



Aberdeen At Work

A newsletter for City Council, City Employees, Citizens and visitors to the City of Aberdeen, WA

Attention Landlords



The City of Aberdeen requires a business license if you have rental property within the city limits. Requirements can be found on the City's website at www.aberdeenwa.gov/finance-utilities/finance-department/. Please contact the Finance Department at 537-3225 or stop by during normal business hours to complete a business license application. There is a \$25 annual fee.

City Council Meetings

2nd and 4th Wednesday evening of each month on the third floor of City Hall at 200 E. Market Street. The "Committee of the Whole" meets at 7:15 p.m., followed by the regular session.

Council agenda packets can be found at www.aberdeenwa.gov/aberdeen-city-council/

Committee Meetings

Finance

First floor of City Hall,
Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. on
weeks when Council meets.

Public Safety

Third floor of City Hall,
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.. on
weeks when Council meets.

Public Works

Second floor of City Hall, at 4:00
p.m. Tuesday on weeks when
Council meets.

Find us at www.aberdeenwa.gov
and on Facebook as
City Government of
Aberdeen, Washington



Winter 2016

Come As You Are

Happy New Year

It's that time of year again where we look forward to the New Year and all of the new and exciting opportunities it brings us. I am honored to have been selected to lead the City into the New Year, and I am looking forward to working together with the City Council and city staff to serve the citizens of Aberdeen. I would also like to welcome our two new council members - Kathi Prieto and Dee Anne Shaw.

This year will be an exciting one for the City of Aberdeen as we focus on new projects and expanding the foundation that our community needs to grow and prosper. The city is currently working on several projects, the most important of which being the Timberworks project that was started this past December in collaboration with the City of Hoquiam. The Timberworks project has several parts to it and will reduce flood risks and improve the neighborhoods affected by flooding and flood insurance mandates. The project will focus not just on building the structures and utilities needed to protect our neighborhoods from flooding, but also on integrating it to provide community spaces, create recreational opportunities, and enhance fish



habitat. The project is expected to remove the majority of homes from the flood plain and is projected to significantly increase property values citywide. This project will be my top priority as much of Aberdeen's future depends on solving the flooding problem.

If you have any ideas for how the City can better serve its residents, please send me an e-mail at mayor@aberdeenwa.gov. City government belongs to the people, and I look forward to serving you for the next four years.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Erik Larson
Mayor

Did You Know?



- The cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, in partnership with Grays Harbor County, have been awarded \$250,000 in funding to master plan a flood/levee system that could potentially take most of the cities flat lands out of the flood plain. This master plan will take place in 2016.
- The Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department has received RCO (Washington state Recreation and Conservation Office) grants totaling \$958,000 since 1990?
- The City of Aberdeen's 2016 budget is available on line at www.aberdeenwa.gov/finance-utilities/finance-department/
- The City Council meeting agendas and meeting packets can be found online at www.aberdeenwa.gov/aberdeen-city-council/
- The City has taken in a building permit for the renovation of the Top Foods building. Tractor Supply Company is anticipating opening the store by second quarter 2016.
- The City of Aberdeen's Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and City Council awarded \$60,000 to projects to promote tourism in 2016.

Welcome New Employees

The Human Resources Department handles recruitments for the City. Each vacancy is considered on a case-by-case basis before determining whether it will be filled. Watch for job openings on the City's website at www.aberdeenwa.gov/human-resources.

The City welcomes the following new employees since October 1st:

Jackie Watkinson, Asst. Court Administrator
James Pfeiffer, Police Officer

Downtown Project Update

In the spring of 2014, the City of Aberdeen joined forces with the Bozeman Group to identify projects and ideas for downtown for the next 3 to 5 years.

Six projects were identified as a priority:

- 1) Reconnecting the City to its waterfront.
- 2) Working with the state and other agencies to moderate traffic impacts on downtown.
- 3) Creating a bold and impressive entrance to downtown.
- 4) Improving access and mobility for people and goods as it relates to the rail line.
- 5) Attracting a hotel, movie theater and additional living spaces downtown.
- 6) Celebrating Aberdeen's past by restoring some of our marquee buildings.

Here's a brief update on the progress:

- 1) The City has partnered with the Trust for Public Lands to acquire 6 acres of property along the Chehalis River for a future waterfront park. We anticipate that the Trust for Public Lands will finalize ownership in 2016.
- 2) Wishkah and Heron streets (Highway 101) have been restriped from 3 lanes to 2 lanes.

The 2 lanes of traffic were widened to allow for safer vehicle movement. The parking strips along these streets have also been widened to allow for easier ingress and egress for visitors to downtown.

- 3) The City of Aberdeen, in partnership with Greater Grays Harbor Inc. received a grant for \$50,000 from the Community Economic Revitalization Board to prepare a feasibility study for the Gateway Center. ECONorthwest was retained to prepare the study, which will be complete by the end of 2015. The City, in partnership with Greater Grays Harbor Inc. and Aberdeen Revitalization Movement received a grant through the Department of Commerce for \$970,000. This money will be used for property purchase for the Gateway Center.
- 5 & 6) In partnership with Craft 3, the City has applied to the Department of Commerce for a Community Development Block Grant, Economic Development, in the amount of \$3 million for the renovation of the Morck Hotel. We anticipate construction of the hotel to take place in 2016, with the opening in 2017.

Thank You for Your Service

A special thank you to:

Bill Simpson for 26+ years of service on the Aberdeen City Council and as Aberdeen Mayor.

Jerry Mills for 23+ years of service on the Aberdeen City Council.

Doug Paling for 15+ years of service on the Aberdeen City Council.

Karl Harris, Park and Recreation Director, retired after 40 years of service as an employee of the City.

Thank You