



CITY OF SILVERTON

WINTER 2018

Mayor's Corner

Tell Us What You Think

Happy New Year!

It's incredible to think that 2017 has already blown by, but the idea of 2018 inspires me to hope that it brings out the best from Silverton and for Silverton.

Many of you have heard that the Council is scheduled to consider an ordinance at our January meeting that would prohibit smoking and vaping in City Parks and a separate ordinance that would prohibit smoking and vaping in a (as of yet undefined) zone of our downtown.

In February, the Council will also consider ordinances that would prohibit the commercial use of retail plastic bags, and the commercial use of retail polystyrene. Throughout Silverton's many social media pages, these topics have resulted in lengthy and emotional responses from citizens on both sides, which makes this a great time to remind the community how legislation gets to this point, and what "consideration" really means.

Ideas can start any number of ways, including questions on community surveys, suggestions from citizens, suggestions from city committees, suggestions from city staff, and suggestions from members of the council directly.

What usually follows is a process of informal public discussion, staff research on our behalf, formal public input, and finally Council deliberation. It's a great example of exercising the democratic process that makes our country the envy of all the world.

In these specific cases, the four questions were asked in the community survey of 2016, and responses indicated adequate support to suggest committee exploration.

Our Environmental Management Committee examined these topics and



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City Tests New Technology to Keep Water Supply Safe and Clean

The City of Silverton has been supplying its residents with safe and quality drinking water for over 60 years. Over 11,000 water tests are completed over the course of a year to make sure the drinking water reaching our customers exceeds all standards of purity. The water system is comprised of:

- Two water treatment plants with a combined treatment capacity of 5.5 million gallons per day. (The first plant was built in 1957 and as service demands increased, a second plant was built in 1983.)
- Three booster pump stations
- Silverton reservoir – water supply storage
- Abiqua diversion dam and supply pipeline
- 30 miles of water distribution lines
- Three treated water storage tanks totaling 4.5 million gallons

The Abiqua Creek supply is the main source of drinking water. Silver Creek is the secondary source of water supply. A third resource is the

water stored in Silverton Reservoir, which can account for up to 1,300 acre feet (423,000,000 gallons) of water.

The 2016 Silverton Water Treatment Plant Facility Plan included an assessment of the water system and determined that the oldest plant was in need of an immediate replacement due to deteriorating infrastructure.

Public Works staff continues to pursue all available funding opportunities for the extensive list of projects identified in the 2016 Plan. To view the Water Treatment Plant Facility Plan, visit <https://www.silverton.or.us/documentcenter/view/3750>

Staff conducted research on several new technologies, one of which is known as a "package plant".

These systems are self-contained, significantly smaller in size and utilize the latest in potable water treatment technology.

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Silverton Voters Approve Gas Tax, Extension of Five-Year Pool Levy

The City Council would like to thank the Silverton voters for approving the two measures presented for consideration at a Special Election held on Nov. 7, 2017.

"We are very grateful, and appreciate all the support we received from the citizens of Silverton."

Measure 24-422 – Authorize \$0.02 per gallon motor vehicle fuel business license tax. The designated "fuels tax" authorizes a \$.02 per gallon motor vehicle fuel business license tax. This will be a key funding resource in the coming years to assist the City in addressing its aging street network.

The expenditures are limited to costs associated with the construction, maintenance and preservation of the City's highways, streets,



and roads. Projects that could be funded by this measure would include larger scale Capital Improvement Projects such as the McClaine Street Improvement Project.

Measure 24-424 – Five-year Operating Levy for Swimming Pool Operations and Maintenance. This extension allows the City to operate and maintain a year-round community pool facility.

Key improvement items that will be funded through this levy include the replacement of the existing removable cover, replacement of HVAC equipment, geotechnical investigation and design of a creek bank stabilization system adjacent to the pool facility and related operational and maintenance costs associated with operating a year round pool facility.

For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 503-873-8679.

City Welcomes New Police Officer

Silverton's newest police officer is Charles Carlin.

Officer Carlin began work with the City of Silverton Police Department on Nov. 14, 2017.

He is currently in field training and riding with another officer. In January Officer Carlin will be attending the 16 week DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standard Training) Academy Training in Salem.

Officer Carlin has a Bachelor's Degree from Oregon State University. He currently serves in the Oregon National Guard in the Infantry as a Squad Leader. He has completed deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Prior to working in Silverton, Officer Carlin worked as a Corrections Deputy for Marion County Sheriff's Office. Officer Carlin has additional experience working for Benton County Sheriff's Office where he was a Reserve Deputy Sheriff and worked Marine Patrol. We are glad to have Officer Carlin as part of our team and feel he will be a great fit for Silverton!



Officer Charles Carlin

City of Silverton Prohibits Intentional Feeding of Deer

The City of Silverton adopted Ordinance No. 17-13 on Nov. 6, 2017, prohibiting the intentional feeding of deer.

- A person commits an offense if the person intentionally feeds deer or makes food available for consumption by deer on private or public property within the limits of the city.

- A person shall be presumed to have intentionally fed deer, or made food available for consumption by deer, if the person places food, or causes food to be placed, on the ground outdoors or on any outdoor platform that stands fewer than five feet above the ground.

- The Definition of "Food" means corn, fruit, oats, hay, wheat, alfalfa, salt blocks, grain, vegetables and commercially sold wildlife feed, birdseed or livestock feed, but excludes shrubs, live crops, plants, flowers, vegetation, gardens, trees and fruit or nuts that have fallen on the ground from trees.

- There are exemptions for animal control, veterinarians, peace officers, City employees, federal or state wildlife officials.

Supplemental Feeding Can Harm Deer

- Artificial feeding congregates deer into unnaturally high densities which leads to the easier spread of disease, parasites and easier take by predators such as cougars.

- Artificially increases birth rates resulting in even higher populations.

- Causes over-browsing of local vegetation

and ornamental plants.

- Increases the number of deer-vehicle collisions.
- Lowers the instinctive fear that deer have towards humans and domestic animals.
- Increases the number of negative deer/human and deer/per confrontations.

How To Report A Violation

Let's work together to share this information with your neighbors. They may not be aware of this ordinance or that supplemental feeding causes harm to deer. If someone continues to feed deer, the Community Service Officer is responsible for administering and enforcing the ordinance.

To report a deer feeding complaint, call the CSO at 503-874-2214, or email sfarris@silverton.or.us. You may also contact the Police Department at 503-873-5326 to file a complaint.

Important Tips To Remember

- Don't feed or make food available to deer.
- Educate yourself about the negative impacts of supplemental feeding.
- Deer will not starve if supplemental feeding is withdrawn or unavailable.
- Communicate with your neighbors that feeding deer is illegal and could cause harm.
- Landscape your yard with plants that deer do not prefer to eat.

Winter Averaging In Progress for Sewer

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

Winter Averaging takes the average water usage for November billing cycle through the April 2018 billing cycle to determine the usage. This average usage is used in calculating the new sewer charge for the next twelve months beginning May 2018.

During the Winter Averaging period, review the water usage provided on your utility bill to compare current year and prior year usage. If you think the usage is high, you may want to check for a leak, since the additional usage 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 45 minutes;
- Take a meter reading;
- Wait 30 to 45 minutes with no water usage; and
- Take a second 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 to review if an adjustment is required. Toilet leaks and leaky valves do not qualify for a billing adjustment.

For customers who do not have a full five months of water usage during the Winter Averaging period, the sewer charge is based on actual water usage up to a maximum usage determined on an annual basis using the Winter Averaging billing cycles.

For questions regarding Winter Averaging or your water and sewer utility bill contact the Finance Department at 503-873-5321.

Silverton Prepares for 2018 Budget Process

In January 2018, the City of Silverton will begin the process for preparing the 2018-2019 Fiscal Budget. Departments will submit their budget for review and approval to the City Manager, who serves as the Budget Officer. The Budget Committee will deliberate the budget in a series of meetings starting in May that include detailed briefings for each fund and department.



for May 15, 2018 in Council Chambers. Citizen involvement in the budget process during these meetings is welcome. City Council will conduct a public hearing for both the tax rate and the overall budget to receive input in the process prior to adoption. This hearing is scheduled for June 18, 2018 in Council Chambers. To view the current 2017-2018 Budget Calendar visit

The Budget Committee is com-

prised of both City Councilors and an equal number of Silverton

residents. The first Budget Committee meeting is planned

www.silverton.or.us/393/budget.

Make Your Winter Driving Experiences Safe

Oregon's beautiful scenery is a year-round source of enjoyment. Driving in Oregon's winters, however, can be challenging. Follow these recommendations so you arrive safely at your destination. Please drive safely.



Trees & Wind

If a tree falls into a street and is impeding traffic or if a power line is involved, immediately dial 911.

The Silverton Public Works Department will be notified of non-emergent situations and assess and remove debris as warranted.



Snow & Ice

The Public Works Maintenance Division responds to snow events depending on the intensity and duration of the storm. The City uses magnesium chloride, a natural element, as a deicing agent. This product is also used by Marion County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

A Deicing Route Map is available on the City's website for reference only and is not a guarantee that a street will be plowed, sanded or deiced.

No two storms are the same so crews must adjust operations accordingly, and the City reserves the right to close certain streets in the event that they become a safety concern.

Driving Tips

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up



Standing Water on Roads

Rainstorm events can be caused by heavy rain, rapid snowmelt, or other factors.

You can report flooding in Silverton streets to the Public Works Department 503-873-6359.

Visit the City's website for up to date sand-bag station information.



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Mayor From page 1

recommended that the council continue the process into one or more work sessions during which potential details could be debated. All of these topics were discussed in multiple work sessions over the past four months, which led to their being placed on the January and February agendas for formal public input and a vote.

Now it's your turn.

Public involvement is the foundation on which open and transparent legislation is built, and we want to hear how you feel about these (and all) issues.

I've been told by some citizens that testifying before the council is intimidating and scary, but I assure you that we appreciate and rely on it (alternatively, you can always send written testimony to lfigueroa@silverton.or.us). We're just seven of your neighbors that – like you – want what's best for our community.

These issues, like all others that come before us, are not decided in "advance" or in some back room. They can only be decided in public and after you have an opportunity to weigh in. It's a right and responsibility that we are fortunate to have in this country.

Finally, I'd like to thank the voters of this city for your careful consideration, and approval, of the local 2 cent fuel tax measure, and for renewing the 5 year Pool Levy.

The fuel tax will help us continue making progress in the responsible maintenance, construction, and preservation of our roadways, and the Pool Levy will allow our citizens to continue use of the facility that provides exercise, recreation, rehabilitation, and competition. The overwhelming support is deeply appreciated by many.

Have a safe and Happy New Year and please come see us at our monthly meetings!

Pilot Program Tests New Treatment System

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They are based on a pre-fabrication construction technique designed to deliver a treatment process without concrete pour-in-place basins.

Public Works staff visited several municipalities currently operating these package plants, and negotiated with the suppliers an onsite "pilot program" to test the system and assess whether it would meet the City's long-term water treatment needs.

The pilot program has been operating for over a month and is currently producing a finished water product that exceeds the City's high quality drinking water produced from our main plant.

The City is excited about this new water treatment system



An example of the package plant being tested.

and the variety of long-term benefits it would bring to our residents, businesses and visitors.

Following an extensive evaluation, a formal recommendation will be made to the Council for consideration.

City Offers Online Bill Payment

Did you know the City of Silverton offers convenient and secure online bill payment, not just for utility bills, but for many other services? Once you click on the "Make a Payment" button, you are able to pay:

- Utility Deposit and Payments – set up water/sewer service and pay monthly usage fee
- Parking Fines
- Invoice Payments
- Business License Renewals
- Court Payments – tickets issued on a uniform traffic citation
- Improvement District Payments - City loans and



property assessments

The process is simple. First you will need to establish a secure user account by clicking on the "Xpress Bill Pay" logo, or register at www.xpressbillpay.com.

Convenient online bill pay allows you to make a payment anytime of the day or night and any day of the week. Especially with the cold weather we are now experiencing you won't even have to leave your warm cozy home. It's fast, easy and convenient. Check it out today!

For more information or assistance in setting up an account, contact the Finance Department at 503-873-5321.

City Calendar

*Meetings are held in the Silverton City Council Chambers 421 S. Water St. unless otherwise noted. * Denotes meetings available on SCAN TV*

JANUARY

Jan. 1 – City Hall Closed
for New Year's Day

Jan. 8 – City Council 7 pm*

Jan. 9 – Planning

Commission 7 pm*

Jan. 15 – City Hall Closed

for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 16 – Environmental
Committee 3 pm

Jan. 22 – City Council 6 pm*
for Work Session

FEBRUARY

Feb. 5 – City Council – 7 pm*

Feb. 13 – Planning

Commission 7 pm *

Feb. 19 – City Hall Closed

for Presidents' Day

Feb. 26 – City Council 6 pm*
for Work Session

MARCH

March 5 – City Council 7 pm*

March 13 – Planning

Commission 7 pm*

March 19 –

City Council

6 pm*

for Work

Session*

