

## Upcoming City Council Agenda Items

June 21, 2016

6:00 p.m.  
Workshop

Discussion regarding Law Enforcement Contract

7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting:

Public Hearing to pass Resolution 1347 regarding water supply provider

Action to adopt Ordinance 2306 amending SMC Chapter 2.86 regarding Emergency Management

Action to adopt Ordinance 2311 approving amendments to Financial Management Policy

Action authorizing City Manager to execute a contract addendum for Open Government facilitation

Discussion regarding Snohomish Covenant Group LLC, Tenth Street vacation petition request

Discussion on new land use for community based theaters

Discussion regarding deferral of school, parks, and traffic impact fees

*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>*

## In this issue:

- **Upcoming Open Government Committee Meeting**
- **Water Main Flushing to Begin in July**

## Open Government Committee

Meeting 5 p.m., June 13  
At Snohomish Senior Center

The fifth meeting of the City's Open Government Committee will be held Monday, June 13. This meeting will include continued discussions about specific recommendations for improving two-way citizen communications and engagement. The agenda and materials for the meeting may be found at the link below:

<http://snohomishwa.gov/agendacenter>

Among the committee's key objectives for the June 13 meeting will be to review the working final draft of Committee Recommendations. The Committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the City Council this summer.

This group was created by the City Council to address the concerns of citizens who said they believed that City communications and engagement programs were insufficient to keep all citizens well informed about and involved in key local government decisions.

The objective of the selection process for the new committee was to achieve the broadest possible diversity of the committee members in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, geographic location, and background.

All meetings are held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Snohomish Senior Center, 506 Fourth Street in Snohomish. A facilitator conducts the meetings to ensure effective participation and achieve the group's goals. Time is provided at the end of each meeting for citizens not on the committee to offer their comments and suggestions for how the City may improve citizen communications and engagement.

## Water Main Flushing to Begin in July



*City staff Ryan, Jon and Michael flush the water main*

City of Snohomish Water Department personnel are flushing water mains in the southern portion of town. You may see them in your neighborhood during the day connecting hoses to fire hydrants and discharging water to a sewer manhole or stormwater catch basin. Maintenance and inspection of the fire hydrant is being conducted at the same time water is being flushed from the main through the hydrant. Water Department personnel are filling the hydrant oil reservoir, checking hydrant ports and caps, exercising the hydrant isolation valve, cleaning the hydrant by pressure washing, weed eating vegetation around the hydrant, and documenting hydrant information, condition, and operating water pressure.

Water Department personnel employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) when conducting water main flushing to ensure that stream and river water quality and habitat are not disturbed. Water is discharged to stormwater catch basins only when sewer manholes are not available to accept the discharge water. When water is discharged to stormwater catch basins it is dechlorinated, the energy is dissipated, the velocity is controlled, and the water is filtered through a filter sock that is installed inside the catch basin.

### **What is water main flushing?**

Water main flushing is the process of cleaning or “scouring” the interior of water distribution mains (pipes) by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. Distribution mains convey water to homes, businesses and hydrants in your neighborhood. In general, distribution mains are supplied with water by larger transmission lines, reservoirs, wells and/or pumping stations.

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## **Why does the City of Snohomish flush water mains?**

Flushing helps maintain water quality. The water entering distribution mains is of very high quality; however, water quality can deteriorate in distribution mains if the mains are not properly managed. This is why flushing is important. Flushing maintains water quality in several ways. **First, flushing removes sediments from the mains.** These sediments mostly include iron and manganese. Iron sediment results from corrosion of iron pipes and valves used in the distribution system. Other iron sediments result from the change of dissolved iron, which occurs naturally in our water, into sediment form. This occurs in the presence of chlorine and oxygen under certain low flow conditions. Dissolved manganese also occurs naturally in our water and it can be changed into sediments as with iron.

Although iron and manganese do not pose health concerns, they can degrade the “acceptability” of the water through affecting the taste, clarity, and color of the water. In addition, sediments can shield micro-organisms from the disinfecting power of chlorine. Therefore, such sediments could contribute to the growth of micro-organisms within distribution mains.

**Finally, flushing helps remove “stale” water.** Much of our distribution system is designed with “loops” or interconnected grids, which keep water constantly moving around. However, some areas have dead-ends where water moves slowly and sits for longer periods of time. Such dead-end mains need to be flushed to ensure the presence of fresh water with sufficient dissolved oxygen, disinfectant levels and an acceptable taste and smell.

## **What will I notice in my neighborhood?**

City of Snohomish water distribution crews will set up traffic control signs, and they will operate water valves and hydrants. The water flow will be measured and the chlorine in the water will be neutralized. During flushing you may notice a slight drop in water pressure and a cloudy appearance to the water (air bubbles). For a few minutes following flushing, sediment might get into your home’s plumbing. If this happens, please be patient and allow your **cold** water to run for a few minutes at full velocity. During this time, you should avoid using hot water to prevent sediment accumulation in your hot water tank. Sediment and air does not pose a health concern.

Remember that flushing is aimed at maintaining *long-term* water quality, but it could result in some *short-term* deterioration (in case all of the sediment is not removed). If you know about or see flushing operations in your neighborhood, you would be well advised to not use any water during the flushing period.

## **How often should water mains be flushed?**

The City of Snohomish’s goal is to systematically flush all distribution mains once every two years. Dead-end mains will be flushed more frequently, depending on several factors, including the number of customers served by the main.

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## **Where does the flushed water go?**

Depending on the location, the water may be handled via several different methods: 1) where available, flushed water can be released directly into a sanitary sewer where it flows to a wastewater treatment plant, 2) the water could be released onto surface streets that have storm drains connected to retention/detention facilities, 3) where available, the water could be discharged to wooded areas or open fields, 4) the water could be released to roadside ditches and/or storm drains that drain directly to local creeks or lakes, or 5) the City of Snohomish can flush directly into a water tanker truck if no other suitable methods of disposal are available.

Regardless of what method is used, the City of Snohomish is determined to dispose of the flushed water in a method that is environmentally sound.

## **How much water is used to flush mains?**

The amount of water used to flush a particular section of pipe depends on a lot of factors, such as water main size, system pressure, the amount of accumulated sediment in the main and the ability to safely dispose of the water. In general, the City of Snohomish tries to exchange the water in the main at least three times and at a high enough velocity to remove any accumulated sediment.

## **How does flushing fit in with water conservation goals?**

The City of Snohomish is dedicated to water conservation. Water is a limited resource that must be carefully managed to ensure adequate quantities for growing human and environmental needs, including salmon restoration. However, since flushing is critical to maintaining high-quality drinking water, an efficient flushing program is also essential. The flushing program is monitored to ensure that the least amount of water is used.

## **How can I get more information?**

If you have further questions, you may contact City of Snohomish Public Works Operations at (360) 568-7070 extension 237.

### **2016 Calendar:**

**Ad Hoc Open Government  
Committee Meeting**  
Monday, June 13 – 5:00 p.m.  
Snohomish Senior Center  
Great Hall  
506 Fourth Street

**Public Safety  
Commission Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 14  
Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.  
Fire District 4 Training Annex  
1525 Avenue D