

A NOTE FROM MAYOR MICHELLE SANDOVAL

We are all fortunate to live in this community. I have felt that every day for nearly 30 years.

The unparalleled beauty, immediate access to nature, our unique cultural amenities and small-town feel make us unique. There is no other place that I have lived over the years that compares to the community spirit in our town. We see it in the number of volunteers that enable both government advisory boards and nonprofit events to flourish. The creativity, kindness and intelligence in our town is remarkable.

Port Townsend knows how to take care of each other on the best of days when life is "normal." We are small but mighty, I like to say.

And now, as we are in the midst of a life altering crisis, this is the time that I have no doubt we will see our community spirit shine.

I am urging all of you to heed the advice to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy and know your actions will be key to keeping others safe.

I would further ask that those that can help, do. Whether that be with financial assistance through the various funds that our being created to help our businesses, non-profits, their employees, and their children (you may not know that 50% of our kids in school qualify for a free or reduced lunch in the best of times) or through your neighborhood preparedness groups and their call to action: looking after your vulnerable neighbors by checking on them with phone calls or texts or perhaps a knock on the door with safe practices employed. Do they need groceries, medication, their trash brought to the curb?

For those in this community with the wherewithal to help financially, please give generously to enable your neighbors to weather this storm.

This small town struggled during the recession and the long recovery afterward. During the great recession we had our ferries condemned and pulled from the route to Whidbey Island (we had a small inadequate ferry leased to the state, until new ferries could be built) and the Hood Canal bridge was closed for replacement for 9 weeks. Storefronts were shuttered, our cultural nonprofits barely survived. But we proved to be resilient.

We all pulled together to be creative; LION (Local Investment Opportunity Network) was created to help our small businesses and nonprofits with loans and lines of credit when banks would not lend.

The community bought stock to start Quimper Mercantile Company (our community owned store) when our general store closed, and it was difficult to find essentials locally.

If you are new to this community, you may not have experienced those hard times with us. You fell in love with a vibrant town. Let's ensure that vibrancy returns after these hard days.

It will take all of us, old timers and newcomers, all government jurisdictions and all elected officials, to keep our community safe and to find ways to help each other. So please employ safe practices, volunteer if you can and donate if you are able. And lastly, but most importantly be kind to one another. We are in this together.

Here are some helpful resources:

Jefferson Public Health: www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/202/Public-Health

Jefferson Community Foundation: www.jcfcgives.org/

Local 2020: www.l2020.org/



APRIL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Although the below meetings are still scheduled we strongly urge you to view the meetings from our website via live streaming.

04/06/20 Business Meeting
04/13/20 Workshop Meeting
04/20/20 Business Meeting

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

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

CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND OFFICES AND FACILITIES CLOSURE

Note from City Manager John Mauro

It's no secret that we're all trying to do our best to adapt to a difficult and constantly changing situation. I'd like to offer my deep gratitude to all those who are rolling up their sleeves and leading with their hearts to keep our community moving through these challenging times. I'd also like to acknowledge those in our community who are struggling through heartbreaking personal and professional situations. We're with you, please hang in there.

While our work continues, the City has closed offices and reduced services in order to protect our staff and the community we serve. Our website has up-to-date information, as I'm sure things have changed in the time between writing this and seeing it in your (and my) mailbox. Visit www.cityofpt.us/covid. I'd like to thank the City staff who continue to show dedication to essential services, innovation in doing things differently, and compassion in trying hard to help others.

Finally, we continue to look for better ways to serve our community in a time of significant need, including in how we communicate. While I've suspended my weekly coffee conversations, Mayor Sandoval and I will continue our weekly 10am spot on KPTZ each Thursday for regular updates from the City. We're also launching a Facebook page: find us at City of Port Townsend, WA Government. We look forward to connecting with you, even at a distance, as we work our way through this.

Welcome New Public Works Director Steve King!

A warm welcome to new Public Works Director Steve King. As noted last month, Steve left his role as Economic Development Director (and formerly Community Development Director and Public Works Director) for the City of Wenatchee to join us. If his enthusiastic start is any indication, Steve is already tackling incredible challenges with intelligence, teamwork, leadership and grit. His first day on the job was the day the Governor ordered Stay at Home, Stay Healthy, the next day he and his team had crafted a draft operational plan in response. Steve will undoubtedly be putting a lot of "public" into public works, especially once we are back into a more normal mode.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Volunteerism has been a key component of operations for the City of Port Townsend for a long, long time. Our volunteers do a lot around this community such as:

Parks Volunteers

- Plant, clean-up and beautify our parks
- Help to clear and maintain city trails

Library Volunteers

- Provide support in a myriad of ways at the front counter and behind the scenes
- The library "book worms" are volunteers who beautify our library grounds

Police volunteers

- Supplement police services in office work
- Patrols and emergency preparation
- Help with traffic counts when needed
- Assist in many other ways when assistance is required to complete a task for a City study or report.

Board and Commission members

- Sit on citizen advisory boards and commissions help to keep our community running effectively and in the interest of its citizens

THANK
YOU
TO ALL
OF OUR
VOLUNTEERS!!

The benefits the City receives from our volunteers is enormous and provides vital help to our community.

As of the summer of 2020 we are rolling out a centralized volunteer program under the City's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

The benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to our community, but the benefits can be even greater for you, the volunteer. The right match can help you to find friends, connect with the community, and even learn new skills! While it's true that the more you volunteer, the more benefits you'll experience, volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of your busy day. Giving even in simple ways can help a lot.

If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities with the City, please visit our website. On the Parks, Recreation and Community Services page. You will find a Volunteer Program link under Community Services and there you may fill out a Volunteer Inquiry Form. We look forward to having you join us!

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM PERIODIC REVIEW

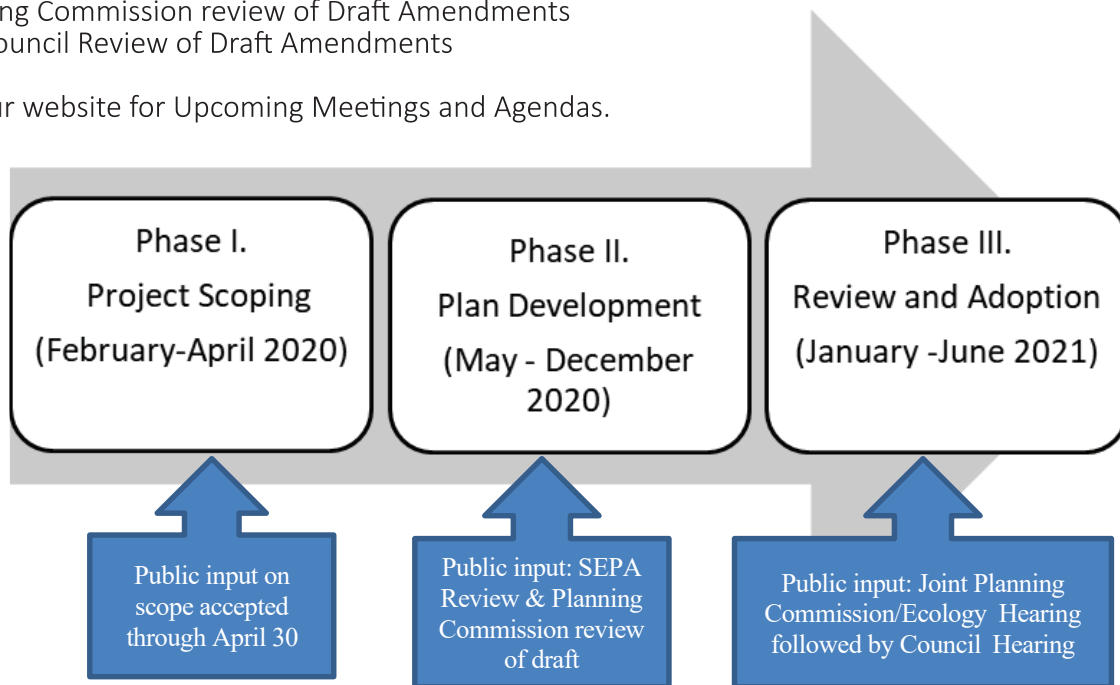
The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a plan containing both policies and regulations that apply to shoreline areas (generally the water area and 200-feet inland). In Port Townsend, shorelines include Port Townsend Bay, Admiralty Inlet, Straits of Juan de Fuca, Kah Tai Lagoon, and Chinese Gardens Lagoon. The SMP is intended to provide for environmental protection, appropriate development, and public access.

The City of Port Townsend is required to periodically review and if needed revise the SMP to ensure it stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data. Related sections of Port Townsend Municipal Code (PTMC) Chapters 19.05 Critical Areas and 20.01 Land Development Administrative Procedures may also be revised. The deadline for completion is currently June 30, 2021.

Comments regard the scope of the revisions will be accepted through April 30, 2020. Additional opportunities for comment will follow including:

- SEPA Threshold Determination
- Planning Commission review of Draft Amendments
- City Council Review of Draft Amendments

Please check our website for Upcoming Meetings and Agendas.



For more information, please visit our webpage. SMP information can be found on the planning page from our main Development Services Page

Or Contact: Judy Surber, Planning Manager by phone or email: jsurber@cityofpt.us, 360)379-5084

PORT TOWNSEND LIBRARY SURVEY

Please take our brief survey and let us know what you think. Available online.

We're creating a plan for the future of the Port Townsend Public Library and we'd like to hear from you, whether you consider yourself a library patron or not!

Please complete the survey online at:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTPL2020



2020 LOW-INCOME DISCOUNT RENEWALS

Renewal applications and materials will be mailed the second week of April, completed applications are due back to the City no later than May 25, 2020 to avoid interruption of your discounted rate.

If you received a low-income discount renewal notice, your discount is set to expire on May 31, 2020. Low-income households must renew their discount annually and low-income seniors and disabled applicants must renew every two years.

If you need new or additional copies of the application, printed copies are available on the City website at www.cityofpt.us under Departments, Finance, and Utility Information.

New applicants may apply for the discount at any time during the year.

IRRIGATION - SUMMER RATE CHANGE

Irrigation water will return to Summer rate pricing, effective May 1, 2020. The price per 1,000 gallons consumed will go from \$3.52 to \$6.18 (inside city limits) and from \$4.22 to \$7.42 (outside city limits).

If you are an irrigation water customer, you will see this change reflected on your May 31, 2020 billing statement.

CITIZEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Consider applying today for vacancies on the following Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees. See the website for committee descriptions, applications, and meeting schedules www.cityofpt.us or contact the City Clerk's Office at (360) 379-5083 for an application.

- Active Transportation Advisory Board
- Arts Commission
- Historic Preservation Committee
- Library Advisory Board
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (collector and at large positions)
- Parks, Recreation and Tree Advisory Board

A NOTE FROM OUR WASTEWATER OPERATIONS MANAGER

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, our Wastewater Operations Manager would like to remind the residents of Port Townsend about the importance of not flushing anything but toilet paper down the toilet. That includes 'flushable' wipes.

This photo shows exactly what flushable or baby wipes do to our system – they do not break down, and instead can cause thousands of dollars' worth of damage to our collection system and Treatment Plant equipment. "Flushable" wipes and paper towels should always be thrown in the trash. They do not break down in the way that toilet paper does.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Bliss Morris, who can be reached via email at bmorris@cityofpt.us.

