

We welcome your questions or comments. 459-2856 or email us at www.ci.sutherlin.or.us



CITY OF SUTHERLIN
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Sutherlin

New Budget Brings New Change

Sutherlin City Council approved next year's budget at a special meeting held Monday, June 28th. One significant change is the transfer of Fire/Ambulance services to Douglas County Fire District #2 under a five year agreement. Effective July 1, City employees in the department became District employees. During the term of the contract the citizens of Sutherlin will decide whether or not they want to be annexed into the District through a vote.

The future of the department has been a subject of conversation for the past several years. The City has struggled to fund services at levels determined to be necessary for a community the size of Sutherlin. Our population at present is 8,095. There currently are no reserve funds to pay for aging equipment, and the department is frequently faced with staffing issues as the employees respond to over 2,000 ambulance calls per year. A report provided to the Council by former fire chief and previous Interim Fire Chief's, Bill Anderson and Gene Fischer pointed out other concerns, such as a dwindling number of community volunteers, which is critical to communities such as Sutherlin. The contract with Douglas County Fire District #2 not only provides immediate access to the full resources of this larger entity but saves the City money and positions us to be better prepared to provide the community necessary services should the annexation vote fail.

Also new in this budget is an increase

in sewer rates of \$5 per month for residential customers. These rates have not been raised for several years and the City is faced with sewer plant upgrades necessary to be compliant with federal clean water regulations. Nearly 10 years ago the City's permit to discharge treated sewer into Calapooia Creek during the summer months was terminated. The direction given to the City was to begin an investigation to identify options satisfying environmental regulations. During this time the state has allowed the City to operate in violation through a special license. The City is facing \$21M in sewer upgrades currently scheduled to begin in 3-4 years.

Water rates remain the same and the Council has indicated their interest in placing another measure on the ballot in November of this year.

Financially the City continues to increase our reserves, which means we are doing a better job of living within our means. Please visit our website at: www.ci.sutherlin.or.us and read our budget. We have made commitments in this document to improve Sutherlin over the coming year. We remain focused on finding efficient means to provide services and hope to keep our town an affordable community that is an attractive place for people to live. We hope you will continue to see improvements in the image of Sutherlin and as always we welcome your comments.

- City Manager, Robb Corbett

2010 GENERAL ELECTION



Any person interested in filing for a seat on the Sutherlin City Council may obtain Candidate Packets and Nomination Petitions from the City Recorder at City Hall beginning June 02, 2010.

All potential candidates must be Douglas County registered voters and live

within the city limits. The deadline for filing completed petition with the City Recorder is 5:00 p.m., August 20, 2010.

The following positions will be slated for the November 02, 2010 general election:

- Mayor - 2 year position
- Three Council Seats - 4 year positions

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW SEWER RATES

During the last City Council meeting, the City adopted new sewer rates that are effective immediately. The new rates were anticipated and were incorporated as part of the 2010 - 2011 budget and will increase a residential home's monthly sewer bill \$5 from \$28.50 to \$33.50 inside the city limits. This is the first increase to city sewer rates in four years. In his Budget Message the City Manager states:

"The only increase in fees that I have proposed is sewer. I have budgeted a \$5 per month increase to address increased costs in maintaining the system. The City recently completed an updated Wastewater Master Plan that anticipates a \$21 million expense to the community to expand our treatment facility and address surcharging ..."

By increasing sewer rates a little now the City plans to address the systems surcharging (I & I) issues in the immediate future in an effort to reduce the size of the required plant in the coming years and thereby save sewer customers on their future bills. The City Manager noted this strategy in his budget message:

"Currently during a wet weather event 66% of the flow into the treatment plant is storm water and ground water. If we continue to reduce these flows it will reduce our overall plant cost."

The newly developed Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan also noted that current sewer rates were insufficient to cover current operating expenditures necessitating an increase in rates, finding that:

"Sewer collections for 2008 budget year averaged \$24.95 per EDU [Equivalent Dwelling Unit] per month. The actual cost to fund the wastewater operations fund for the 2008 budget year was \$25.91 per EDU per month."

For a complete listing of the new sewer rates see the City's website at www.ci.sutherlin.or.us. More detailed information regarding sewer issues and plans can be found in the City's 2010-2011 Adopted Budget and the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan also available on the City's web site.

City Services Survey

We have a City services survey on the City Website. Won't you please take a moment and go to the City's website so we can hear from you. We appreciate your input and opinions!

The City's website address is: www.ci.sutherlin.or.us. You will find it on the home page in the upper right hand corner. Thank you for participating!

Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers are needed for the Dial-a-Ride program, the Visitor's Center, as well as on some of the Council Advisory Committee's.

We have two vacancies on the Parks Advisory Committee and two open on the Transient Room Tax Advisory Committee. Each have one meeting a month normally.

If you have a few hours per week or per month to spare and would like to give back to your community give us a call.

Direct inquires for Dial-a-Ride to Donita at 459-2211. For the Visitors Center contact Char at 459-5829. For all other Committee's contact Vicki at 459-2856.

Community Development Department

The Community Development Department was created in July of 2009 as a merging of Public Works and Planning Departments. This process was undertaken to counteract the reduction of 3.5 employees. Nevertheless the Dept. was able to reorganize and complete several projects: overlay 6th Avenue, overlay 4th Avenue, Festival Grounds Wetland Mitigation (in conjunction with volunteers), irrigation improvements at City park facilities, USDA Grant for the new Cooper Creek Water Treatment Plant, Dean Avenue waterline

replacement and numerous smaller projects along the way.

This year the Department expects to replace additional older water mains, begin construction of the Cooper Creek Water Treatment Plant, begin various improvements to the Festival Grounds and Central Park, as well as conduct needed improvements and repairs to City facilities. Also, street maintenance funding will be a priority over the course of the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Character is doing what's right when nobody's looking. - J.C. Watts, Jr.