



Our Town

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

City of Kalama

NOVEMBER 2020

In This Issue

2021-2025
Utility Rate
Study

Leaves are
Falling

Emergency
Preparedness -
72-hour Survival
Kit

2021 Revenue &
Budget
Public Hearings

Library
Reopening

Planning
Commission
Opening

Holiday Garbage
Schedule

Shop with a
Cop - 2020

2021 -2025 Utility Rate Study

On November 5, 2020, the Kalama City Council will hold a public hearing on the Draft of the 2021-2025 Utility Rate Study prepared by consultants with HDR, Inc. The study looks at the City's utilities - water-sewer-stormwater - to determine if the current rates will meet the needs of operating and maintaining the existing systems and meet the growth needs for the future. Utilities are enterprise functions of the City that are funded by the rates paid for the services they provide. The City hires consultants to perform the study in order to obtain an un-biased appraisal of the rates and needs of each system. The hearing is to allow the public to hear the results of the study and to make comment.



The study includes a rate to cover inflation of 3% to meet wage, benefit and operating cost increases. It looks at the age of the existing infrastructure and any mandated improvements the City will need to make. It looks at the growth rate and projected growth or planned developments, both residential and commercial, to compare it to current capacity of the existing systems to determine if, and/or when, expansion is needed. All of the costs related to all the functions of each utility are then compared to projected revenues the current rates will produce. If the rates will not meet the costs, then the consultants will calculate increases to the rates that will allow for revenues to meet the system needs. These are recommendations provided to the Council for consideration. While determining whether to increase rates or not, the Council will consider meeting the following factors: inflationary costs, mandated improvements, needs for planned developments, and unexpected maintenance/needs of the system. They will likely also consider the effects a rate increase may have on the community and the potential impacts for the future of Kalama if they choose not to increase rates. This is a complex issue and a difficult decision. No one wants to see rate increases. Rates are driven by the needs of the system. Information on how to join the meeting is available on the City website at www.cityofkalama.com - Agenda&Minutes.



LEAVES ARE FALLING

It's Fall again, and the leaves are coming down. Please avoid raking leaves into the street and/or gutters as this could plug storm drains. Plugged storm drains can cause localized flooding issues during hard rain storms. If you see storm drains overflowing, please report it to Public Works at 360-673-3706 or 360-703-0168 (after hours).





EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 72-HOUR SURVIVAL KIT



What will you do if the power goes out? Grab a flashlight and a book to get through the next hour or two, or light a few candles and play a game with the family? What if the power is off for days due to an earthquake or other disaster, and you are not able to go anywhere, and help may not be available? Are you prepared? Most of us are probably not, as we just don't think this will happen. So how do we prepare ourselves? Cowlitz County Department of Emergency Management has the information available through their 3 Days3Ways campaign at:

[http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/58/72_hour_kit?bidId=.](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/58/72_hour_kit?bidId=) This provides information to help families make a plan, which includes sheltering in place, supplies to have on hand to get through at least three days, and other information you may need. Water and food, medications, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, and first-aid supplies are just some of the items you may need. Prepare all family members with information on how to make contact if not together, or a meeting place set ahead of time. None of us expected to be isolated by the recent pandemic, but it happened. So, while we may never need it, a plan for survival during a disaster might just be in order. Go to the link above for more information on making a plan. **DON'T FORGET to opt in to Hyper-Reach, Flash Alert, or follow the DEM FaceBook page for emergency information.**

2021 Revenue Hearing November 5, 2020 & 2021 Budget & CFP Hearings November 19 & December 3, 2020



The Mayor and City staff are preparing the draft budget for the Council to consider at the upcoming public hearings. The public is encouraged to attend and make comments.

Revenues will be presented on November 5, 2020. This includes the 2021 Property tax levy - a 1% increase, as allowed by law, proposed increases to fees for planning applications, building permits and other fees, and other revenue sources of the City. This hearing will NOT include discussion of utility rate increases, as that will take place at a later date. The rate study will be discussed at this meeting in a separate public hearing.

The 2021 budget hearings will include a review of the draft capital facilities plan (CFP) for capital projects in all departments. It will cover what the needs and projected expenses are in each department including staffing, benefit costs, contracted costs, utilities, materials, chemicals, and operating overhead. There will be two hearings - one on November 19, 2020 and one on December 3, 2020 at 7pm via the virtual format Zoom. Information will be on the agendas from the City's website: www.cityofkalama.com - Click Agenda&Minutes and click on the agenda for that date.

Contact Us EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS

Police - 911
Public Works
360-703-0168 or 911

CITY HALL HOURS-
Monday-Friday-9-5

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
360-673-4562



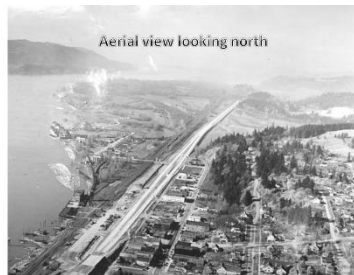
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
Website
www.cityofkalama.com

Police Website
www.kalamapolice.com

Library Website
www.kalamalibrary.com

KALAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY-REOPENING??

The Governor's office and the State Department of Health have issued guidelines for partially opening libraries in Phase 2. The Kalama Library may be able to reopen soon. We are working to comply with the guidelines and safely reopen on a limited basis. When we open, you can expect to see new protocols in place. Only four patrons will be allowed in the library at a time. Masks and social distancing will be required. Computer use will be limited. Days and hours of operation may vary. We will continue curbside pickup and encourage patrons to use this service. We understand that the community is anxious to see the library open. We look forward to expanding the services we can offer. Updates will be posted on the Kalama Library website: www.kalamalibrary.com



OPENING ON THE KALAMA PLANNING COMMISSION



Are you interested in how Kalama grows? Willing to commit some time to guide the growth of Kalama? The City of Kalama is taking applications to serve on the Kalama Planning Commission. The Planning Commission reviews land use and development codes for the City - reviews applications for land use and development, and makes recommendations back to the City Council. This job plays a vital part in determining the way growth in Kalama will proceed. The term for the commission is 6 years, and there are 7 positions - 5 from inside the city limits and 2 that can be from outside - either within the water service boundary or a Kalama business owner. Planning Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month. An application can be picked up at City Hall at 320 N. First, Kalama, is available on the City website (Committee Application), or you can call 360-673-5211.



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER HOLIDAYS GARBAGE SERVICE

Reminder that garbage pick will be one day behind for the upcoming holidays. Thursdays will be on Friday and Fridays on Saturday for the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year Holidays.



SHOP WITH A COP - ANNUAL EVENT

The Kalama Police Department is proud to participate in the Shop with a Cop program. This program provides a Christmas gift buying and giving opportunity for under privileged children in the

Kalama community. Children from low income families are selected to receive a \$100 shopping trip to buy gifts for themselves and their family members. Police officers from Kalama donate their time to assist these children with their shopping experience.

Undoubtedly, we have all been affected by COVID-19 in some way this year. Children in Kalama are all feeling the effects at home and further feeling the effects of missing in-person school, new challenges to trick-or-treating, and many more. We're working hard to overcome fundraising challenges this year so that we can still bring some joy to the lives of our community's most under privileged kids.

This year's program will take place on December 12, 2020 at the Woodland Walmart where we will shop with nearly 30 kids. This worthwhile program is funded entirely by donations from Kalama area businesses, civic groups, and individuals. We have set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$3000.00 in order to fund the shopping experience for at least 30 children. We hope that willing and able area residents will consider joining with us in taking part in this program that brings some much-needed holiday cheer to needy families in the Kalama area. We thank you in advance for even considering partnering with us!

Cash or check donations made out to the City of Kalama (memo line: "Shop with a Cop") can be dropped off at the Kalama Police Department or City Hall. Chief Herrera can be reached at chief@kalamapolice.com for further details and thank you for helping the Kalama Police Department brighten the holiday season for some of Kalama's families

WHEN DO WE MEET?

Kalama City Council
1st and 3rd Thursdays -
7:00 p.m.

Kalama Planning Commission
2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m.

Civil Service Commission
4th Thursday - 5:30 p.m. - As
needed

Kalama Library Board
Bimonthly beginning in
January on the
3rd Wednesday - 5:15 p.m.

MEETING LOCATION
Kalama City Council
Chambers
at 320 N. First - Kalama
Library Building

POLICE OR FIRE EMERGENCIES - CALL 911

PUBLIC WORKS - AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY NUMBER (360) 703-0168 - OR CALL 911

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

ENROLL IN PAPERLESS BILLING. ONLINE BILL PAY AVAILABLE - ALSO AUTOPAY

Pay online 24/7 at www.cityofkalama.com

