

# 2023 Annual State of the City Report



## Mayor's Address

As one year comes to an end and another begins, I would like to say I hope everyone had a happy and blessed holiday season with friends and family.

I would like to thank the residents of Silverton for electing me to be Mayor of Silverton, and for electing a great new city council. Silverton now has four new City Councilors - Marie Traeger, April Newton, Eric Hammond, and Matt Gaitan.

This is going to be a very new council, but I already see we are going to be hitting the ground running. I have met with all the new councilors. They are highly intelligent and passionate people. It will also be an ideologically diverse council with a wealth of new ideas but tempered with a shared belief that Silverton is already a great unique community that needs to preserve that small city feel and attitude.

The first major task for the council is setting new goals for the next fiscal year: July 2023 – June 2024. We will be doing annual goal setting at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council work session. I know we will have a rich discussion on what goals we need to tackle for the next fiscal year. This needs to be done quickly so that city staff can start working on the budget. This will allow us to adopt new fiscal year annual goals in the regular meeting on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Members of the new council met with members of the outgoing council on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and had a very informative discussion regarding the many areas that need to be a top priority next year.

So, what is coming up next year?

The Civic Center as most of you know is under construction and is set to be completed in September 2023. This will create much-needed space for our Police Department. The Silverton Police Department has been in a very small inadequate place for many years, and this is long overdue. New space will be created for the Finance Department, Community Development, City Manager's office, Emergency Operations Center, Court, and City Council Chambers. More planning related to green spaces and enhancement to the south side of the property located next to the downtown have yet to be done. A public process for that will be coming.

The City of Silverton has been doing financial planning and saving for much-needed Water Infrastructure investments for the last 10 years. These are core infrastructure components that need to be updated and/or replaced. I would like to stress that even if we never built another house in Silverton all this work would still need to be done. These are needed improvements to serve the existing residents of Silverton. Now we are building all these things with increased capacity for growth. All the money for this increased capacity is eligible to come from new development System Development Charges (SDCs). The great news is we have a financial plan for this keeping the water rate increasing at current inflation rates without significantly large new increases.

The first major project of these updates is the Silver Creek water intake next to the pool and the enlarged waterlines running up the East Hill to the Water treatment plant. This will all be completed in 2023. For this coming fiscal year, we have an immediate needs project and planning for the future project. The immediate need is to replace the older half of the water treatment plant, which needs to be replaced as soon as we can afford to do it. The original plan was to do it this fiscal year, but the same crazy inflation that is impacting us all in our own household budgets has also impacted the city's ability to do it this year. I am determined to work with the council and staff to make it happen in this next fiscal year. Just so you understand the scope of this project bids this year came in at \$12 Million. Based on costs from the year before last we had budgeted \$9.5 Million. We need to close this gap.

Water systems are dependent on two core things. Having the actual water supply and having the ability to treat and transport that water to your home. While the previous project looked at water treatment functions, an ASR looks at the water supply. ASRs, Aquifer Storage Reserves, pump water into the underground aquifer during the rainy season and then pump it out during the dry season. Many cities in Oregon have had tremendous success with these systems. To do this testing is required to make sure we have an aquifer that can do this. It doesn't do any good to pump water into the ground if it will not be there when you need to pump it out 6 months later. There are other options Silverton can look at for water storage, but those are all significantly more expensive than an ASR. In the interest of keeping water rates down the ASR is our best option. The projected cost to do this study is \$300,000.

At the Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting Mayor Palmer reported that the group looking at forming a Parks and Rec. District has made no progress and he doesn't foresee it doing so for many years to come. The City of Silverton has not done a

Parks Master Plan for many years because the thought was a new Parks and Rec. district would do that. Since that is not happening anytime soon the city needs to update its Parks and Rec. masterplan. The city has over \$2 Million specifically set aside Parks capital projects. This money came from Parks SDCs that can only be used to fund master planning and to build the projects that master planning identifies. I will be recommending to the Council that City set a goal to do a Parks masterplan in the next fiscal year. This will lead to a large community-driven process to develop the new Parks Masterplan for the next 20 years. This will be an exciting time for those in the community that is passionate about parks, trails, pickleball, disc golf, and many other related items.

Last year the city did a housing needs analysis in the interest of meeting Silverton's housing needs and following Oregon land use requirements. One of the surprising things that came out of this study is that Silverton has more than enough land in the city limits for at least ten years. This gives the council a solid fact-based foundation to rule out any major annexations for at least the next five years. On the other hand, Silverton was found to be deficient in multi-family and affordable housing. For this reason, Silverton created the Affordable Housing Task Force to find ways to meet the legal requirement to address this deficiency. I chair this committee and we are determined to address this need while being fiscally responsible and protecting the unique nature and qualities of Silverton. This group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the council chambers. It is open to the public and public comments are welcome during the public comment section of the meeting. We would love to see you there.

Silverton has a beautiful downtown that I see as the core of our community. While we have more empty storefronts than I would like to have we have done significantly better than comparable communities in Oregon in surviving the last few years with Covid, Ice Storms, and Fires. I don't want our downtown to just survive, I want it to thrive! Silverton Urban Renewal Agency already has the financial resources to invest in the downtown. I think everyone is aware that we need to invest in traffic management, sidewalks, and lighting in the downtown. What is under the ground is what I am most concerned about. The Water lines and Sewer lines need to be updated or replaced in the not-too-distant future. The Downtown does not have a functional Stormwater system, which accelerates the deterioration of streets and other infrastructure systems. We have the funding to do this on one section of a street and now is the time to start planning to do this. I am thinking Main Street between Water and First, but that is still up for discussion. I will be recommending the council set a goal to do a design plan with public input in the next fiscal year. Like parks, I see this as a very intensive public input event.

You have probably noticed I am mentioning a lot about public input processes. The City of Silverton has a number of Citizen Committees that often have an opening. Right now, I have a stack of applications I am working through to fill some of these. We are going to have several openings coming up for the Environmental Management/Tree Committee. We will also have several openings coming for the new Transportation Committee. The council and I will not start on this until February or March, but you can start applying now. You can apply for these two committees, and you can apply for the others. The City Clerk keeps these applications on file in case an opening comes up. Just go to the city website and you will find the applications under Government/Boards and Commissions with the Application link at the bottom of the page.

I think it is time and very important that we return to regular in-person meetings in the city. I am going to recommend to the council that we return to holding meetings full-time at city council chambers and that we as a council set an expectation to the whole council will be there in person as much as possible. Don't worry; online access for the community will remain through Zoom meeting access. It is required by state statute now. I feel face-to-face meetings in person are vital for the democratic process, and we need to focus on doing as much of that as we can. The next City Council meeting will be a work session in the City Council Chambers at 421 S Water Street, Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 6:30 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 Pm in the same location. It is open to the public and public comments are welcome during the public comment section of the meeting. We would love to see you there. I am excited about the New Year and what it will bring for Silverton. I hope you are as well.

Jason Freilinger  
Mayor of Silverton  
jfreilinger@silvertton.or.us



# 2023 Silverton City Council



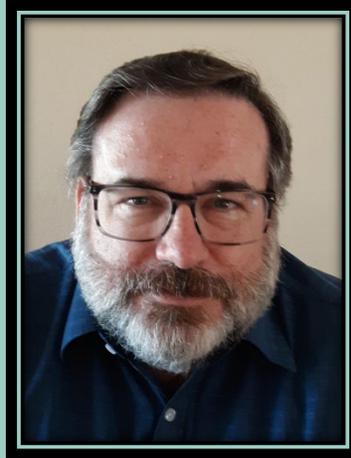
**Elvi Cuellar Sutton**

Council Member

[esutton@silverton.or.us](mailto:esutton@silverton.or.us)

*"The privilege of serving my native community and the ability to do so as a young Latina have given me an opportunity to be a voice for the next generation and for a geographical portion of our community that has not always been heard.*

*Preserving the traditions of our small town while helping to ease Silverton into the future has been a priority for me. My husband Tim and I are raising our two wonderful children Maverick and Annistyn here and I too want the Silverton for my family that our citizens do for theirs."*



**Jason Freilinger**

Mayor

[jfreilinger@silverton.or.us](mailto:jfreilinger@silverton.or.us)

"I grew up in Silverton, and my wife and I have raised our family here. I graduated from SUHS and Portland State. I have 30+ years of experience in Customer Service and Sales Management. My wife and I are the former owners of Oddfellows Games/Silverton RadioShack. I have served the Silverton City Council for ten years and was President of the Council for six of those years. I was elected Mayor of Silverton, in November 2022".



**Jess Miller**

Council Member

[jmiller@silverton.or.us](mailto:jmiller@silverton.or.us)

"My family and I came to Silverton as our forever-home several years ago after moving often with the military. As a healthcare professional in my "day-job," I have a passion for city design that facilitates public health and environmental stability. In my free time I enjoy exploring our region with my three wonderful children, cycling to local destinations, and stimulating conversations."



**Marie Traeger**

Council Member

[mtraeger@silverton.or.us](mailto:mtraeger@silverton.or.us)

*"Thank-you for allowing me to be a part of the decision making process for Silverton. My dedication to the position will be as strong as my dedication to my family and CrossFit".*



**Eric Hammond**

Council Member

[ehammond@silverton.or.us](mailto:ehammond@silverton.or.us)

*"I've lived in Oregon 20 years, Silverton seven, and work from here remote into China on reforestation for carbon credits, urban forestry and manage a 150 acre nursery there. I look forward to working for Silverton's citizens to ensure we're getting good value for our invested dollars. I'm particularly concerned about our future as foreshadowed by immediate problems such as the condition of the state highways through town, as just one of many examples".*



**April Newton**

Council Member

[anewton@silverton.or.us](mailto:anewton@silverton.or.us)

*"I was born and raised in Silverton, I moved back here in my 30s to raise my own family. Silverton has always been an important part of my life. Since I stepped away from my career with the US postal service to advance my education and increase my volunteer roles, this is the perfect time in my life to serve the town I love. I look forward to the next four years and the opportunity to work for all citizens of Silverton".*



**Matt Gaitan**

Council Member

[mngaitan@silverton.or.us](mailto:mngaitan@silverton.or.us)

*"I am the father of 2 kids, Cecilia & mario, and husband to Lara Ghio; Executive Director of Silverton's first English <-> Spanish bilingual pre-school, 'Los Solecitos' I am a First-generation Colombian that has in-depth business to business leadership, sales, and account management experience over the past 15 years. My goal is to help preserve the unique smallness of Silverton while fostering pragmatic plans to manage the inevitable growth Silverton is facing today and in the future.*



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

## Civic Center Update

- The construction phase of the Civic Center ends with substantial completion in September 2023.
- The Doug Fir Tree that was damaged during the 2020 ice storm has been removed and is being milled into the Silverton City Council Dais.
- The "Rain Chandelier is being created by local Silverton Artists Ann Altman, Dave Cotter, and Rob Wanker. The design concept selected was one that was by rain and is to be fabricated out of metal with hanging crystals that are drop shaped. The end result will be a custom designed and fabricated and will be a prominent feature in the entryway into City Hall.
- Former Eugene Field building materials to be milled and used as interior finishes. Such as an accent wall in the main lobby



'RAIN'  
stainless steel  
and crystals

## System Development Charge Methodology (SDC'S)

What are System Development Charges?

A system development charge (SDC) is a one-time fee imposed on new or some types of re-development at the time of development, to help pay for existing and planned infrastructure to serve the development. SDCs are one means of financing growth available to local governments. The city has been working on updating the System Development Charge Methodology. Some of the ideas we are working with include:

- Encourage more variety in housing as well as ways to make housing more affordable.
- Scaled System Development Charge Methodology based on dwelling size
- Theory that small homes have fewer occupants which then have lower impact on the water, sewer, transportation, storm sewer, and parks systems.
- The intent is to ascertain the correlation on home size vs. impact to create a revenue neutral SDC methodology that charges an average size home the current SDC, a smaller home less than the current SDC, and a larger home more than the current SDC



## What to Expect in 2023

- Economic Opportunity Analysis
  - Study the economic conditions in Silverton and create policy recommendations to achieve goals.
- Transit Expansion
  - Conduct a study to see how an increase in transit service would be best implemented
- Pettit Property Trail
  - Design and construct a trail around the lake on the Pettit Property



# Finance

## Five-Year Operating Levy for Swimming Pool Operations and Maintenance

The Silverton Pool Levy was approved by voters during the November 08, 2022 General Election. The result of the levy approval grants Silverton City Residents the continuance of \$275,000 annually for operations and improvements over the course of the next 5 years.



## Silverton Water Bills Get a New Look

- The Finance Department sends out an average of 2,985 paper bills each month and currently has approximately 799 paperless customers.
- Customers have options to pay bills such as: Xpress Bill Pay, City autopay, mail, drop box and in person.

City of Silverton  
306 S Water St  
Silverton, OR 97381  
Phone: (503) 873-5321  
Email: [finance@silverton.or.us](mailto:finance@silverton.or.us)  
Website: <http://silverton.or.us>

ACCOUNT NUMBER	1.00030.6
CUSTOMER NAME	Silverton, Joe
SERVICE LOCATION	306 S Water St
BILLING DATE	08/30/2022

WATER METER 12345678 MISO METER 1234567890

Reading Dates	Prev. Reading	Cur. Reading	Usage
07/16/2022 - 08/16/2022	85567	85460	3003

Previous Activity

Previous Balance	\$217.50
Payments	-\$217.50
Balance Forward	\$0.00

Current Charges

Water	\$148.00
Water Fixed User Fee	\$5.41
Sewer	\$78.50
Park Fee	\$3.78
Storm Water Fee	\$8.25
Street Maintenance Fee	\$10.41
Current Balance	\$252.61
Current Balance Due Date	09/14/2022

TOTAL BALANCE DUE \$252.61

Monthly notes will be here.

Please detach and return this portion with your payment.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	1.00030.6
CUSTOMER NAME	Silverton, Joe
SERVICE LOCATION	306 S WATER ST
BILLING DATE	08/30/2022
AMOUNT ENCLOSED	

Please check box if changes made on the reverse side  
Make checks payable to **City of Silverton**

CITY OF SILVERTON  
306 S WATER ST  
SILVERTON OR 97381-2135



To sign up for Xpress bill pay and/or to go paperless click [here](#)

# Autopay AVAILABLE SIGN UP TODAY

## Additional Statistics

- The City processed and mailed 776 Business License Renewals for 2023
- A total of 20 new business license issued in 2022
- The City Processed and mailed 5,150 accounts payable paper checks

## Silverton Urban Renewal Agency

- Total Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 is \$2.1 Million
- As of June 2022 \$6.6 million has been provided as grants and loans. So far those grants have assisted in paying for:
  - \$751,210.00 in Streetscape, Streets, and Curbs
  - \$863,070.00 for Rehabilitation and Conservation.
    - A grant assisting local businesses with building and façade improvements.
  - \$1,056,693.00 in Redevelopment through New Construction
  - \$1,603,549.00 for Parks and Open Spaces
  - \$2,401,575.00 for Public Building and Facilities

## The Silverton Municipal Court

The Silverton Municipal Court offered an amnesty program from September 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The Amnesty Program allowed people that have received moving violations an avenue to get their license reinstated by paying back ½ of the fines and fees incurred.

- ❖ 40 People took advantage of the program and has received paperwork to get their license reinstated.
- ❖ \$14,310.50 fines and fees have been collected.
- ❖ \$14,205.08 fines and fees have been waived.
- ❖ 73 dockets have been closed.



# Public Works



## By the Numbers

### *Maintenance Division*

- 95 water meters changed/installed
- 10 pothole patrols
- 2 miles of gravel street graded, twice
- 36 miles of roadway swept 22 times
- 50 banners hung downtown
- 19 sanitary sewer lateral replacements
- Over 1600 Utility Locates



### *Administration/Engineering*

- 161 Public Works permits issued
- 11 site plan reviews
- 132+ inspections

### *Water Quality Division*

- 447 Million Gallons of treated drinking water
- 483 Million Gallons of wastewater treated
- 77 Million Gallons of treated wastewater reused to irrigate The Oregon Garden
- Land applied 1 MGD Bio Solids
- 1.15M EDA Grant- Silver Creek Transmission Pipeline/Silverton Creek Intake



## *Completed Projects*

- South Water St. sidewalk installed from Johna Ln. to Fenne Ln.
- A new main storm line was installed from Rock St. to Jersey St. to collect storm water runoff.
- Jersey, Lewis, and 2<sup>nd</sup> ST. received asphalt overlays.
- New Roof on the control building at the Water Treatment Plant
- Sanitary Survey completed by Oregon Authority Surface Water Treatment Rule
- New Water Treatment Plant Design
- New water level Gauge was installed at Abiqua Creek.
- New Variable speed drives for the Oregon Garden treated effluent pumps, to control the frequency of electrical power supplied.
- Completed final design for the screw press project.

## *Projects continuing in 2023*

- Total Mass Daily Load (TMDL) required by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). New Storm water standards go into effect in 2023.
- Blower Replacement for Waste Water Plant
- The Skate Park Lighting to be completed in spring of 2023
- Working with Rotary to construct an All Ability Park located at Old Mill Park
- Second Street road Design is 30% complete



## Grants

1.5 Million dollars have been used for Silver Creek Transmission Pipeline/ Silver Creek Intake.





# Silverton Police Department

## Service Statistics

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022 (Thru Oct)</u>
Calls for Service	4357	3837	3972
Total Arrests	542	366	395
Total Citations	1233	997	2633



## Training

Each Silverton Police Officer receives an average of 70-100 hours of training annually. That is 3 times the amount required. Those trainings consist of:

- Use of Force (Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Confrontational Simulations).
- De-Escalation
- Ethics
- Racial Bias
- First Aid/CPR Airway & Circulation
- Case Law Updates
- Child Abuse Investigations



## Additional Information

- Silverton Police Department has been working on addressing areas in town that have received traffic complaints by posting officers to monitor traffic in those areas.
- The city has installed 5 speed reader units in high traffic areas in an effort to educate and remind drivers about their actual speeds.
- There have been many technological upgrades made to Police Vehicles such as updated computers and the ability to issue electronic citations.

