



SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS:

**09/07/20 City Offices Closed
in observance of Labor Day**

09/08/20 Business Meeting
09/14/20 Workshop Meeting
09/21/20 Business Meeting

**Meetings are subject to
change**, please view our
website calendar for an up-to-
-date meeting schedule.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Consider applying to be on a
Citizen Advisory Board or
Committee. Visit our website
for Board/Committee
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
Committees have vacancies:

- Active Transportation
Advisory Board
- Lodging Tax Advisory
Committee (collector)
- Parks, Recreation and Tree
Advisory Board
- Planning Commission

CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND
250 MADISON STREET
(360)385-3000
WWW.CITYOFPT.US

A NOTE FROM MAYOR MICHELLE SANDOVAL AND COUNCIL MEMBER PAM ADAMS

Happy September. I heard I resigned last month, as I had turned over the Mayors column to Deputy Mayor Faber.

So I wanted to let you know that I'm still here! I thought it would be good for you to get to know my fellow councilors and allow them to introduce themselves.

-Mayor Michelle Sandoval

INTRODUCING COUNCIL MEMBER PAM ADAMS

I am very happy to have this opportunity to introduce myself and to write to you about some things I think are important. I'm City Council Member Pam Adams. I was first elected in 2014 by a mere 16 votes—a testament to the fact that every vote matters. I am serving my second term which is up in 2021.

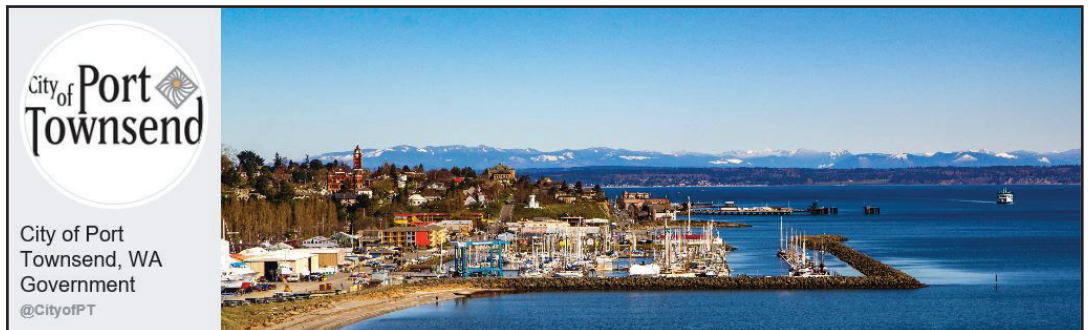
I was a practicing chiropractor before retiring to Port Townsend where, until COVID necessitated school closings, I taught Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology at the Port Townsend School of Massage. North Beach is my home base and I happily reside near the beach with my husband Mike and Cavalier Spaniel Cooper.

Much of the work of your Port Townsend City government has been impacted by the pandemic just like all of our lives. So now as staff returns to work we have much to do ahead of us under short deadlines. Some of the work plan is mandated by state or federal laws such as the Shoreline Master Program Update and the Sewer Outfall replacement in North Beach. Some are local policy decisions such as whether to renew the Golf Course lease and how to find funding to fix our streets. So we are asking for your participation. We want to know what your priorities are. Please check into **www.cityofpt.us/engagept**. You'll find information on the topics I mentioned and several more. Then please let us know what is important to you by taking the survey.

For a facemask-to-facemask conversation about Engage PT, stop by the City booth on Saturday September 12 at the Farmer's Market. Various City staff and Directors will be there and are excited to engage with you.

You can follow our Facebook page, too: **City of Port Townsend, WA Government**.

And finally in the words of that poster I see in the windows of some businesses, "Stay Calm and Love PT."



www.fb.me/CityofPT - Like and follow us on Facebook for current City news and information

A NOTE FROM CITY MANAGER JOHN MAURO

It's like oxygen, really: we don't see it directly and it's not something we tend to think much about, but it surrounds us all and we truly depend on it. What is this mysterious element? It's the budget.

In a so-called "normal year," we'd kick off the budget process in the fall and work to incorporate the things that we're committed to providing our community as well as any new items of strategic importance. We'd forecast revenue from a variety of sources based on trends in things like consumer confidence, real estate, construction, travel and tourism. We'd work to align our community's needs, our fiscal reality and the revenue forecast in proposing a balanced budget, and this would go through public scrutiny and the political decision-making process.

But we all know this isn't a normal year. The statutory steps remain the same, but the pressures and the uncertainty around each of these tasks is unprecedented. Our team has done an irrefutably impressive job forecasting the fiscal impacts to date – and so we know for a fact that the tough decisions we made early on in the pandemic (like temporarily furloughing dozens of staff) have paid off and have kept us in the black. But none of us know what the future holds, when events and business will be back to some semblance of normal, and what's going to happen at the state and federal levels.

We also don't fully understand, therefore, our precise needs as we chart a necessary course into the unknown. As a community, we have some hard choices to make around aligning those needs, the fiscal reality and the forecast of the future. In any year, the budget is a tangible reflection of our community priorities, and this will be even more clear in 2021.

There's power and importance to a community-wide conversation and we need your help. Three requests:

1. **We need your input and involvement.** Go to www.cityofpt.us/engage to learn more about when things are happening, what's at stake and how to get involved. Consider signing up to be an Engage PT Ambassador to host a small community conversation to add more voices to the mix.
2. **We need to commit to civility and respectful dialogue.** The stresses related to COVID add to others here before the pandemic and a peculiar pre-existing condition: trends toward a more polarized and uncivil discourse. I believe in our community and our ability to disagree without being disagreeable. But the tone and tenor of conversations can improve, even here, and that depends on all of us.
3. **We need to temper idealism with realism.** Let's dream and innovate, but let's keep at least one foot firmly planted and set our expectations and aspirations accordingly. Getting to decades of deferred maintenance, taking on new projects, or dramatically increasing levels of service won't be possible this year. That said, we aim to deliver dependable, professional and sustainable value to the community we serve, even in this current crisis.

What's the process and what's next? Department Directors and I are starting now, building budgets from the base up and making sure that each item makes sense and provides lasting and sustainable value. City Council begins their dialogue on September 14 at a public workshop. We'll schedule public hearings in November with adoption of the 2021 budget scheduled for December 7. In the middle of all this, we'll be using Engage PT to gather your perspectives, working as teams to consider how we can do things differently, and putting our heads together to take on any additional challenges that come our way.

As we move forward with the budget (and everything else), let's keep the big picture in mind. A more just, sustainable and resilient and Port Townsend is possible, and we can get there. Meanwhile, let's all work together to keep moving forward inclusively, civilly, and honestly – and remember to breathe!

WE JUST LAUNCHED ENGAGE PT COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SERIES!

Do you like getting people together for engaging conversations? We need you! Become an Engage PT Ambassador and host a Community Conversation.

Ambassadors agree to host an hour of facilitated small-group conversation on a range of important issues facing our community and ten key decisions that City Council will make over the next year.

Conversations can be virtual or in-person, but remember COVID-19 safety if you choose in-person. Our new downloadable toolkit with more information is now available on our website: www.cityofpt.us/engage

KEEPING GRASS AND VEGETATION UNDER CONTROL

You may have noticed that grass and vegetation grow and dry out over these warmer and longer days. In some cases, this creates hazards like fire safety, roadway visibility, noxious weeds and associated rodent or insect issues. You can help keep yourself and our community safe by:

- Mowing your lawn and maintaining the vegetation on your property.
- Taking care with critical areas on your property, like wetlands, slopes or shorelines. Permits are required to clear in these areas and some clearing may be prohibited – so contact Development Services prior to working in critical areas or their buffers.
- Checking to see if a permit is required before removing trees.
- Being kind to your neighbors – don't mow too early or too late!
- Being kind to wildlife – walk your property before mowing to look for young wildlife.

The City does receive complaints on these issues. Where a violation is determined to exist, the City sends an enforcement letter requesting that the property owner correct the issue to protect the property and the surrounding community. See more at the Port Townsend Municipal Code (Chapter 9.08020, Nuisances) and contact Katie Quesada, Code Compliance Officer with questions, at: (360) 379-5094 or kquesada@cityofpt.us.

COMPOST IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Compost is now available for sale at our compost facility. Compost hours for purchasing are: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please visit our compost webpage for more information and details of compost sales:
www.cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/compost-facility

Trash and garbage is being left in the yard debris pile. Just a reminder if you drop off yard debris:

Acceptable forms of yard debris are:

- Christmas trees
- Grass clippings
- Leaves and shrubs
- Tree branches less than 8' long and less than 10" in diameter
- Tree trimmings
- Weeds

We cannot accept:

- Demolition lumber
- Dirt
- Food scraps/waste
- Plastic bags
- Rocks and gravel
- Sod
- Stumps



LIBRARY EVENTS

Grab and Go Bags - Starting the week of September 8th, the library will be offering Grab and Go Bags with activities for children. One preschool craft bag will be available each week, and we will alternate STEAM Challenges and Scavenger Hunts every other week for older children. These bags will be available during Curbside Pickup Hours.

Curbside pickup hours - Place an item on hold by visiting our library catalog online at www.cleocat.jclibrary.info/polaris/ or call (360) 385-3181. Once you receive notification that your item(s) are ready, come to the library and call us to let us know you are outside. A staff member will give you further instructions and deliver your item(s) to you.

Curbside hours are as follows: Tuesday-Friday 10:00 am- 4:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am- 1:00 pm

THE CITY IS SEEKING QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR PDA

The PDA Board of Directors (Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority (PDA) Board of Directors.), is charged with implementing a Lifelong Learning Center at Fort Worden State Park. This board typically meets once per month.

More information as well as the full job description can be found at: www.fortworden.org/about/join-our-team
Applications are due by September 30, 2020.

FINANCIAL HELP DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

The City of Port Townsend recognizes that we are living through extraordinary times. If you are experiencing financial hardship, the City offers both a Utility Low-Income Discount Program, as well as a COVID Utility Relief Program. The City's Low-Income Discount also provides a discount on mandatory garbage service (for qualifying DM Disposal customers living within City limits). Discount information and application materials are available on the City website www.cityofpt.us/finance/page/utility-information, or you can call the Finance Department at (360) 385-2700 to request a hardcopy.

Additional Discount Programs/Community Resources

Jefferson County PUD #1 offers a low-income discount, and may be reached at: (360) 385-5800

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers financial assistance and may be reached at: (360) 379-1325

Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP) offers financial assistance and may be reached at: (360) 385-2571

SINGLE USE STRAW BAN PASSED BY CITY COUNCIL

The City of Port Townsend City Council passed ordinance 3249—single-use straw ban—on July 20, 2020. This ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2021. The ordinance prohibits restaurants, food trucks, and cafeterias from providing single-use straws or stirrers to customers. The ordinance does not include a ban on retail sales of single-use plastic straws or their use by medical facilities. Businesses may apply to the City Manager for a variance from this ban.

The Port Townsend High School Students for Sustainability reached out to the City Council at the December 2, 2019 City Council meeting to propose the ban. During this meeting, the students presented a petition signed by hundreds of individuals supporting the ban. At the March 9, 2020 workshop meeting, the students presented their straw-ban research and proposed ordinance to the City Council. The students found several communities that already banned single-use plastic straws, including Seattle, Edmonds, Washington, and Del Mar, California. In July this year, the Students presented their final ordinance to the City Council who passed it.

National Geographic, in an article dated January 2, 2019, estimated that 500 million straws are used in the United States every day. USA Today reported on August 16, 2019, that those 500 million straws cannot be recycled due to their weight and they contribute to the eight million tons of plastic added to the oceans every year. According to the Students for Sustainability, banning single-use plastic straws and stirrers is a start to lessening out dependence on single-use plastics and reducing waste.

INTRODUCING CITY STAFF

We are continuing the profile of a City staff person so you can learn a bit more about the team and their work from their perspective. Check back here each month so see a new staff profile. This month is Michael Spears from our Drinking Water Treatment Facility.

How long have you worked at the City of Port Townsend?

I have worked for the City of Port Townsend for 11 years.

What do you currently do in terms of job duties?

I am the Lead Operator for the City's Drinking Water Treatment Facility. I work with a team of certified operators to maintain our state-of-the-art membrane treatment system and ensure that high quality water is delivered to our customers. Some of my day to day includes: being on-call 24/7, providing contact with State and Federal agencies related to watershed issues, and developing and administering public education programs related to drinking water and the municipal watershed.



Collecting water samples at Lords Lake Reservoir

What do you like or enjoy most about working at the City?

I enjoy the variety in the workplace and opportunity to work with people from different departments, outside entities, and the public.

Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself, your job, or your team with the public?

Outside of work, I enjoy collecting classic cars, spending time with my wife and five sons, and serving the community as a Commissioner for Jefferson County Cemetery District #2.