

We welcome your questions or
comments. Ph.459-2856 or
email us at
admin@cityofsutherlin.com



Douglas County Fire District #2 Annexation Vote

The City Council will be referring two measures to City voters on the May 20th, 2014 ballot:

1. Whether or not to annex the City boundaries into Douglas County Fire District No. 2, and
2. Should voters approve annexation to the Fire District, shall the City amend its Charter to reduce the City's permanent property tax rate by \$1.8543 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value (TAV).

A "Yes" vote on item 1 would authorize the City of Sutherlin to annex into the District boundaries. The voters of the Fire District will receive a similar question on their May 20th ballots. Both the City measure and the District measure must pass in order for the City to be annexed to the District. Should both measures pass, annexation of the City to the District will occur on June 30, 2015. Additionally, if the annexation measures pass and the City Charter amendment passes, the following property tax adjustments will result:

Fire District permanent tax rate increase per \$1,000 TAV	\$ 3.1651
City permanent tax rate reduction per \$1,000 TAV (if all three measures pass)	- 1.8543
Net increase in permanent tax rate authority per \$1,000 TAV	\$ 1.3108

The Fire District has been providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Sutherlin since the City dissolved its' fire department and contracted with the Fire District in 2010. The City's current cost of services is equivalent to \$1.8543 per \$1,000 of TAV. If both measures pass, annexed properties would incur a property tax net increase equal to \$1.3108 of \$1,000 assessed real property valuation. For owners of a home with an assessed value of \$120,000.00, this would equal a net increase of \$157.30 per year/\$13.11 per month. City properties annexed to District would not have to repay existing District general obligation bonds. Upon annexation, City residents may run for District board and vote in District elections. Please watch for further information and public meetings in the near future. If you have questions, call City Hall at 541-459-2856.

Wastewater Treatment Improvements & Pending Rate Increases

In 1979, the current wastewater treatment plant was placed in service. Designed and built at a time when there were fewer regulations, technologies and people than today. The plant has served the growing city of Sutherlin well. As the plant ages, it is due for a major makeover with new equipment and technologies necessary to protect public and environmental health, meet current and future customer demands, and comply with state and federal regulations.

In June 2004, the City agreed to resolve federal and state compliance issues when it entered into a Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). With a planned and incremental approach, first, the City improved sewer lines and reduced inflow and infiltration (I & I) to the plant by about 30%. Next is the treatment plant, which is described in whole or in part as "beyond its design life", "inadequate", "not operable", and "deficient" in an engineering report prepared in 2013.

Capital improvements needed to ensure resi-

dents have reliable, safe and effective sewage treatment for decades to come are estimated to cost \$21.24 - \$22.24 million. The City is currently reviewing funding alternatives, including existing local resources, grants and loans.

However, existing resources and potential grants will not be sufficient to fully fund the project, so the City will need to secure loans. Repayment of loans is generally funded by rate-payers and/or approval of a property tax measure. Initial financial reviews suggest current single family rates will need to increase to approximately \$68 (from \$33.50) during the next four-five years. Prior to enacting a rate increase, the City desires to hear your input on this project.

To find out more about this historic project, visit the city website www.cityofsutherlin.com, call or visit city hall. Keep an eye out for updates written on your bill, on the website and in future newsletters and mailings. You are invited to attend City Council Meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7pm and Budget Committee meetings as posted.

CITY OF SUTHERLIN
www.cityofsutherlin.com

Sutherlin City News



Look for us on FACEBOOK! City of Sutherlin, OR and Sutherlin Police Dept.

SPD Receives Funding for Radar Units

Chief Kirk Sanfilippo advised the City Council at its February 10 meeting that the City received a \$3,800 grant from ODOT to replace four hand-held radar units. The units will arrive in February and enhance the department's speed enforcement capabilities in Sutherlin and Oakland.

The Chief continues to encourage voluntary compliance to our speed laws, and that the department will be enforcing traffic laws to help make our roadways safer. For more information go to www.cityofsutherlin.com.



Dial-a-Ride: Program Update & Request for Needed Volunteers

Ridership continues to increase; January 2014, 800 rides, 2,000 miles!

Dial-a-ride provides service on a first-come first-served basis for older adults, our disabled citizens, and as seats and time slots are available for the general public. Rides may be booked up to two weeks in advance. There are no fees for rides. Donations are welcome to support the program, which receives a majority of its funding from Federal and State grants.

The program could not survive without volunteers! Interested in serving? Contact Donita Walker for more information at 541-459-2212 or go to the city's website at www.cityofsutherlin.com.



Annual Budgeting Process Begins

The City has initiated its annual budgeting process, with the Budget Committee meeting now to receive information and engage in discussion and debate to establish priorities for City staff to assist them with budget preparation. There are several significant issues the citizen committee members and the City Council are receiving information about as they consider what the priorities should be, such as:

- Adequate funding of utilities to ensure sustainable operations
- Maintenance standards and funding to maintain the street system
- Parks service level and sustainable funding
- Office facilities, present and planning for future needs

- Technology, present and planning for future needs
- Contingency planning for fire services

The decisions they make will impact the quality of life and cost of City services for years to come. They welcome and encourage your input at City Council or Budget Committee meetings. Please look for Budget Committee meeting announcements and City Council agendas with budget topics, or come address the Council as a visitor at one of their regular meetings.



For more information, please check the City's website at www.cityofsutherlin.com, their facebook page, and notices on your utility bill.

Cooper Creek Water Treatment Plant

The City of Sutherlin has a new Trident High Solids 4.0 million gallon a day waste plant that went online in January 2014.

- Our new plant was constructed next to our old plant at the same location below the dam at Cooper Creek Reservoir.
- The plant includes two treatment units, Miox self generating chlorine system for disinfection, three new high head town pumps, and a backup generator to run the plant during power outages.
- This project also included an upgraded telemetry system for both Non Pareil and Cooper Creek water plants, reservoirs, and two new concrete backwash basins.
- With the actual cost of construction coming in under budget the city was also able to complete the West Side water main extension. This extension consisted of 3450' of 18" Ductile Iron pipe beginning at I-5 and running west just past Recreation Lane.

