Development): 2210 Second Street  
File #05-16-PP  
Pending complete application determination  
Public comment period to follow complete application determination, under separate notice.  
More information: contact staff

**Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update**, File #10-15-SEPA  
Determination of Non-Significance issued February 29, 2016. Comment/appeal period for environmental (SEPA) threshold determination through March 15, 2016:  
<http://www.snohomishwa.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/957>.

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>