



CITY OF BINGEN NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2017

Fall Yard & Garden Debris Pickup

The City will be picking up normal fall pruning and leaves from November 16 through November 22 for residential properties only within the city limits of Bingen. November 22nd 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 pick up 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.

The City of Bingen does not own a street sweeper. Do not sweep or blow leaves out into the street. Please use the yard and garden debris pick up opportunity by bagging all leaves or dispose of the leaves properly.

Proposed 2018 Budget

The City will hold a series of public hearings in October, November and December regarding the 2018 proposed budget. The proposed budget for 2018 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.

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.

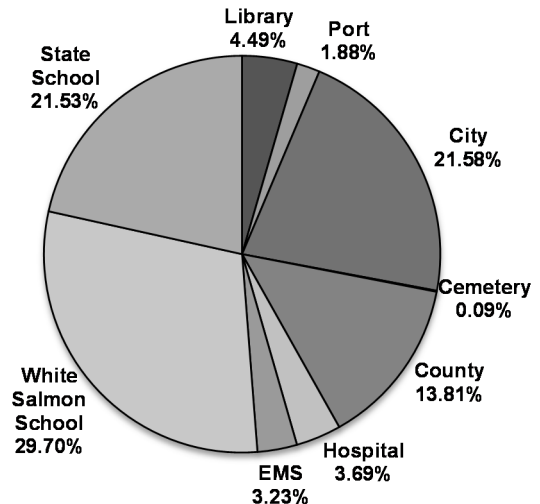
The city has been and will need to continue to be proactive through its planning process in addressing the city's current and long-range needs while still maintaining fiscal responsibility.

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 2017 was \$204,608.55. An increase of 1% means the city would receive \$206,654.64 in property taxes for 2018 – an increase of \$2,046.09.

The chart below shows how property taxes for Bingen residents are allocated. Property taxes on a property valued at \$100,000 in 2017 would have been \$929.17. Bingen would have received \$200.15 of the total taxes.

Bingen Property Taxes



Utility Rates

The proposed budget for 2018 includes revenue from utility rates. In 2009, the city adopted ordinances that provide for an annual 5% increase in water and sewer rates. In 2018, the city proposes to increase the water rates by 10% and not increase the sewer rates therefore base rates will save residential utility customers \$0.36 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 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	2018 Proposed	% Change
Residential	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Commercial	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Light Industrial/Agricultural	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	0%
Heavy Industrial	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$46.00	\$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	2016 Rate	2017 Rates	Proposed 2018 Rates
Residential (Single-Family) Base Rate	29.82	32.80	36.08
Usage (0-10,000 gallons) per thousand	1.68	1.85	2.04
Usage (10,001 – 20,000 gallons) per thousand	2.82	3.10	3.41
Usage (>20,000 gallons) per thousand	4.22	4.64	5.10
Base Rates for Commercial, Light Industrial, Industrial, Multi-Family			
3/4 inch meter	45.56	50.12	55.13
1 inch meter	72.38	79.62	87.58
1-1/2 inch meter	144.72	159.19	175.11
2 inch meter	217.10	238.81	262.69
3 inch meter	448.94	493.83	543.21
4 inch meter	628.50	691.35	760.49
6 inch meter	943.43	1,037.77	1,141.55
Usage per 1,000 gallons	2.56	2.82	3.10

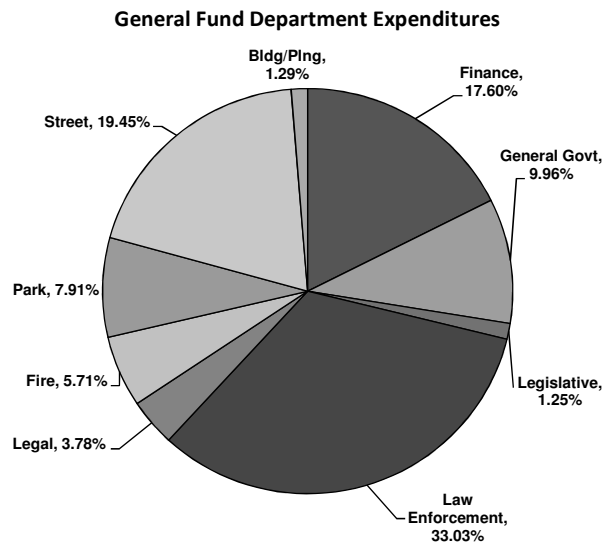
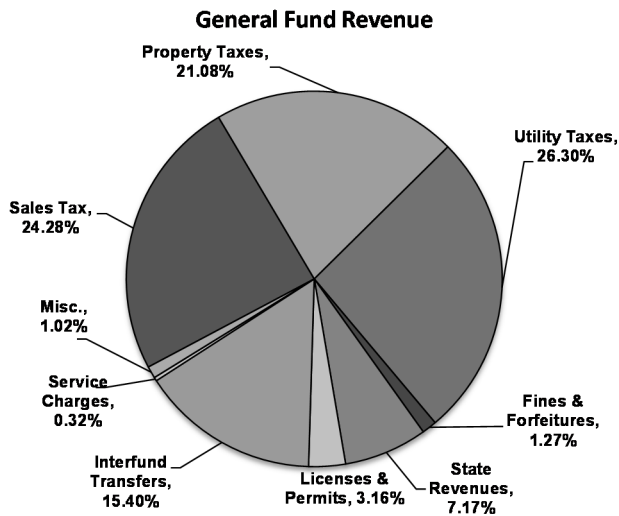
A residential household that uses 6,000 gallons of water would have paid a total of \$89.90 per month in 2017 for combined water and sewer and will pay \$94.32 per month in 2018.

Residential Utility Billing Rate Comparison	
Includes billing for both water and sewer based on 6,000 gallons water used	
City	2017 Rates
Stevenson	\$65.53
Goldendale	\$67.80
Cascade Locks	\$76.62
Hood River	\$89.18
Bingen	\$89.90
The Dalles	\$101.62
North Bonneville	\$103.41
White Salmon	\$116.61

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 – 2018 Revenue and Budget

The City of Bingen wants to hear from its citizens regarding the proposed 2018 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.

- October 17 Public Hearing – Proposed 2018 Revenue Sources and Property Tax Levy
- November 7 Public Hearing on Proposed 2018 Water Rates and Property Tax Levy
- November 21 Public Hearing on Proposed 2018 Budget
- December 5 Final Public Hearing on Proposed 2018 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

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**Upcoming Public Hearings - 2018 Budget
October 17, November 7 & 21, December 5**

The City will hold a public hearing on proposed 2018 revenue and property taxes at its **October 17th** city council meeting and public hearings on the proposed 2017 budget at its **November 21st** and **December 5th** city council meeting. In addition the city council will hold a public hearing at its **November 7th** council meeting regarding proposed water rate increases, 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
Ryan O'Connor, Council Member
Phil Jones, Council Member
Catherine Kiewit, Council Member
Isolde Schroder, Council Member
Laura Mann, 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

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