



SEQUIM NEWS

January 2007

City Council Transit Center	2 nd & 4 th Monday 6:00 p.m.
Park Advisory Board Transit Center	2 nd Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Transit Center	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Chamber Luncheon Dungeness Inn	2 nd & 4 th Tuesday 12:00 p.m.



Visit our website at www.ci.sequim.wa.us.

CITY OFFICES/SHOP CLOSED FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

City Offices will be **closed** for business on Monday, January 15, 2007. All City employees will be attending a day-long training session. If you have water or sewer problems after hours, weekends, or on holidays, call the City of Sequim Police Department at 360-683-7227 or in case of an emergency, call 911.

City Council Adopts \$24,903,033 Budget for 2007

While the number is 59% higher than last year's budget of \$15,644,095, the larger number for 2007 represents estimates for some large capital expenditures that may or may not be spent in 2007. Government accounting rules require the City to show as expenses whenever reserve balances are moved from one fund to another. Since the 2007 budget is taking reserve balances from the General Fund and the Utility operations funds and moving those dollars into new reserved funds for construction, the several millions of dollars that are just paper transfers from one fund to another swell the budget total to almost \$25 Million for 2007. It is like when you move money from your checking account to your savings account. That is not really an expense, but government rules require us to show it that way.

Highlights of the 2007 budget include more police officers to deal with the double-digit rise in crime over the past several years, a part-time attorney position on staff, completion of the east-end Olympic Discovery Trail, design work on a new City Hall and upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. While all the capital items may not be spent in 2007, the money is reserved for those purposes whenever they are ready to be constructed. Also included for 2007 are capital investments to improve Information Technology and a City-wide video security system covering City facilities, new police vehicles and Public Works vehicles, a traffic signal and lane alignment at 5th and Hendrickson, additional sidewalks on Fourth Avenue north of Washington, and other improvements to your City.

Finally, a modest 5% rate increase for water and sewer services was adopted to keep pace with the rapid inflation currently being experienced in the utility industry. The good news is that even with this increase our rates are lower than our neighbor to the west.

While this budget reflects the continued growth in Sequim, the highly trumpeted increases in sales tax revenue from the addition of Costco are not materializing in the quantity hoped. For that reason staff will exercise caution in hiring and spending practices for the first half of the year until revenue forecasts are matched up with actual receipts. If receipts fall short of estimates, revisions in the budget will be made to stay within our limited resources.

CITY OF SEQUIM
January 2007



Sequim Police Department

®

ARE YOU OK? PROGRAM
SIGN UP TODAY! 360-683-7227

If you, a loved one, or friend have frail health or a medical condition, you can sign up for the telephone reassurance system, "R-U-OK?" from the Sequim Police Department and the Sunrise Rotary of Sequim. You will select the days and times to receive your calls. If you do not answer, then a volunteer or police officer from the Sequim Police Department will be dispatched to verify that you are ok.

**SNOW REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS IS RESIDENT AND
BUSINESS-OWNER RESPONSIBILITY**

Winter gave us a quick visit in November dumping inches to feet of snow, depending upon where you live. The City reminds you that the Sequim Municipal Code indicates it is your responsibility to shovel your sidewalks within a timely manner. Safety is so important, and removing the snow early on helps eliminate ice until the temperatures rise. Please be prepared as winter approaches for more of that white stuff.

BUSINESS LICENSE FEES

At the end of 2005, City Council passed a resolution raising business license fees on January 1, 2006 to \$50 per year. If your business paid its license fee prior to January 1, 2006 you paid the prior rate of \$25. This year every business must pay the \$50 renewal rate. The fee for a new home business permit is \$50.

There have been some changes to the license fees for 2007. A new business application is \$75. If it is discovered that you are operating your business without a license, the penalty amount is \$150, as well as the new business license fee of \$75. The Business License Application link to the City's website is: http://www.ci.sequim.wa.us/clerk/businesslicense_application.pdf. All businesses must be licensed by February 15, 2007, or your license will be deemed delinquent. Delinquent fees for business licenses accrue at the rate of \$25 per month.

To apply for a new business license in person, visit the Planning Department, 615 N. Fifth Avenue.

SEQUIM HISTORY - 1932

New councilors, Dave Burrows, Thad Wagner and Frank Dawley, were administered the oath of office by Clerk Mary Brown. Mayor Govan re-appointed Vern Grant as Water Superintendent and Marshal, along with Mary Brown as Clerk.

The Council passed a Resolution condemning and ordering removal of the portion of the Greene House Hotel that burned.

J. L. Keeler, owner of Stone Service Station complained about a raise of \$1.00 in its water rates. The raise was due to having two public toilets (\$.50 per toilet). He also recommended Council hire only married men for city labor.