



CITY OF SILVERTON

AUTUMN 2021

Mayor's Corner

Another quarterly newsletter brings us another environmental challenge for our community, this time in the form of gradually increasing water curtailment due to drought conditions. See the City Manager's comments in this issue on the subject, but suffice it to say that



Mayor Kyle Palmer
503-932-8550
kpalmer@silverton.or.us

I couldn't be more proud of our citizens for rising to the occasion to reduce the demands on our local water supply! At this time, the curtailment restrictions have been lifted.

It's been a good summer for the return of some community favorites, such as the Silverton Art Festival, Homer Davenport Days, and the Silverton Strawberry Festival. We've allowed ourselves to get outdoors, experience some of the daily life we'd not seen in 18 months, and to do so safely at those venues.

We've also seen some very good weather for our restaurants to use outdoor dining to try and make up for lost revenue. We've had music downtown in the form of the Oregon Crafters Market, and the Palace Theater has been showing movies every night. On some days, it's seemed like most things were back to normal. Unfortunately, they are not.

Many citizens in Silverton are still fighting the challenges of post-COVID Syndrome, and many have felt the impact of the Delta Variant. I am as tired of masks and keeping an eye on where I stand as much as the next person, but this is a time to finally try to end this thing, but more importantly, a time to respect the rules. Restaurants, shops, and service providers need to stay open and in business, and that's easiest if their customers respect their wishes. Additionally, some people will continue to distance and wear masks well beyond whenever someone considers this over, and when that time comes, I hope everyone will respect those personal choices.

As of the time this was written, City Council meetings continue to be normally held in the Silverton High School Library, where the technology to bring meetings to you electronically via Zoom, SCAN-TV, or live streaming is simply better than from the Council Chambers. We had made plans to

Continued on page 4

City Committees: Get Involved!

To tap into the wealth of skills, experience, and interest within our community, the City Council and staff of the City of Silverton utilize several appointed boards, commissions, and committees to advise and make recommendations on a wide variety of issues that are crucial to Silverton's quality of life, growth and economy.

Public involvement in these appointed advisory bodies is an important and valued part of City government. They bring new ideas to the table and represent all of the diverse

segments of our community, giving the input needed to help the City Council make the best, most informed and inclusive decisions possible. If you would like to make a difference in the community, consider volunteering on a City commission or committee where there is a current opening. The committee volunteer application is on the city's website:

<https://www.silverton.or.us/FormCenter/Boards-and-Commissions-4/Committee-Volunteer-Application-43>

continued on page 2



Words on Water: How the process works

By Ron Chandler, City Manager

Thanks to all of you, residents and businesses alike, for conserving water during the past months. You have saved millions of gallons of water and reduced the City wide, daily water consumption by 36.5%.

Silverton gathers water from both the Abiqua and Silver Creeks. Water from Abiqua Creek is conveyed by gravity seven miles to the water treatment plant (WTP). The transmission pipeline has a flow capacity of 7.4 cubic feet per second (cfs) or approximately 55 gallons per second. Water from Silver Creek is conveyed to the WTP via two pumps in town. The capacity of the Silver Creek intake is 2.3 million gallons per day (MGD) when both pumps are running. Silverton normally pulls water from the Abiqua Creek except in times of water shortage when it will also pull water from Silver Creek. The City also owns and maintains the Silverton Reservoir which stores approximately 258 million gallons of water which can be gradually released into Silver Creek when needed.

Silverton's two water treatment facilities can process approximately 4 MGD. These facilities pump water into three storage tanks that have a total capacity of 4.5 million gallons. Water from the storage tanks flows through City's pipes to



your taps. Silverton has about 3,600 water connections. 68% are residential users, 26% are commercial/industrial users and about 6% are governmental, schools and churches.

All water in Oregon, with few exceptions, belongs to the State.

Water users must obtain a permit from the State Water Resources Department to use water. In water-short times, the water right holder with the oldest date of priority can demand the water specified in his or her water right without regard for the needs of junior users. Silverton has the right to use 15 cubic feet per second or 6,732 gallons per minute. These rights date back to 1911 and 1916.

Silverton uses approximately 22.1 percent of its combined total water rights averaged over the year.

Even though Silverton uses a small percentage of the water it has the right to use, when the streams are low, as they have been this summer, every gallon of water we save is available for other water users, such as farmers, along the Abiqua and Silver Creeks.

So thanks again to all of you for conserving water this summer. We encourage you to make water conservation an ongoing practice in your lives.

Skate Park Phase 2



A ground breaking ceremony was held on Sept. 11 at the site of the second phase of the Skate Park in memory of Jason Franz. Jason had a vision of building a second phase of the Silverton Skate Park that would be for younger or inexperienced skaters to have a space to learn. Jason's friends and family honored Jason at the ceremony by being the first to break the ground with shovels at the site.

Residential winter sewer averaging to begin

The City of Silverton residents can save on monthly sewer costs by conserving water during winter months, which is the billing cycle known as Winter Averaging.

Since the City does not have a way to account for the amount of wastewater you discharge, the City has come up with a fair way to charge for wastewater system use. The assumption for wastewater use is that during the winter billing months of November through April water usage is confined to inside your residence and goes down the drains to the wastewater sewer plant to be treated.

The sewer rate has two components: (1) Base Charge and (2) Usage Charge based on water consumption. Added together, they make up the total sewer charge that you see on your statement.

The sewer usage charge is determined by taking the average monthly water consumption (measured in cubic feet) for a six month period between November (beginning with the water meter reading in October) through April (ending with the meter reading taken in April) billing periods. Once that average is determined the usage portion of the sewer is bill \$7.51 per

100 cubic feet of usage (to compare water usage is billed \$3.36 per 100 cubic feet). It is also billed a base fee of \$27.13 per dwelling unit.

Unless there is a rate change which normally will occur in July, this is your fixed sewer rate until the following May when the average is recalculated. This means that the sewer portion of a customer's bill will not increase in the summer months due to irrigating, car washing and filling of swimming pools.

Residential customers have the option to "opt-out" of the averaging method and have the usage charge based on actual water consumption for each month all year long. To "opt-out" the customer must complete a form and submit it to the Finance Department by April 30. To opt back in you have until April 30 and must fill out the same form. If a customer would like to opt back in during the year you will need to wait until the following sewer averaging period. That form is located on the City's website at: www.silverton.or.us/utilities

To make sure your bill accurately reflects your usage, carefully review the water usage provided on the utility bills during the Winter Averaging

period. Current customers during this period will see current year and prior year information on their bills. If you think the usage is high, you may want to check for a leak which may affect your new sewer rate. Leaks can result in double or triple the overall average consumption used to calculate the new sewer rate.

How to check for a leak in your house:

- Make sure no water will be used for 30 to 60 minutes;
- Take a water meter reading;
- Wait 30 to 60 minutes without using water; and
- Take a second water meter reading.

If the meter reading changed, it could indicate there is a leak, and repairs may be in order. Notify the Finance Department as soon as possible regarding a potential leak as it may qualify for an adjustment to your utility bill. Toilet leaks, however, do not qualify for a billing adjustment. A leak adjustment request form can be found on the City's website: www.silverton.or.us/utilities

Questions regarding your water and sewer bill should be directed to the Finance Department at 503-873-5321 option #1 or finance@silverton.or.us.

Committees

continued from page 1

Here is a list of the city committees, boards and commissions and updates from their most recent meetings:

The **Budget Committee** meets annually to review and recommend the proposed City budget to the City Council. Appointed members must be 18 or older and qualified to vote within the City's election districts.

The **Historic Landmarks Commission** meets on an as needed basis. They identify, evaluate, and designate historic resources as landmarks.

Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

The Urban Renewal Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Urban Renewal Agency.

The Silverton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee recommended to City Council approval of a grant request in the amount of \$100,000 for building improvements at 215 N. Water Street to create a 996 square foot second story, and to enclose the canopy area on the first floor.

Urban Renewal Agency

The City Council serves as the Urban Renewal Agency Board.

The Urban Renewal Agency Board approved all grant requests during its September meeting. There are three vacancies on this committee, one representing a taxing district and two representing a business within the Urban Renewal District.

Environmental Management Committee

The Environmental Management Committee makes recommendations to the City Council on issues regarding recycling, solid waste management, environmental issues and other similar matters.

The Silverton Environmental Management Committee met on Sept. 15, 2021. Public comment included a discussion on creating a disc golf course at a Silverton park and where disc golf course baskets should be located; and discussion on polystyrene recycling by Sustainable Silverton the first Saturday of each

month at the Silverton Farmer's Market. The next EMC meeting is Oct. 20, 2021, via Zoom.

There are no volunteer vacancies on this committee.

Homeless/Housing Task Force

Several new bills became effective, granting money to organizations to help individuals experiencing homelessness and adjusting the guidelines for enforcement. The Homeless/Housing Task Force meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Affordable Housing Task Force

The most recent Affordable Housing Task Force meeting focused on recommending to City Council to direct staff to advertise to solicit services to update the City's System Development Charges (SDC) methodology for Single Family Homes to be based on square footage instead of charging the same fee for all single family homes regardless of size.

continued on page 4

City, Police Department welcome new staff, sergeants

Melissa Molek joined the City of Silverton as the City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager. She comes to the city with ten years as an Academic Librarian and five years as a Public Librarian. Melissa moved to Marion County from Southern California.

Traci Nichols joined the City of Silverton as the Public Works Coordinator. She comes to the city with 25 years of experience as a 911 dispatcher. Traci says, "I'm happy to serve in a new and different capacity in the city I love... and live in!"

Simone Stewart joined the City of Silverton as the HR Coordinator/Assistant to the City Manager. Simone comes to the city with 15 years in Marketing Technology and nine years in



Traci Nichols



Simone Stewart



Amy Lawrence



Mark Gaither



Todd Engstrom

Technology Services Operations Management. Simone moved to Silverton from Southern Oregon.

Amy Lawrence joined the Silverton Police Department as an Entry Level Police Officer. Officer Lawrence will graduate from the Basic Police Academy after completing 12 weeks of training there.

Sergeant **Mark Gaither** and Sergeant **Todd Engstrom** were sworn into service with the City of Silverton Police Department on Sept. 20, in a ceremony with friends, family and former co-workers present from the Portland Police Bureau. Sgt. Gaither comes to the city with 25 years of service as a Police Officer,

with his most recent 13 years with Portland Police Bureau.

Sgt. Todd Engstrom comes to the city with 27 years of service as a Police Officer with the Portland Police Bureau. Sgts. Gaither and Engstrom are local residents and are looking forward to serving Silvertonians and their community.

Public Works employees receive promotions

The City of Silverton Public Works Department dedicated employees received well-deserved promotions. Travis Sperle was promoted from Maintenance Division Supervisor to Public Works Director. Mike Dahlberg was promoted from Utility Worker III Lead to Maintenance Division Supervisor. Jacob Rush was promoted to Utility Worker III Lead from Utility Worker II. Sperle, Dahlberg and Rush have a combined 37 years of experience with the City of Silverton.



Silverton Stars in Films

Andrew Russell had planned to stage the musical *Stu for Silverton* in the city the weekend of Oct. 15-17, while making a documentary about it. According to the movie's producer, Dan Karslake, the project started as a documentary about performing the musical written about former Silverton Mayor, Stu Rasmussen, coming out as transgender.

During interviews for the film, which originally centered on Stu's journey, a theme emerged from both Stu and other Silvertonian's answers: that Silverton is a beloved city by all who live here, no matter their

political leanings or other beliefs. Silverton itself is the star of the film.

Directly on the heels of the documentarians, comes a feature film called *Half Sisters* directed by Portlander Devin Tau. The crew and cast will live in Silverton from Nov. 1-19. Tau estimates he will spend about \$50,000 on housing in Silverton for his crew of 20. During the shoot, Tau intends to stimulate Silverton's business economy during the November pre-holiday shopping lull by having the production's cast and crew eat, shop, and use only Silverton services during their stay.

Street Sweeper: 'Leaf It' to Us

It's Fall and that means the leaves are here, there and everywhere. But, not to worry – the City's new-and-improved street sweeper is being put in the game!

To ensure our city's streets can be swept to Silvertonians' satisfaction, please remember to put your garbage cans at the edge of your sidewalks and not in the street because the sweeper cannot maneuver around garbage cans and recycling bins. Republic expects to pick up cans from the sidewalks and not the streets.

And while we're talking about leaves... here's the Silverton City

Ordinance on keeping the yard debris in the yard (or in appropriate disposal bags):

12.28.050 Depositing earth or debris on streets or sidewalks.

No unauthorized person shall deposit any earth, gravel or debris upon any street or sidewalk. (Ord. 467 § 15(5), 1962)

To help you keep adherence with the ordinance, there are TWO upcoming leaf recycling events at the Silverton City Shops, at 830 McClaine St. on Saturday, Nov. 4 and Saturday, Dec. 13, between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

See our street sweeper route map available at silverton.or.us.

Silverton City Council



Mayor
Kyle Palmer
503-932-8550
kpalmer@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Elvi Cuellar Sutton
esutton@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jason Freilinger
503-874-4430
jfreilinger@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jess Miller
jmill@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Crystal Neideigh
cneideigh@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jim Sears
503-873-9357
jsears@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Dana Smith
503-873-4921
dsmith@silverton.or.us

Silverton City Hall

306 S. Water St. • 503-873-5321
Finance Director Kathleen Zaragoza
503-874-2203 • kzaragoza@silverton.or.us

Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu 503-874-2212
jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us

Public Works Director Travis Sperle
503-874-2210 • tsperle@silverton.or.us

Police Chief Jim Anglemier
503-874-2230 • janglemier@silverton.or.us



City Manager
Ron Chandler
503-874-2205
rchandler@silverton.or.us

City Calendar

November

Nov. 1 – **City Council Meeting** at SHS Library / Zoom 6 p.m. *

Nov. 9 – **Planning Commission Meeting** at SHS Library / Zoom 7 - 9 p.m. *

Nov. 11 – **City Hall Offices Closed for Veterans Day**

Nov. 15 – **City Council Work Session** on Zoom 6 - 10 p.m.

Nov. 17 – **Environmental Management Committee Meeting** 3 - 5 p.m.

Nov. 24 – **Homeless/Housing Task Force Meeting** on Zoom 6 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 25 & 26 – **City Hall Offices Closed for Thanksgiving**

December

Dec. 6 – **City Council Meeting** at SHS Library / Zoom 6 p.m. *

Dec. 14 – **Planning Commission Meeting at SHS Library / Zoom** 7 - 9 p.m. *

Dec. 15 – **Environmental Management Committee Meeting** 3 - 5 p.m.

Dec. 20 – **City Council Work Session** on Zoom 6 - 10 p.m.

Dec. 22 – **Homeless/Housing Task Force Meeting** 6 - 8 p.m.

Dec. 24 & 31 – **City Hall Offices Closed for Holidays**



Upcoming agenda items are subject to change and meetings are subject to rescheduling or cancellation. Please check the City's website for the latest information and remote participation options. Remember, you can sign up for City alerts direct to your email or phone – look for the red "Stay Connected" button on the homepage! If you do not have a home computer, please use the public computers at Silver Falls Library to access the City's website for meeting agendas and information.

* Denotes meetings on SCAN TV. Check the City's website for the agenda and Zoom links.

Mayor From page 1

return to having the Council in-person, but they were delayed again just as the Delta variant began to increase daily case numbers.

That said, regular monthly Council meetings are still open to the public in-person, and the City Manager and myself are present. Most committee meetings and Council work sessions remain via Zoom only. Regardless of when we do get back to full Council in-person meetings, we do plan to continue the use of Zoom to allow citizens the opportunity to participate remotely if they are still reluctant to attend.

Speaking of participation, we've recently filled some committee openings and there will be a new group of Committee seats available soon. Recent appointments have included seats on the Planning Commission, Budget Committee, and Environmental Management Committee. I want to offer my sincere thank you to the many citizens who've asked to be considered for these roles - for as long as I've been in this role, the number of qualified, exceptional candidates have always exceeded the open spots for most committees.

It's a painful process because we want to involve everyone in the decision-making process, and there just aren't enough options. When I was first appointed, one of my requirements was that every sitting committee member would have to re-apply and be considered alongside new applicants, if they desired additional terms (the age-old approach was to automatically reappoint a sitting committee member who wished to continue). I also signaled that I hoped to fill our committees with a balance of diverse opinions in order to provide you the best possible representation and decision making. These things helped reflect this Council's unified desire for more public engagement.

We still have a few open Committee seats that we want to fill, as well as many that will soon need to be filled. Open for applicants immediately are one seat on the City Budget Committee (must be a resident inside the City), and multiple seats on the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee which advises the Urban Renewal Agency on grants for businesses and use of URA funds for projects in the community (must represent a business within the Urban Renewal District).

These are all terrific ways to get involved and each committee is vital to the future of our city. Please see <http://silverton.or.us/109/Boards-Commissions> for information on the various Committees and Task Forces that help us reach the best decisions for Silverton.

As always, if you have any questions about City Council decisions, or issues facing our community, please feel free to contact me by email at kpalmer@silverton.or.us, or by phone or text at 503-932-8550.

Committees

continued from page 2

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force

The DEI Task Force provides feedback to the City Council on equity and inclusion in public processes, programs, and decision making including, but not limited to, auditing current services and policies, exploring City events, and providing input on City spaces and additional phases of the Civic Center project.

The most recent DEI Task Force meeting focused on discussing how Silverton Police Department could strengthen relationships with community members.

The DEI Task Force will next meet on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Tourism Promotion Committee

The Tourism Promotion Committee meets as needed, to review and provide recommendations to the City Council regarding grant applications promoting tourism in Silverton.

The decision was made to recommend to city council to distribute the grant funds as:

- \$6,500 to the Sidewalk Shindig
- \$2,500 to the North Marion Tourism Website
- \$2,000 to Silverton Mural Society

- \$1,500 to the Gordon House Traveling Exhibit for Public Libraries
- \$3,000 to the Silverton Christmas Market at Oregon Garden Resort

The City Council approved these recommendations at the Oct. 4, 2021 City Council meeting. The Council also approved to amend two committee positions currently designated as representatives from the hotel industry to be: one "member at large" position and one "representative from the short-term rental industry."

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets on a monthly basis. They recommend and make suggestions to the City Council and to all other public authorities concerning a multitude of issues which may include but are not limited to extending, parking, street locations, the establishment of setback lines, zone designations and other Land Use issues. Five of the seven members must reside inside the City limits and two members may reside within the City's Urban Growth Boundary.