

# FALLS CITY NEWSLETTER

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JULY, 2020

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### Call for Historical Documents!

The City has been approved for a small “Certified Local Government Grant” to create a digital space for the City’s historical documents, such as pictures, newspaper articles, and other documents. The City’s Utility Biller, Athena, is heading up the project and asking each of you to contact City Hall if you have documents you think might be of historical value. City Staff will scan, categorize, and itemize a page on the City website where all of the city’s historical documents can be accessed!

### Sewer Rate Increase – Effective Immediately

As most of the community is aware, the City of Falls City was awarded a Community Development Block Grant, administered by Business Oregon, funded by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and purposed to design a lagoon style sewage plant somewhere other than the High School Football Field (where the current city drain field lies). However, grant funding is not currently available to pay for the entire cost of the new facility, so other sources of payment must be determined. Last month in this newsletter we discussed a potential sewer rate increase and announced a June 22<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting to take up the topic.

The meeting was held as planned and a presentation by the City’s Sewer Rate Study Consultant made it clear to city leadership that rates must be increased in order to meet the financial burdens of the new sewer plant. The presentation laid out a long-term plan that will be adjusted as costs rise or fall based on time value of money, available grant resources, financing terms, and a slew of other variables. For now, the cost for residential and commercial sewer connections will increase from \$46.00 to \$52.65. This will be the first increase in nearly four years, and will begin to build a reserve for construction of the new plant.

### Backflow Repairs Required

Each water service connection is required to have a backflow preventer installed on it, this keeps water from backing up into and contaminating the city’s entire water system. The law requires these backflow devices to be inspected annually, which you pay for under “Backflow” on your water bill. The City’s most recent inspection yielded approximately 150 backflow devices that are in need of repair or replacement. The Falls City Municipal Code makes it the property owner’s responsibility to repair or replace inoperable backflow devices within 90 days of being advised. When advised of the number of failed devices, the Council directed City Staff to look into options to ease the burden of repair/replacement of backflow devices. If your device is one of those in question you will receive a letter with options. In short, the City Council has devised a program that will allow for a bulk rate on repairs and the option to pay for them in 12 equal payments. Conversely, a water user may pay in-full at the time of repair, or higher their own plumber to correct any issues. Additional details will be provided in the letter if this applies to you.

## COVID-19 Update

The City Council met to discuss current and future COVID-19 measures being taken by each layer of government, and what that means for Falls City moving forward. A summary of the Council's decisions on current and future measures is available on the City's Facebook page, or on the City website: [www.fallscityoregon.gov](http://www.fallscityoregon.gov).

## Falls City Direct Connect Resuming Service

The Falls City Direct Connect is resuming service on a modified schedule. For more information visit [www.polk.or.us](http://www.polk.or.us), and select "Family & Community Outreach" from the "Departments" menu. There you will find the latest news by clicking the Falls City Direct Connect button on the left side of the screen.

## Committees Resume Meeting

After a long, COVID related hiatus, city committees will resume meeting in July to help advise the council and represent the interests of the community in their various arenas. Time, date, and location information is on the right side of this page.

## Friday & Saturday Market!

The City Council has approved a Friday & Saturday Market vendor permit that will allow businesses to vend, on commercially zoned property, on Fridays & Saturdays, from 9am -3pm, as long as they have a Falls City Business license or Friday & Saturday Market vendor permit. At present, Frink's has communicated their desire to host vendors, so contact them if you, or someone you know is interested. For those without a Falls City Business license, please contact city hall for details on the vendor permit, one permit lasts the entire season!

## CITY SCHEDULE JULY, 2020

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING:

DATE/TIME- JULY 13, 2020 @ 6PM  
LOCATION- FALLS CITY COMMUNITY CENTER, PHONE, OR INTERNET

- COMMUNITY CENTER; 299 MILL ST. FALLS CITY, OR 97344
- DIAL (425) 436-6370; CODE 251514
- WEB APP FREE DOWNLOAD AT FREECONFERENCECALL.COM; MEETING CODE- MANAGER3208

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

FALLS CITY COMMUNITY CENTER,  
DATES AND TIMES BELOW

- PUBLIC WORKS
  - JULY 23, 2020 @ 6PM
- PARKS & RECREATION
  - JULY 15, 2020 @ 11AM
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION
  - NONE SCHEDULED