



# CITY OF BINGEN NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2016

## Fall Yard & Garden Debris Pickup

The City will be picking up normal fall pruning and leaves from November 17 through November 23 for residential properties only within the city limits of Bingen. November 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the last day yard and garden debris will be picked up.



All leaves must be bagged. Shrubs and branches must be less than 2 inches in diameter. All debris must be placed at the curb or edge of the road. The yard and garden debris pickup is not intended for clearing property or major maintenance of trees and shrubs.

Please call 509-493-2122 and let us know that you have yard and garden debris to be picked up.

## Proposed 2017 Budget

The City will hold a series of public hearings in October, November and December regarding the 2017 proposed budget. The proposed budget for 2017 was created under the direction and guidance of the Mayor, City Administrator and the Budget Committee. Budget Committee members are Isolde Schroder and Catherine Kiewit.

The budget includes a 1% increase in property taxes and a 10% increase in water rates and a 0% increase in sewer rates. In addition, the city is proposing to change the business license fee to a flat fee of \$40 annually for all businesses including rentals.

The city has begun setting aside capital improvement funds for future water and sewer improvements. It is important to build capital improvement funds so that the city does not have to borrow all the funds required to complete necessary improvements over the next 5 to 10 years.

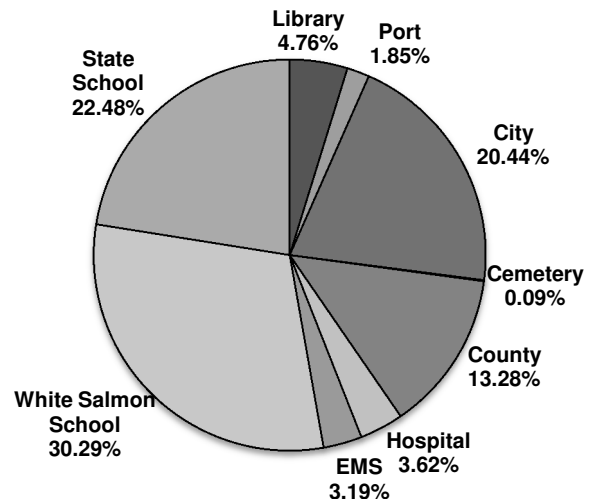
The city has been and will need to continue to be proactive through its planning process in addressing the city's current and long-range needs while still maintaining fiscal responsibility.

## Property Tax Levy

The City is legally allowed to increase the total property tax levy the city receives by 1%. The property tax levy for 2016 was \$200,569.49. An increase of 1% means the city would receive \$202,575.18 in property taxes for 2017 – an increase of \$2,005.69.

The chart below shows how property taxes for Bingen residents are allocated. Property taxes on a property valued at \$100,000 in 2016 would have been \$941.33. Bingen would have received \$192.40 of the total taxes.

### Bingen Property Taxes



## Utility Rates

The proposed budget for 2017 includes revenue from utility rates. In 2009, the city adopted ordinances that provide for an annual 5% increase in water and sewer rates. In 2017, the city proposes to increase the water rates by 10% and not increase the sewer rates therefore base rates will save residential utility customers \$0.51 per month. The proposed rates are shown below along with historical rate information.

Utility rates pay for the operation and maintenance of the city's water and sewer system including the wastewater treatment plant. The proposed 10% increase in water rates will help pay for improvements to the city's water system, including replacing a 65-year old reservoir.

### Monthly Base Sewer Rates

Type of User	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	2017 Proposed	% Change
Residential	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Commercial	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Light Industrial/Agricultural	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Heavy Industrial	\$42.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%

Overage charges will remain the same at \$18.00 per ½ ERU. Residential customers are not charged overage charges for sewer.

### Water Rates

Type of Account	2015 Rate	2016 Rates	Proposed 2017 Rates
<b>Residential (Single-Family) Base Rate</b>	28.40	29.82	\$32.80
Usage (0-10,000 gallons) per thousand	1.60	1.68	1.85
Usage (10,001 – 20,000 gallons) per thousand	2.69	2.82	3.10
Usage (>20,000 gallons) per thousand	4.02	4.22	4.64
<b>Base Rates for Commercial, Light Industrial, Industrial, Multi-Family</b>			
3/4 inch meter	43.39	45.56	50.12
1 inch meter	68.93	72.38	79.62
1-1/2 inch meter	137.83	144.72	159.19
2 inch meter	206.76	217.10	238.81
3 inch meter	427.56	448.94	493.83
4 inch meter	598.57	628.50	691.35
6 inch meter	898.50	943.43	1,037.77
Usage per 1,000 gallons	2.44	2.56	2.82

A residential household that uses 6,000 gallons of water would have paid a total of \$85.90 per month in 2016 for combined water and sewer and will pay \$89.90 per month in 2017.

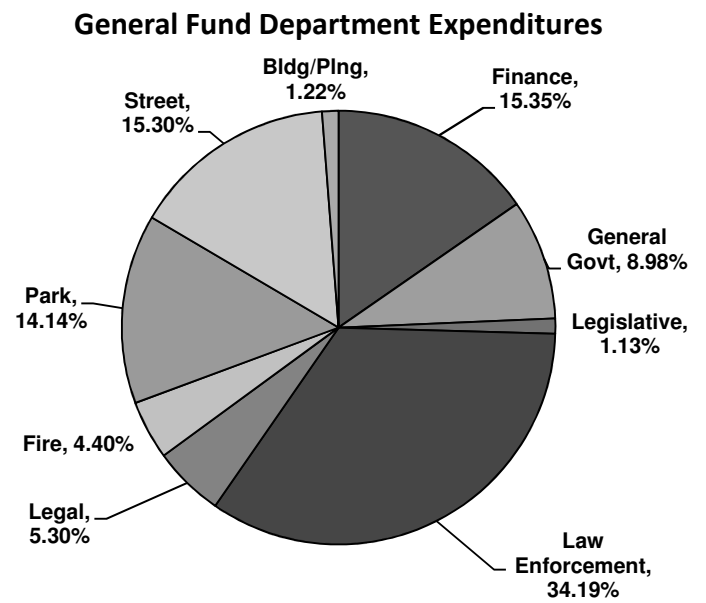
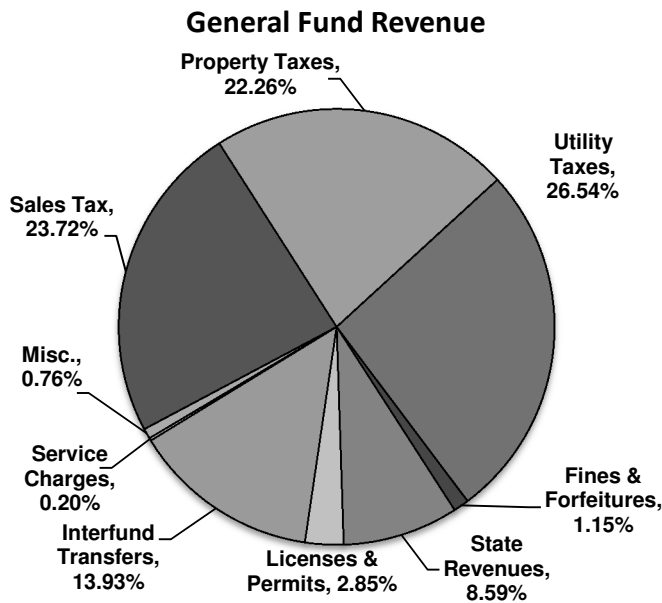
Residential Utility Billing Rate Comparison	
Includes billing for both water and sewer based on 6,000 gallons water used	
City	2016 Rates
Stevenson	\$65.53
Goldendale	\$67.80
Cascade Locks	\$70.28
Bingen	\$85.90
Hood River	\$89.00
White Salmon	\$99.15
North Bonneville	\$99.86
The Dalles	\$101.62

The city's water usage rates are structured for conservation. We encourage water conservation in the summer months by asking customers to water early in the morning or in the evening. In addition, it is important to check

for leaks in your water system such as running toilets or leaking irrigation. Preparing your water pipes for winter can help avoid costly damages associated with water pipes that freeze.

### General Fund

The city’s general fund is the fund that pays for costs associated with police and fire services, street, parks, financial services, animal control, legal and judicial services, planning, building services and legislative (city council and mayor). The majority of the funding for the current expense comes from taxes which includes property taxes, sales taxes and utility taxes. The city splits the property taxes it receives between the current expense fund and the street fund. Utility taxes are paid on telephone, cable, electric, natural gas, water, sewer and garbage utilities.



### Public Hearings – 2017 Revenue and Budget

The City of Bingen wants to hear from its citizens regarding the proposed 2017 budget. A series of public hearings will be held. In addition, citizens can submit written comments to the City by mailing to P.O. Box 607, Bingen WA 98605, dropping off at City Hall – 112 N. Ash, or by e-mail [administrator@bingenwashington.org](mailto:administrator@bingenwashington.org).

- October 18      Public Hearing – Proposed 2017 Revenue Sources and Property Tax Levy
- November 1     Public Hearing on Proposed Water Rates, Business License Fees and Property Tax Levy
- November 15    Public Hearing on Proposed 2017 Budget
- December 6     Final Public Hearing on Proposed 2017 Budget

### Klickitat County Emergency Notification System

Klickitat County uses a mass notification system called the Klickitat County Emergency Notification System to notify residents of emergency situations. All landlines are automatically entered in the system. To register your cell phones visit <http://www.klickitatemergencymanagement.com> and click the “Register Your Phone” icon at the top of the page.

City of Bingen  
PO Box 607  
Bingen WA 98605

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

**Upcoming Public Hearings - 2017 Budget  
October 18, November 1 & 15, December 6**

The City will hold a public hearing on proposed 2017 revenue and property taxes at its *October 18<sup>th</sup>* city council meeting and public hearings on the proposed 2017 budget at its *November 15<sup>th</sup>* and *December 6<sup>th</sup>* city council meeting. In addition the city council will hold a public hearing at its *November 1<sup>st</sup>* council meeting regarding proposed water rate increases, business license fees and property tax levy.

Copies of the budget are available from city hall or on line at <http://www.bingenwashington.org> or by calling 509-493-2122.

Public comment will be taken at the hearing.  
Written comment can also be submitted.

*Este documento esta disponible en español en el Ayuntamiento.*

**Bingen Council Members and Staff**

Betty J. Barnes, Mayor  
Dan Armstrong, Council Member  
Stephanie Porter, Council Member  
Catherine Kiewit, Council Member  
Isolde Schroder, Council Member  
Vacant, Council Member

Jan Brending, City Administrator  
Cheyenne Willey, Deputy Clerk  
David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent  
Jay Hicks, Public Works Maintenance  
Mike Solomon, Public Works  
Maintenance/Animal Control  
Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Manager  
James Buckland, Treatment Plant Operator  
Marlon Morat, Building Official

City of Bingen  
P.O. Box 607, 112 N. Ash  
Bingen, Washington 98605  
Telephone: 509-493-2122  
Fax: 509-493-1391  
E-mail: [cityhall@bingenwashington.org](mailto:cityhall@bingenwashington.org)