



SEPTEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

- 09/05/23: Business Meeting
- 09/11/23: Workshop Meeting
- 09/18/23: Special Session Business Meeting
- 09/25/23: Special Session Business Meeting

Meetings are subject to change.

Please view our website calendar for an up-to-date meeting schedule:

www.cityofpt.us/calendar

Consider applying to be on a City Advisory Board or Commission.

Visit our website for descriptions, applications, and meeting schedules:

www.cityofpt.us

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at: (360) 379-5083.

The following Boards and Commissions have current and upcoming vacancies:

- Climate Action Committee
- Library Advisory Board
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- Fort Worden PDA

**CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND 250
MADISON STREET
(360) 385-3000
WWW.CITYOFPT.US
MONDAY - THURSDAY 8AM - 4PM**

A NOTE FROM MAYOR DAVID FABER

I'm back! Thank you so much to Monica, Amy, Ben, Aislinn, Owen, and Libby for guest-writing the monthly mayor's column the last six months. I enjoy writing this column very much, but I hope guest columns by each of the council members will remain a regular feature. And not only am I back, but I'm also now a dad! The one downside to having my colleagues write this column over the last six months—instead of the six months starting now—is that my responsibility to write to you has resumed before my daughter Mira is even one month old!

Mira Ehrhart Faber was born on Saturday, July 29. My wife Laura (Wester) Faber and I are overjoyed to be raising our daughter in the same community that raised us, and to hopefully give her a loving, engaging, creative, and caring childhood reminiscent of what we both had here in

Port Townsend. I'm already something of an insufferable dad, taking every opportunity to show Mira off and to talk about her, and I'm already thinking about how the things we do on council will impact her life.

While Mira's birth has certainly refined my focus on her particular future and what this community will mean to her growing up, I think I've always been somewhat "future-centric" in my way of thinking about policy decisions throughout these eight years I've served on the Port Townsend City Council. This is certainly not at all to suggest that I do not have deep regard for our history. Far from it: to ignore history is to doom oneself (or one's civilization) to repeat the mistakes of the past, and there are many, many things from our history that are innately good, deserving of preservation, and/or likely essential to building the best possible future for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

To me, the essential questions when considering policies of possible change are, "Which parts of our history demand saving and which parts drag on the success and well-being of future generations? Which parts should be reinforced? Which parts should we allow to change organically? Which parts should we intentionally (and even immediately) set aside?" These are really tough questions, questions that cut to the core of the who and what we—the people and culture of Port Townsend—are, and questions that have different answers to different people.

For both my wife and me, Port Townsend was a special place to grow up, and I want it to be a special place for our daughter, too. One of the hard things to wrestle with is that while sometimes preserving unique qualities that we enjoyed may give our children exactly what they need, that impulse to stop things from changing can just as easily hamper the efforts of future generations to build for themselves what they may need, or indeed harm them in ways we cannot imagine. A community is only as good as its ability to serve the needs of its people, and wisdom (and I readily admit my own failings in this regard) is in figuring out how to facilitate our community finding its way to such a beneficial future in the most creative and positive way possible.

TRASH COLLECTION RATE INCREASE

Olympic Disposal trash collection rates for City of Port Townsend customers will increase starting Monday, September 4. The increase will offset new tipping rates at the Jefferson County Transfer Station, owned and operated by Jefferson County Public Works. The rate increase includes the new tipping fee and an adjustment for annual rate increases. The next annual rate increase will occur in January 2024.

The most popular service level, a 35-gallon bin every other week, will see an increase from \$25.78 per month to \$26.53 per month.

Learn more and find the most current rate sheet at:
www.cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/trash-collectionrecycling



A NOTE FROM CITY MANAGER JOHN MAURO

Summer is in full swing and you can probably tell with all the activity in town. The City team plays a big support role in events like Soundcheck, THING, and the Wooden Boat Festival. Please be sure to thank the Police Officers, street crew, facilities team, and others you may see among the festivities, working to ensure our big gatherings are safe and accessible. Of course, the City team also keeps water and library books flowing, new pavement and permits rolling, and parks and facilities glowing. Please pass along a smile and appreciation when you can.

I know from my daily experience that the City team works hard and that they care. They've helped build this community and continue to maintain and improve it for the future. Recruiting and retaining talented staff has been challenging these past years (and not just in PT), but we continue to make progress. Recently onboarding a talented new People & Performance (HR) Director, Cynthia Shaffer, certainly helps with that. I'd like to celebrate the arrival of all new staff and two recent staff promotions and introduce them to you so you can welcome them to their new roles:



- Helena Smith – Long Range Planner (April)
- Zane Berteig – Police Officer (April)
- Lisa Titterness – Parks Maintenance Worker (April)
- Amber Warren – Permit Tech (May)
- Patty Gallardo – Payroll & Benefits Administrator (May)
- Jessica Winsheimer – Public Experience Liaison (May)
- Shelly Leavens – Communications & Marketing Manager (May)
- Matt Logue – promotion to Building Official (May)
- Christian Bautista – Police Officer (June)
- Cynthia Shaffer – Director of People & Performance (July)
- Tyler Johnson – promotion to Project Manager II (July)
- Jeff Thaxton – Deputy Police Chief (July)
- Kamal Sharif – promotion to Sergeant (July)
- Andre Harper – Project Manager II (August)
- Wayne Register – Building Inspector (August)



New and promoted City of Port Townsend staff

If you're passionate about public service and want to join a fun, collaborative, and high-performing team, have a look at our open positions at: <https://cityofpt.applicantpool.com/jobs>.

Beyond the city staff, I think of our entire community as a team. We need to work together through tough challenges to make the best of incredible opportunities, and to steward our unique community toward the future we want. We need each other. As I wrote in the PT Leader last month, I'm grateful for those of you who embrace community team building – and are curious, actively listen, openly share, and carry a community-minded spirit. You can read the piece here:

<https://www.ptleader.com/stories/city-calls-for-unbolted-input,127948>.

Each time I've hosted my monthly community coffee event, I've been inspired by the group – a different group each time – people who model exactly that. Thank you. You're awesome and I look forward to the next one.

Finally, take note of the change in venue. The first Friday of each month and the following few, we'll be sharing coffee and conversation at Marina Café in Boat Haven (2800 Washington Street) from 9 - 10:30 a.m. I hope to see you there!

HOW AND WHERE TO BUILD A FENCE IN PORT TOWNSEND

You may have heard the saying, "good fences make good neighbors" but have you heard, "good fences follow city code?" To help residents understand fence code requirements, city staff recently published a new four-page fence handout.

Did you know:

- Fences must be built on private property. Only temporary fences are allowed in the public right-of-way (example: to protect newly planted trees).
- Fences that exceed 7 feet in height require a building permit.
- Fences not adjacent to public rights-of-way can be up to 8 feet solid in height.
- Fences adjacent to public rights-of-way can be up to 4 feet solid, and any portion of the fence above 4 feet is subject to openness design requirements (for a maximum height of 8 feet).
- There are specific requirements for fences on top of retaining walls or when the grade of the property is altered.

Want to learn more? View the new fence handout with detailed illustrations at:

https://cityofpt.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning_and_community_development/page/8190/information-fence_handout_faq.pdf

PUBLIC WORKS - DISCOVERY ROAD BIKEWAY, ROADWAY AND SIDEWALK PROJECT

City staff is excited to announce the Discovery Road construction start-up is coming soon! This project will build a bikeway, sidewalks and a newly paved street along Discovery Road between the Rainier Street roundabout and Salish Coast Elementary School. There will be new street lights and enhanced pedestrian crossings installed as well. The Discovery Road Project has been a community dream for at least twenty years, with the first project grant funding received in 2018. A project of this scale requires many years of planning and a combination of federal, state, and local dollars, all of which are identified specifically for this project.

Seton Construction, Inc., located at 4640 South Discovery Road, Port Townsend, WA 98368, was awarded the contract, and they plan to begin construction on or around Monday, October 9, 2023. The project will take approximately seven months to complete, which means it will likely be finished in late spring of 2024.

You are encouraged to keep up to date about the Discovery Road Project through the City website, email updates, utility newsletters, and social media.

- If you would like to receive email updates, please sign up at: <https://cityofpt.us/newsletter/subscriptions>.
- Project background information can be found on the City's website at: <https://cityofpt.us/publicworks/project/discovery-road-bikeway-and-sidewalk-project>.
- If you have questions about the project, please contact the City's Discovery Road Project Manager: Laura Parsons, P.E. at lp Parsons@cityofpt.us or 360-774-3017.



PUBLIC WORKS - GENERAL SEWER PLAN

On Monday, August 14, City Council was presented with an overview of the condition of our community's sanitary sewer system in preparation for updating the City's General Sewer Plan. Dating back to the early start of cities in this country and around the world, one of the primary purposes of city government is for the health and safety of residents. Addressing sewage has been a focal point for our city from the day of incorporation, and public health around sewers has evolved significantly over the past 100 years.

The Clean Water Act of 1972, issued forth a new focus on sanitary sewers in creating requirements for wastewater treatment before discharging to public water bodies. This Act was a huge advancement in environmental protection of Puget Sound. Prior to these regulations, many cities discharged either raw sewage or partially-treated sewage directly into Puget Sound, rivers, and lakes.

In 1993, the City commissioned a new wastewater treatment plant as shown below. This plant has been running continuously for 30 years and is starting to show its age. In addition, new regulations concerning the removal of nutrients will require upgrades to this plant. Finally, most of the City's 80 miles of sewer pipe is well over 50 years old and in need of rehabilitation.

The General Sewer Plan provides the basis and schedule for maintenance and investment in our sewer system. Given that the sewer utility is an enterprise fund, sewer rates must pay for the successful operation of the sewer utility to serve the community's public health and to protect the natural environment from contamination associated with untreated sewage. This critical investment in our public health is shared by everyone who uses the system. Given the extensive costs forthcoming to the utility, the Council will be considering rate increases later this year. For more information, see the City's EngagePT website at:

<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/general-sewer-plan>.



PORT TOWNSEND LIBRARY - SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

From borrowing books, eBooks, and Discovery passes to getting homework help, learning new skills, or star gazing with a telescope, a library card helps you do more of what you enjoy. Get a library card and dive into a new hobby. Use your library card to checkout a craft kit to spark your creativity. A library card is your passport to the world and universe - really - and everyone should have one! Did you know your library card works at all the public libraries and public schools in Jefferson County? Sign up for your library card today!



Andre Harper, City Project Manager and Library Card Holder

CLEO Cooperative Libraries of the Eastern Olympics

Jefferson County Library Port Townsend Public Library
360-385-6544 360-385-3181
www.jclibrary.info www.ptpubliclibrary.org

H.W. McCurdy Library - Brinnon, Chimacum,
Port Townsend, and Quilcene School Libraries