



DECEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

12/04/23: Regular Business Meeting including update to the Golf Course Lease

12/11/23: Special Session: City Council Business Meeting

12/18/23: (Tentatively Canceled) City Council Regular Business Meeting

Meetings are subject to change. Please view our website calendar for an up-to-date meeting schedule:
www.cityofpt.us/calendar

JOB OPENINGS

Love where you live and looking for a great career? The City is hiring in several departments including Finance, Public Works, and the Police Department. For a full list of positions, visit:
www.cityofpt.applicant-pool.com/jobs/

CITY HALL HOURS
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00AM - 4:00PM

CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND
250 MADISON STREET
(360) 385 - 3000
WWW.CITYOFPT.US
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A NOTE FROM DEPUTY MAYOR AMY HOWARD

I had the honor of representing both Port Townsend and the Association of Washington Cities at the Project for Civic Health Summit this past October, at the invitation of Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck. It was a truly remarkable experience, and I am immensely proud to have been part of this important event.

The Project for Civic Health Summit was a significant gathering of leaders from various municipalities, Tribes, and civic organizations across Washington State. The summit focused on sharing ideas and strategies to enhance civic participation, improve governance, and strengthen the vital connection between local government and the residents it serves.

During my time at the summit, I had the privilege of exchanging insights and experiences with dedicated individuals from diverse backgrounds and different parts of the political spectrum. We discussed innovative ways to promote civic engagement, foster a sense of unity, and encourage the active involvement of our residents in local decision-making processes.

This experience reinforced my belief in the strength of our tight-knit and forward-thinking community. Port Townsend has always been a place where people care deeply about their neighbors and the future of our town; we have a very engaged populace. By attending this summit, I was able to showcase our community's spirit and commitment to making Port Townsend an even better place to live.

I'm excited to continue working alongside our community to build a brighter future for Port Townsend, guided by the valuable insights gained from the Project for Civic Health Summit. I encourage you to engage in civic discourse with openness, curiosity, and a steadfast commitment to positive change. Together, we can overcome challenges, foster collaboration, and create a thriving and harmonious community that we can all be proud of. Your involvement is key to the success of our shared vision, and your unique perspectives and ideas are invaluable.

Learn more about the Civic Health Summit here:
<https://hmjackson.org/project-for-civic-health/>



END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER JOHN MAURO

Daylight alone (or lack thereof) suggests 2024 is nearly here. There are other signs too, including a vote by City Council on the 2024 budget about when this newsletter drops. Before we cross into another year, now's a good time to look back at a few of this year's accomplishments and what the 2024 budget means for next year.



A year ago in this column, I was writing about launching the Financial Sustainability Initiative. That work is now complete (read the report on our website or watch our video series at: www.youtube.com/@cityofporttownsend) and we're taking action to deliver across housing, streets, parks, and core services.

Housing. From adopting zoning changes like two ADUs per lot, permitting Tiny Houses on Wheels, and allowing increased units and heights in certain zones, to bringing the Cherry Street saga nearly to a close and focusing on bringing the Evans Vista Neighborhood to life, we pushed harder than ever on enabling workforce housing now and in the long-term. Progress requires partnerships and time, but the 2024 workplan and budget show commitment to doubling down on our efforts, including successful state and federal funding awards that support our work.

Streets. The Discovery Road project construction has begun as WSDOT wraps up the Kearney Street roundabout, making tangible improvements to the driving, biking, and walking environments on two major thoroughfares. We're grateful that the data-proven traffic calming, safety, and low-cost benefits of Edge Lane Road treatments are starting to make sense for more in our community. Local transportation projects like paving and stormwater work on 10th, 11th, Hendricks, and 24th show what's possible with local road funding. That bodes well, as the two-year effort on the Comprehensive Streets Program led to a Transportation Benefit District, passing with over 80% of the vote, that will bring approximately \$800,000 in direct annual investments in our local street network.



Parks. Beloved Kah Tai is getting an RV camp host to improve access and safety at the park, our volunteer program has taken a major step up, and we continue to maintain our great trails, parks, and open spaces. Based on engagement numbers, it's more likely than not that those reading this newsletter participated in the Envision the Golf Course and Healthier Together/Pool processes. Both are substantially complete, now looking at implementing the hard work we've all done this past year in 2024.

Core Services. From the Mill water meter installation to bringing back Police staff, and from Library programming to major improvements in Council Chambers and meeting access, we have continued to deliver on core services alongside our 2023 initiatives. This carries on in 2024, including investing seed funding to plan for facilities and fleets challenges and replacements before we're in emergency mode.

Overall, it's amazing what we can do in a year when we work together. I'm grateful to the staff, community members, and partners who helped us achieve all of this and more. Consider joining us by staying engaged – coffee & conversation first Fridays, our newsletter, Facebook, KPTZ's Brewocracy Now, City Council, YouTube, our website, and more – or by joining our team: <https://cityofpt.applicantpool.com/jobs>.

Happy Holidays to you and yours and hopefully I'll see you out at some of the many events planned during this merry and celebratory season.

Warmest wishes, John

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to John Mauro, the City Manager.

CITY DEPARTMENT FEATURE

25 Years of Outstanding Performance Award at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Each year, the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) honors a few of the 300 statewide wastewater treatment plants with the agency's Outstanding Performance Award for achieving excellent compliance with their water quality permits. This month the DOE will award its first-ever 25th Year of Outstanding Performance Award to the City of Port Townsend's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A representative from the DOE will visit City Council on Monday, December 4, to present the award to Bliss Morris, who leads the Wastewater Treatment and Compost Facility teams.

Bliss and his team are proud to serve residents and visitors to Port Townsend with this essential service. "We are very excited about earning this award. It is a testament to our forefathers for the design and construction of the plant, but more so to the operators that work here every day to make sure the facility is operated and maintained in a manner that keeps the facility running smoothly day-in and day-out. 25 consecutive years is an outrageous accomplishment in that two of our operators, Dave Rodia and Mike Bartkus, have been here the entire time, making sure that every test gets done and making the correct adjustments year after year, season after season. Without their hard work and dedication accomplishments like this don't happen, so this award is given to the City, but it is certainly the award of the operators and all credit and thanks is theirs."

Stay tuned for more opportunities to learn more about our sewer, wastewater treatment, and compost system investments over the coming months.



Bliss shows the clean water at the end of the treatment system.

CITY STAFF FEATURE

Welcome! Richard Gould, Finance Manager

Richard is the newest member of the City's Finance team, already playing an integral role in the 2024 City Budget after just a few weeks on the job. He has worked in finance for local governments since 1997. As a Finance Director for 16 years, Richard served three small cities in the Seattle-Tacoma area and has also worked for larger municipalities like Shoreline and Federal Way. He noted, "I prefer to work in smaller cities as I think you can have a bigger impact. I have always loved numbers. I excelled in math in elementary school which paired with my love of baseball and what the numbers, statistically speaking, told me about the game and players. I really got into accounting when I attended the UW."

For everyone on our Finance Team, numbers are a way of life! The Finance Department currently has three openings: Director of Finance & Technology Services, Payroll Administrator, and Utility Billing/Collections Specialist. Learn about these positions and more on our website: <https://cityofpt.applicantpool.com/jobs>.



CITY NOTICES

New Public Comment Form Starting December 1. Public comment is an important aspect of civic engagement! We invite you to participate in civic discourse by providing public comment in-person or online.

Effective December 1, the public comment email address will no longer be active. Public comment can be submitted one of three ways: using a new online form, speaking in-person at a public meeting, or raising your hand during public comment when attending a public meeting virtually. In-person and webinar participants are welcome to provide up to three minutes of public comment during a meeting, and the word count of the new comment form aligns with the three minute limitation. Attachments are not allowed with public comment. Find the form and more information on the City's website: www.cityofpt.us/citycouncil.

For questions about how to provide public comment, please contact City Clerk Alyssa Rodrigues at 360-379-5083 or arodrigues@cityofpt.us.

Water Utility Rates to Increase January 1. Water use fees increase annually as required by an ordinance adopted in 2021. According to City Code, rates increase by 8% on average to cover the costs of the Water Utility. At this time, only water rates will be adjusted; sewer and stormwater rates will not increase until April 1, 2024. The City is currently evaluating the cost of service for the Sewer and Stormwater Utilities and rate adjustments are planned to be presented to City Council for consideration in the first quarter of 2024. Rates vary according to water usage and customer type. You can find a full schedule of current water, stormwater, and wastewater fees on the city's website: <https://cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information>.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & WAYS TO ENGAGE

Help Build New Steps for Access to Mountain View Dog Park

The City's Mountain View Dog Park is an important space for dogs who need vigorous exercise and has become a community gathering place where dogs and their people make connections and friends. Mountain View Tail Waggers is the adopt-a-park group formed in 2023 for helping with routine tasks and improvements at Mountain View Dog Park. They have been logging 70+ hours per month tackling many tasks to keep the dog park looking sharp. In the works are new steps down the steep entrance slope to facilitate ease of use and safety for all who use the park. Mountain View Tail Waggers are accepting donations for this project. If you would like to donate, the City can accept park donations via check sent to or dropped off at City Hall.



Join your friends and neighbors for holiday festivities in a vibrant, tree-lit Port Townsend this month!

Port Townsend Main Street, City of Port Townsend Public Library, and the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, along with many volunteers and businesses will host this year's *Enchanted Holidays in Port Townsend*, funded in part by City of Port Townsend Lodging Tax. Jump on the Kiwanis holiday choo-choo train, take a photo with Santa, and don't miss the annual tree lighting ceremony at the Haller Fountain on December 2. See the full calendar at www.ptmainstreet.org.

At the Library you can participate in the 29th Annual Uptown Gingerbread Contest. Drop off submissions from December 1 to December 10 and view these incredible, edible creations while enjoying a gingerbread-scented Library. Don't forget to cast your vote before December 18. The winners will be announced on December 22.

Learn About the Art of Antique Book Restoration at the Public Library

Sunday, December 3, 1:00 p.m.

Don't miss this presentation on the art of antique book restoration with Dave Myhre of Port Ludlow. Join him in the Charles Pink House to hear how he gives treasured heirlooms new life and beauty. See his projects, photos of his workshop, and antique tools. This event, along with many of the Library's public programs are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Port Townsend Library. Learn more about them and their recent merger with the Port Townsend Public Library Foundation at www.friendsofptlibrary.org.