



MONROE THIS WEEK

Edition 4 January 29, 2016



Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Jim Kamp
Jeff Rasmussen
Kirk Scarboro
councilmembers@monroewa.gov

City Hall

806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Phone: 360.794.7400
Open 8AM – 5PM, M-F

Appointment Openings

No Openings At This Time

Job Openings

Engineering Administrative
Specialist

Events this Week

- 1/31 Officer Jayme Biendl
Memorial Run,
Sky River Park, 10AM

- 02/02 City Council Finance &
Human Resources
Committee Meeting,
City Hall, 6PM

- City Council Meeting,
Council Chambers,
City Hall, 7PM

From the Office of Mayor Thomas

To highlight some of the things going on in our community, I am writing this weekly city update, "Monroe This Week. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding "Monroe This Week" or the stories below, please contact me at GThomas@MonroeWa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

Be In The Know!

SR522 Update

Over the course of this week, Councilmembers, staff, and I continued working on the issue of funding and finishing SR-522.

On Tuesday, January 26, 2016, our City Administrator Gene Brazel and I met with the Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation (SCCIT) group. This group, which consists of local governments, non-profits, and businesses, discussed transportation projects that were not included in the 2015 Connecting Washington legislation. At the top of our conversation was SR-522. SCCIT and its member organizations continue to support our community in securing funding to finish SR-522

On Thursday, January 28, 2016, Mayor Pro Tem Cudaback, Councilmember Scarboro, staff, our lobbyists, and I met with our legislators in Olympia. Senator Pearson and Representatives Kristiansen and Scott have been actively working on SR-522. They appreciated the over fifty businesses and non-profits that have signed our request for support and the comments they have received from constituents. I look forward to reporting more information as the session continues. Thank you to everyone who has continued to support funding and finishing SR-522.

**City of Monroe
Year-to-Date Comparisons**

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'14 to 12/31/14: \$3,617,210

'15 to 12/31/15: \$4,064,056

UP \$446,846 or 12.35%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'14 to 12/31/14: \$494,082

'15 to 12/31/15: \$775,207

UP \$281,125 or 56.90%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'14 to 12/31/14: \$65,661

'15 to 12/31/15: \$70,274

UP \$4,613 or 7.03%

Business License Fees

'14 to 12/31/14: \$48,049

'15 to 12/31/15: \$48,886

UP \$836 or 1.74%

Building Permit Revenues

'14 to 12/31/14: \$180,017

'15 to 12/31/15: \$311,092

UP \$131,075 or 72.81%

Planning Fee Revenues

'14 to 12/31/14: \$50,595

'15 to 12/31/15: \$61,665

UP \$11,070 or 21.88%

New House Permits

'14 to 12/31/14: 17

'15 to 12/31/15: 60

UP 43 units or 253%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'14 to 12/31/14: 46 units

'15 to 12/31/15: 4 units

DOWN 40 units or -91.3%

Building Division Inspections

'14 to 12/31/14: 1,548

'15 to 11/30/15: 1,713

UP 165 or 10.7%

(SR522 Update continued)

On Friday, January 29, 2016, I will be meeting with a representative of the Governor's Office to report on the status of our request. Lastly, in the next two weeks, Mayor Pro Tem Cudaback and I will be meeting with County Executive Somers to discuss funding and finishing SR-522.

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Councilmember Gamble and I will head to Olympia again, to advocate for SR-522. We will be meeting with legislators and stakeholders. The meeting is being organized by the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County.

Other Legislative Issues

This session is not just about SR-522. In addition to SR-522, Councilmembers, staff, our lobbyists, and I are continuing to work with our legislators on a capital request for funding for synthetic turf fields at Lake Tye, increasing the cap on funding for the Main Street Program statewide, and coordinating with the City on connecting 191st through the undeveloped US-2 right-of-way. We are also continuing to track proposed bills.

LTAC Grant Award

Thank you to the Snohomish County Executive and Council for approving a Snohomish County Hotel/Motel Tax Fund grant award of \$9,600 for tourism-branded street banners for Monroe! Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department applied for the grant last summer. The grant award will be used to design, purchase and install approximately seventy street pole banners for the historic downtown and North Kelsey shopping, lodging and restaurant retail areas in Monroe. As part of the grant conditions, City staff will work with the Snohomish County Tourism Bureau in the design guidelines for the banners that will reflect a visual integration of the Bureau's long-range tourism development and marketing strategy. The branding elements of the banners will be consistent, yet individual banners will display distinct categories of tourism-related themes. This cross-promotion marketing approach will help introduce hidden assets in our community and bring together our historic downtown, the North Kelsey shopping area and the Evergreen State Fairgrounds as tourist destinations in Snohomish County. Existing and new events held in the greater Monroe area will benefit from the tourism imagery which the banners will display, as well as area restaurants, lodging and shopping districts. Again, a big THANK YOU goes out to Snohomish County for this grant award!

Elite Training Academy Ribbon Cutting

Congratulation to Coach Michael Bumpus and his wife, Jen, on opening the Elite Training Academy in downtown Monroe!!! It was a pleasure being part of this ribbon cutting and Monroe thanks you! We are excited to have you as part of our downtown community

Council Updates!

Financial Planning

At Tuesday's Council meeting, we opened a discussion with Councilmembers about levels of service to our community. We discussed a variety of operational services (for example: code enforcement, park maintenance, permitting, and administrative support) and their associated costs that Council could consider in a 2017 Budget. Our next conversations will be related to capital projects and revenues. We will continue the conversation over the next couple of months and are requesting Council's direction by late May/early June 2016. Council may consider a range of alternatives from maintaining the status quo to expanding some of these services. Following Council's direction, City Staff and I will begin developing the 2017 Proposed Budget, which will be presented to Council in October 2016. Council will consider amending and approving the proposed budget between October and December 2016.