



MONROE THIS WEEK

March 24, 2017 806 W. Main St., Monroe WA, 98272 Volume 3/Edition 12
Ph-360-794-7400



GREETINGS FROM MAYOR THOMAS

Hello! Thank you for reading my weekly newsletter. I am grateful to serve the Monroe community and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments for "Monroe This Week" or the articles included, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at gthomas@monroewa.gov. Thank you!

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas



Mayor Happenings

City Achieves long term savings by refinancing its revenue bonds

As part of our regular business process, the Finance department continually monitors the interest rate market to gauge if interest rate conditions would be favorable to refund our long term debt. Refunding debt is similar to when you choose to refinance any personal or mortgage loans you may have to save money on your payments over the life of your loans.

On March 22, 2017, the city closed on \$9,000,000 of water and sewer refunding revenue bonds. These bonds, paid by the water and sewer operations of the city, are refunding portions of our current 2009 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds and portions of our 2011 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds. With this refunding, the city will save approximately \$545,000 in costs over the life of the bond. For our finance majors and accountants in town, this translates to a net present value savings of approximately \$426,000. Good job to our retiring Finance Director Dianne Nelson and all of the Finance department!

Legislative Update

With the release of the Senate Operating and Transportation proposed budget this week activities in Olympia are beginning to move more quickly. The Senate Transportation proposed budget does not include any funds for SR 522. It is our understanding that the decision was made to not include any local projects at this time but to negotiate the local projects after the House releases its proposed Transportation budget. We appreciate our delegation's support for the SR 522 project and will continue to aggressively push for some funds to move the project forward.

EVENT HAPPENINGS

03/25	Coffee with the Mayor, Paesano's, 14655 Fryelands Blvd, 8-9:30AM
03/28	City Council Regular Business Meeting, City Hall, Council Chambers, 7PM CANCELLED Tip-A-Cop, Adam's Bistro, 104 N. Lewis St, 5-9PM

Appointment Openings

Planning Commissioner
Salary Commissioner
Ethics Boardmember (3)
www.monroewa.gov/vacancies

Job Openings

Parks Seasonal
Lateral Police Officer
www.monroewa.gov/jobs

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

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

City of Monroe
Year-to-Date Comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'16 to 02/28/16: \$791,353

'17 to 02/28/17: \$869,788

UP \$78,434 or 9.91%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'16 to 02/28/16: \$149,811

'17 to 02/28/17: \$150,585

UP \$774 or 0.52%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'16 to 02/28/16: \$9,511

'17 to 02/28/17: \$8,592

Down \$919 or -9.66%

Business License Fees

'16 to 02/28/16: \$8,946

'17 to 02/28/17: \$8,150

DOWN \$796 or -8.90%

Building Permit Revenues

'16 to 02/28/16: \$39,717

'17 to 02/28/17: \$80,735

UP \$41,017 or 103.27%

Planning Fee Revenues

'16 to 02/28/16: \$5,975

'17 to 02/28/17: \$2,325

DOWN \$3,650 or -61.09%

New House Permits

'16 to 02/28/16: 7

'17 to 02/28/17: 11

UP 4 units or 57.14%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'16 to 02/28/16: 2

'17 to 02/28/17: 0

DOWN 2 units or -100.0%

Building Division Inspections

'16 to 02/28/16: 266

'17 to 02/28/17: 473

UP 207 or 77.82%

(Updated continued) The Senate also released its Operating budget this week. As you know, the big issue this session is the identification of funds for a significant increase in education funding. We are pleased that the Senate budget continues to include funding for a number of accounts where funds are shared with cities including Monroe.

The Senate Capital budget has not yet been released. We have requested funds in the Capital budget for athletic fields at Lake Tye Park. We understand that there may not be much money this year for the Capital budget but we will continue to urge funding for our project.

Downtown Furniture

In 2016, the City Council authorized 2017 funding of \$30,000 to purchase new furniture for downtown Monroe along Main Street. Staff met with representatives from the Downtown Monroe Association and Monroe Chamber of Commerce to review designs and select new furniture including benches, litter receptacles and bicycle racks.

The review team has selected new furniture that now compliments both the historical elements of the downtown and its recent streetscape improvements. The vertical lines and color of the furniture create a tie to the modern look of the North Kelsey shopping area furniture, while classic/historic design details will give it the historic/classic fit for our downtown. The furniture will be ordered and then installed later this spring.



Monroe is Growing!

Monroe continues to see housing growth! There are approximately 17 plats, containing approximately 800 lots, in review that our Planning/Building team are working on. Some plats are under application review, while some are under construction. Want to see where they are located? Click [here](#) to see the map. Thank you to our Community Development Director and the Planning/Building Team for working so hard on these!

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

The Tuesday, March 28, 2017, City Council Meeting has been cancelled. The next City Council Regular Business Meeting will be Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

EVENT HAPPENINGS

Tip-A-Cop

This popular event is a kick off to the Monroe Police Department's annual fundraising events benefitting Special Olympics. Join our officers, **Tuesday, March 28, 2017, from 5-9 p.m.**, as they exchange their uniforms for tuxedos and wait on you, taking your orders and delivering delicious Adams Northwest Bistro and Brewery entrees to your tables. 100 % of your tips will go to help our local Special Olympians. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause. Reservations are encouraged - 360.794.4056

Coffee with the Mayor

Coffee with the Mayor Saturday, March 25, 2017! I will be at Paesano's on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 8-9:30 a.m. Bring your questions, comments, and concerns and have a chat over coffee! See you there!



East County Spring Job Fair

On Thursday, March 30, 2017, the East County Spring Job Fair will be held at the Monroe Boys and Girls Club. The job fair will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your resume, dress the part, and come talk to over 50 employers who are offering part-time and full-time positions. For more information, click [here!](#)

SAFETY HAPPENINGS

Safety Reminder:

As we approach spring everyone is getting outside to work in the yard. We want to remind citizens that there are specific regulations within Fire District 7 when it comes to outdoor burning. Recently, the board of fire commissioners passed a resolution to expand the residential outdoor burning area. To find out if you live within the expanded area and to learn more about the regulations of outdoor burning, visit our website http://snofire7.org/public_information/outdoor_burning/index.cfm.