



CITY OF BINGEN NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2015

Fall Yard & Garden Debris Pickup

The City will be picking up normal fall pruning and leaves from November 18 through November 25 for residential properties only within the city limits of Bingen. November 25th will be the last day yard and garden debris will be picked up.



All leaves must be bagged. Shrubs and branches must be less 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.

Proposed 2016 Budget

The City will hold a series of public hearings in November and December regarding the 2016 proposed budget. The proposed budget for 2016 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 5% increase in water 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.

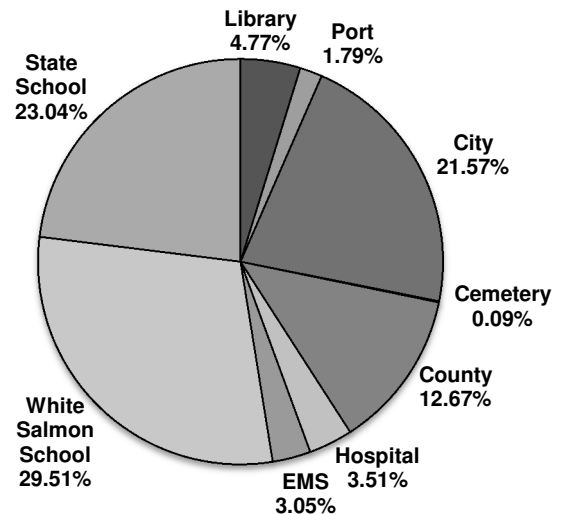
The city has been and will need to continue to be proactive through its planning process in addressing the city's current and long-range needs while still maintaining fiscal responsibility.

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 2015 was \$198,504.09. An increase of 1% means the city would receive \$200,489.13 in property taxes for 2016 – an increase of \$1,985.04.

The chart below shows how property taxes for Bingen residents are allocated. Property taxes on a property valued at \$100,000 in 2015 would have been \$983.71. Bingen would have received \$212.21 of the total taxes.

Bingen Property Taxes



Utility Rates

The proposed budget for 2016 includes revenue from utility rates. In 2009, the city adopted ordinances that provide for an annual 5% increase in water and sewer rates. In 2016, the sewer rates will not increase saving sewer customers \$2.00 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 rates also pay for debt payments and future capital improvements.

Monthly Base Sewer Rates

| Type of User | Actual 2011 | Actual 2012 | Actual 2013 | Actual 2014 | Actual 2015 | 2016 Proposed | % Change |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| Residential | \$40.00 | \$42.00 | \$44.00 | \$44.00 | \$46.00 | \$46.00 | 0% |
| Commercial | \$40.00 | \$42.00 | \$44.00 | \$44.00 | \$46.00 | \$46.00 | 0% |
| Light Industrial/Agricultural | \$40.00 | \$42.00 | \$44.00 | \$44.00 | \$46.00 | \$46.00 | 0% |
| Heavy Industrial | \$40.00 | \$42.00 | \$44.00 | \$44.00 | \$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 | 2014 Rate | 2015 Rates | Proposed 2016 Rates |
|--|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| Residential (Single-Family) Base Rate | 27.05 | 28.40 | 29.82 |
| Usage (0-10,000 gallons) per thousand | 1.52 | 1.60 | 1.68 |
| Usage (10,001 – 20,000 gallons) per thousand | 2.56 | 2.69 | 2.82 |
| Usage (>20,000 gallons) per thousand | 3.83 | 4.02 | 4.22 |
| Base Rates for Commercial, Light Industrial, Industrial, Multi-Family | | | |
| 3/4 inch meter | 41.33 | 43.39 | 45.56 |
| 1 inch meter | 65.65 | 68.93 | 72.38 |
| 1-1/2 inch meter | 131.27 | 137.83 | 144.72 |
| 2 inch meter | 196.92 | 206.76 | 217.10 |
| 3 inch meter | 407.20 | 427.56 | 448.94 |
| 4 inch meter | 570.07 | 598.57 | 628.50 |
| 6 inch meter | 855.72 | 898.50 | 943.43 |
| Usage per 1,000 gallons | 2.32 | 2.44 | 2.56 |

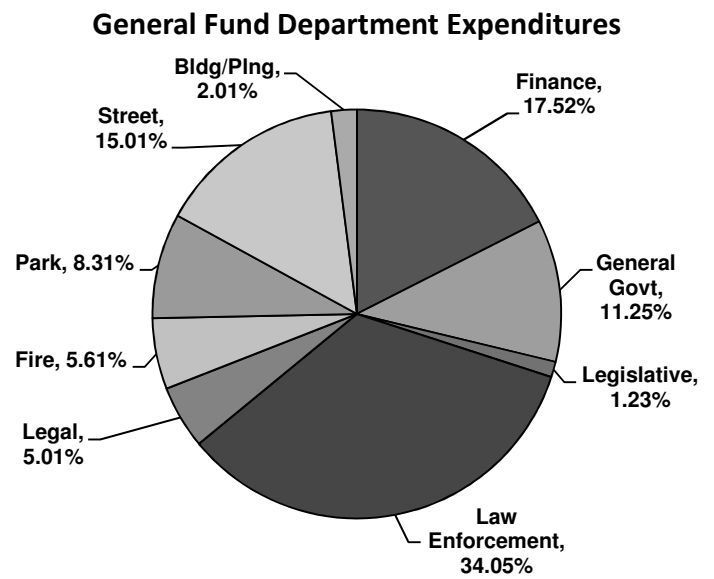
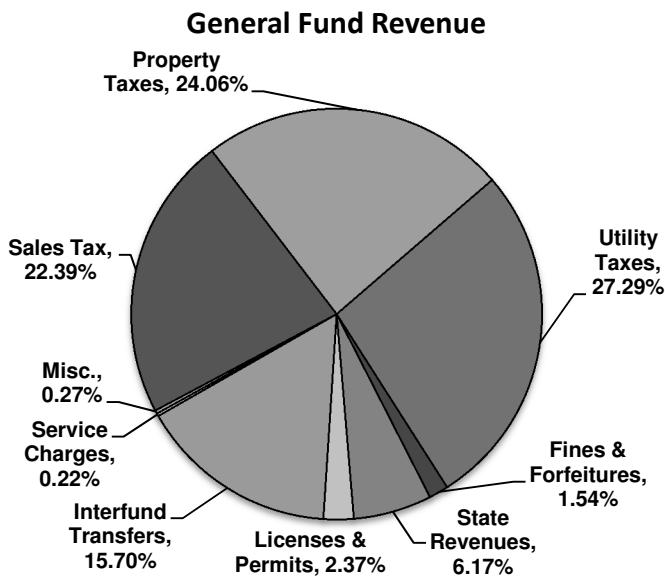
A residential household that uses 6,000 gallons of water would have paid a total of \$84.00 per month in 2015 for combined water and sewer and will pay \$85.90 per month in 2016.

| Residential Utility Billing Rate Comparison | |
|---|------------|
| Includes billing for both water and sewer based on 6,000 gallons water used | |
| City | 2015 Rates |
| Stevenson | \$65.53 |
| Goldendale | \$67.80 |
| Cascade Locks | \$69.28 |
| Hood River | \$78.52 |
| Bingen | \$84.00 |
| North Bonneville | \$94.43 |
| The Dalles | \$101.62 |
| White Salmon | \$102.51 |

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 and 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 – 2016 Revenue and Budget

The City of Bingen wants to hear from its citizens regarding the proposed 2016 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.

- November 3 Public Hearing on Proposed 2016 Revenue and Property Tax Levy
- November 18 Public Hearing on Proposed 2016 Budget (**Note: this hearing is on a Wednesday.**)
- December 1 Final Public Hearing on Proposed 2016 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

**Upcoming Public Hearings - 2016 Budget
November 3 & 18, December 1**

The City will hold a public hearing on proposed 2016 revenue and property taxes at its **November 3^d** city council meeting and public hearings on the proposed 2016 budget at its **November 18th and December 1st** city council meeting.

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
Kristen Hohensee, Deputy Clerk
David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent
Jay Hicks, Public Works Maintenance
Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Manager
James Buckland, Treatment Plant Operator
Karl Russell, Building Official

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