



Our Town

Kalama honors its legacy of community pride, rich heritage and natural beauty while embracing growth and economic prosperity

City of Kalama

AUGUST 2020

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Contact Us
EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS

Police – 911

Public Works
360-703-0168 or 911

CITY HALL HOURS-
Monday-Friday-9-5

KALAMA SALES TAX – 7.9%

Here is the breakdown of the allocation of sales tax rate of 7.9% showing what portions are State, County and City:



6.5% - State Sales tax - City will receive a small portion in future years for affordable housing purposes under House Bill 1406 - .0073

1.0%-City/County Regular Sales Tax - 85% to City – 15% to County

**0.1%-County Criminal Justice – County receives first 10%
City receives a 2.7% share (based on Population) of 90% remaining tax)**

0.1%-County Mental Health – County funds

0.1%-City Public Safety Tax – City Funds – 15% goes to County

0.1%- 911 Communications – Funds 911 Operations

7.9% - City total share approximately 1.70973 (\$1.71 of \$100)

The State Department of Revenue collects the sales taxes and distributes it out to the counties and cities charging a 1% administration fee.

As many citizens may have heard the Kalama City Council has placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot a two-tenths of percent Transportation Benefit District sales tax to be used for transportation purposes. The proposed .2% Transportation Benefit District sales tax would up the tax rate to 8.1% inside the city limits of Kalama. This equals twenty cents (.20) on \$100. 100% of the .2% tax comes to the City without being shared to the County. The revenues are only eligible to be used for “transportation improvements” including construction, maintenance and operational street costs. It can also be used to pay debt related to street or transportation improvements. The tax needs to be approved by a simple majority of the voters. The tax expires in 10 years, but is eligible to be renewed for an additional 10 years if approved by the voters at that time. If the ballot measure is approved the tax will be effective on April 1, 2021.

Utility Billing-
Payments
360- 673-4554

Building & Planning
360-673-5211

Finance – Accts
Payable
360-673- 4908

Clerk/Treasurer
360-673-4561

City Administrator
360-673-3265

Kalama Police Office
360-673-2165
Hours M-F 9am-
4:30pm

Kalama Public Works
360-673-3706

Kalama Library
360-673-4568
Hours – M-F Noon-5
Sat – 9-2

Kalama Community
Building
360-673-4565



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
Website
www.cityofkalama.com

Police Website
www.kalamapolice.com

Library Website
www.kalamalibrary.com



Seasonal Burn Ban in Effect July 15-September 30, 2020



Effective Wednesday July 15TH at 12:01 a.m. all outdoor burning in Cowlitz County will be restricted until further notice. All land clearing, residential and silvicultural burning is restricted and all outdoor burn permits issued prior to the ban are rescinded. Burn permits can be reissued after the ban is lifted. Recreational campfires are allowed if built in improved fire pits in designated campgrounds, such as those typically found in local, county, and state parks and in commercial campgrounds. On private land, recreational fires are permitted with the landowner's permission if less than 3 feet in diameter, in a stone, metal or masonry fire pit, at least 15 feet from a structure if in a portable fireplace, and attended at all times. It's good to keep a hose or water bucket in the vicinity as well. Have a safe summer!!!

SUMMER WATER CONSERVATION-GREEN LAWNS



Now that we are finally in summer, customers should think about how much water they are using to water lawns. A good rule of thumb is to only water the lawn when necessary. If you water your lawn and garden, only do it once a week, if rainfall isn't sufficient. Avoid watering on windy and hot days. Water the lawn and garden in the morning or late in the evening to maximize the amount of water which reaches the plant roots (otherwise most of the water will evaporate). Use soaker hoses to water gardens and flower beds. If sprinklers are used, take care to be sure they don't water walkways and buildings. When you water, put down no more than 1 inch (set out an empty can to determine how long it takes to water 1 inch) each week. This watering pattern will encourage more healthy, deep grass roots. Over-watering is wasteful, encourages fungal growth and disease, and results in the growth of shallow, compacted root systems that are more susceptible to drought and foot traffic. If an automatic lawn irrigation system is used, be sure it has been properly installed, is programmed to deliver the appropriate amount and rate of water, and has rain shut-off capability. Conserving water will also lower your water bill.



2020 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

June 24th- August 12th

End of Summer Reading Pick-Up Party – Wednesday
August 12, from noon to 2pm in the parking lot on
northside of the Library at 320 N. First Street.

Popsicles, goodies, free books, and PRIZES will be presented through a drive up – walk up process. Please wear masks and we will practice social distancing while awarding the participants of the Summer Reading program.

THANK YOU RUTHIE TIPPIN!!!



LIBRARY OFFERING CURBSIDE PICKUP



Kalama Public Library will offer curbside pickup for on-line orders of materials from the online catalog beginning July 7, 2020.

**Updates & More Information at:
www.kalamalibrary.com**



2021 BUDGET PLANNING/PREPARATION BEGINS

This is the time of year when the City begins planning and preparing for the next year's budgets. The process involves staff preparing projections for revenues and requests for expenditures. It includes the process of which projects will be done, estimating the costs, and looking for available funding. The Council will hold at least three public hearings beginning in

October - one on the revenue sources and two on the expenditures including the capital facilities plan. The final budget is passed in December and the final document is presented by the end of January, once the prior year (2020) is closed as the document includes the actual expenses for the prior three years for comparison. The 2020 Budget document is available on the City's website at www.cityofkalama.com along with prior years back to 2016.

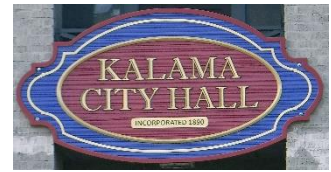
Do you have questions about the budget? How the City spends the tax money? Why certain projects are necessary? This is the time to ask. If you don't want to attend one of the hearings, feel free to send your questions to cityclerk@kalama.com or to the City Council at PO Box 1007, Kalama WA 98625.

2020 CENSUS - EVERYONE COUNTS

Have you sent in your census or self-responded online or by phone? If not, you may receive a knock on your door in the near future from a census worker. It is vital that all residents be counted as funding from the federal and state comes to the cities based on population. Beginning July 30, 2020, the Census department will begin canvassing in person, wearing masks and social distancing, to those addresses that have not responded. It's not too late for people to self-respond and they are encouraged to go online (my2020census.gov) or call the tollfree number (844-330-2020) to do so. This will avoid a knock on your door. PLEASE BE COUNTED - YOU MATTER!



CITY OF KALAMA – WEBSITE & FACEBOOK



Have you tried the City’s website or Facebook pages when looking for information? Not only can you pay a bill from the City website, but it has a great deal of information available on many different subjects and we work to keep news-worthy items posted timely right on the home page. Since it was updated, the search feature is much easier to use, and we hope it is more user friendly. The news posted on the website is sent to the City’s Facebook page as well, and the public has the ability to comment on these posts and we encourage them to do so. Postings on Facebook by city staff and officials addressing city business become public records for the City which is why staff and officials avoid posting on private pages as we do not have access to all the data on a post which is required by law. Notices for emergency utility outages, street closures or other information is posted on Facebook as soon as possible. Council and other meeting notices are also posted on Facebook with a link to the website where details are available. All of these posts are available for citizen comments. You can also send an email to the City from the website, get contact information for all departments on the website, and send a message through Facebook. These are not new options, but the City is not seeing them used and would like to encourage the citizens to use them.



<p>WHEN DO WE MEET?</p> <p><u>Kalama City Council</u> 1st and 3rd Thursdays - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Kalama Planning Commission</u> 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Civil Service Commission</u> 4th Thursday - 5:30 p.m. – As needed</p> <p><u>Kalama Library Board</u> Bimonthly beginning in January on the 3rd Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.</p> <p>MEETING LOCATION Kalama City Council Chambers at 320 N. First – Kalama Library Building</p>	<p>POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES – CALL 911</p> <p>PUBLIC WORKS - AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER (360) 703-0168 – OR CALL 911</p> <p>Kalama Police Office Non-Emergency... (360)-673-2165 Kalama City Offices..... (360)-673-4562 City of Kalama Fax..... (360) 673-4560 Comcast..... (888) 226-2278 Cowlitz County Assessor..... (360) 577-3010 Cowlitz County Bldg. & Planning..... (360) 577-3052 Cowlitz Public Utilities District..... (360) 423-2210 Fire District #5 Office Non-Emergency... (360) 673-2222 Kalama Post Office..... (360) 673-3567 Kalama Telephone Company..... (360) 673-2755 Labor & Industries..... (360) 575-6923 Utilities Locate (Call Before You Dig!) 811 or (800) 424-5555 Waste Control..... (360) 425-4302</p> <p>Website – www.cityofkalama.com</p> <p>Facebook- City of Kalama</p>
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Pay online 24/7 at www.cityofkalama.com

