



CITY OF WENATCHEE

2016 Annual Report



APPLE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!

Message from Mayor Kuntz

As I reflect on 2015, it was quite a year! Voters in both the City of Wenatchee and Chelan County Fire Protection District #1 overwhelmingly approved the annexation of the City of Wenatchee into the Fire District (91.56% approval). In June our Fire Chief Stan Smoke retired and then on June 28th it felt like the entire town caught fire. The Sleepy Hollow Fire tested all of our character. Those we knew lost homes and major warehouses were lost in the North Wenatchee Avenue area. That night is forever etched in my memory. As Mayor, I directed our staff to begin the hard work of putting the pieces back together. In this annual report, I encourage you to read about the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfires technical assistance grant we have (one of three in the nation) that will allow

us to plan for a more sustainable future and also, we'll introduce you to the team planning for the revitalization of North Wenatchee. We have pending legislation in Olympia that will hopefully assist in our efforts.

Last year along with Fire Annexation, we were pleased to welcome East Wenatchee's investment in the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center and the 4th of July celebration. This year will bring the annexation of Olds Station and the outcome of Our Valley What's Next. I look forward to hiring a new Public Works Director and Police Chief and as always, keeping our City financially sound. With Alcoa's announcement and curtailment, we look forward to working with the region's leaders on solutions and support the efforts to embrace the employees

who are looking for new jobs as a result.

As I start my second term as Mayor, I want to thank the citizens for the things they do to make our city great. It is an honor to serve you.

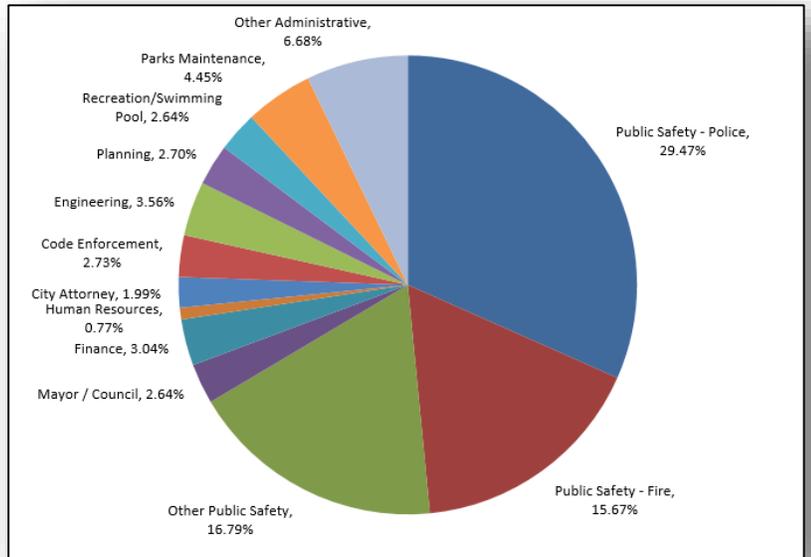
Frank J. Kuntz, Mayor



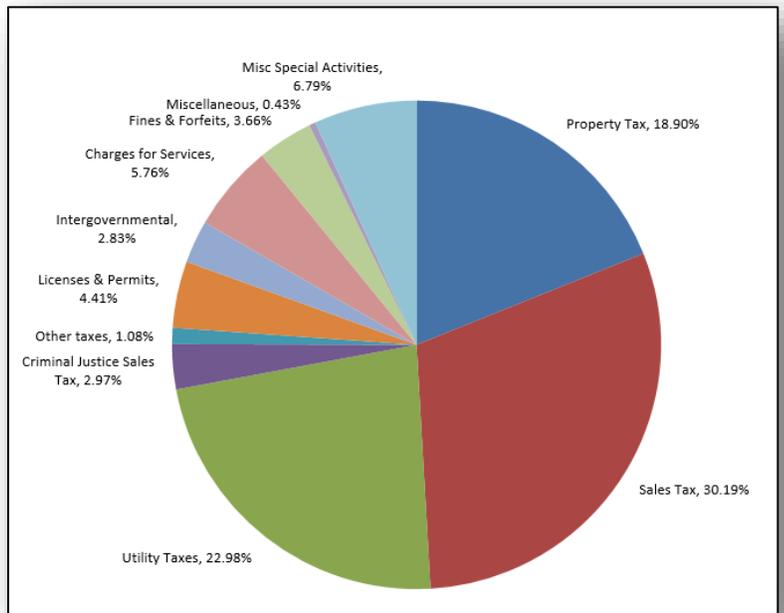
2016 Budget Overview

The City of Wenatchee budget picture continues to show stability. The City came out of 2015 with strong general fund reserves, which will allow the further strengthening of the rainy day fund and can provide a funding source for strategic investments in critical infrastructure. The pent up demand for infrastructure needs across the city is large. The annexation of Olds Station will provide a new focus as we begin implementing many of the needs of that area as a result of being a part of the city. A primary focus is sewer and developing a long term plan for the Olds Station area. In addition, a new pavement management study to be released this spring that will identify a long term level of investment needed to bring our streets to standard. For more detail on the budget visit: www.wenatcheeva.gov/2016budget

General Fund Expenditures		
Public Safety - Police	29.47%	6,566,617
Public Safety - Fire	15.67%	3,492,093
Other Public Safety	16.79%	3,740,622
Mayor / Council	2.64%	589,223
Finance	3.04%	677,383
Human Resources	0.77%	171,906
City Attorney	1.99%	444,252
Code Enforcement	2.73%	609,241
Engineering	3.56%	794,410
Planning	2.70%	601,944
Recreation/Swimming Pool	2.64%	587,727
Parks Maintenance	4.45%	991,950
Other Administrative	6.68%	1,489,417
Museum	1.81%	402,588
Misc Special Activities	5.05%	1,125,675
	100.00%	22,285,048



General Fund Revenues		
Property Tax	18.90%	4,781,963
Sales Tax	30.19%	7,636,926
Utility Taxes	22.98%	5,813,037
Criminal Justice Sales Tax	2.97%	751,871
Other taxes	1.08%	272,560
Licenses & Permits	4.41%	1,114,373
Intergovernmental	2.83%	714,919
Charges for Services	5.76%	1,457,523
Fines & Forfeits	3.66%	926,501
Miscellaneous	0.43%	109,391
Misc Special Activities	6.79%	1,718,160
	100.00%	25,297,224



City Advisory Committees

Meeting Schedules:

All meetings are open to the public.

Arts, Recreation and Parks Commission

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Civil Service Board

Meets the second Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Code Enforcement Board

Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Diversity Advisory Committee

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Historic Preservation Board

Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

Meets the third Wednesday every other month at 3:00 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Planning Commission

Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall

Tourism Promotion Area Board

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at noon (location varies).

All meetings are posted on the city's website at www.wenatcheewa.gov.

City Advisory Committees

The City of Wenatchee appreciates the work of the advisory committees! Used wisely and effectively, boards and commissions involve citizens in government and improve the quality of governmental decision making. Vacancies on the boards/commissions do occur, so if you are interested in serving please watch for announcements on the city's website and local media, or visit the Boards and Commissions page at www.wenatcheewa.gov to download a copy of the application.

Electoral Process Committee

In July 2015 the City Council appointed 11 community members to the Electoral Process Committee. They are tasked with examining the electoral process to make a recommendation on whether dividing the city into districts for purposes of electing Councilmembers would provide more equal opportunities for all citizens to participate in the political process. Chaired by Jean Speidel, the committee meets twice monthly, on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Wenatchee City Hall. The committee's recommendation to the City Council is expected late spring/early summer 2016.

Stay tuned!



Wenatchee City Council



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Jim Bailey
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Position 6
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Position 7
Mike Poirier
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Our Valley...What's Next (Nuestro Valle...Que Sigue):

As a result of the regional economic development staff meeting on a regular basis, a new values based vision is being developed for our valley. The effort purposely uses Our Valley in the title to stay away from jurisdictional boundaries. Our Valley...What's Next is a vision that provides recommendations in six key focus areas with goals and actions that will serve to revitalize our region and create a collaborative effort (collective impact). The need for this became especially poignant with Alcoa's announcement in November 2015 of its curtailment in light of global economic issues. The plan is also putting our area in line to potentially be named as one of America's Best Communities, a contest that could result in a large cash prize to implement the revitalization plan. Wenatchee/East Wenatchee are one of 15 finalists. For the process, already more than 1500 surveys have been conducted and over 90 people are now participating in developing plan actions. More can be found out at www.ourvalleywhatsnext.com



Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW)

Last summer's fires weigh heavily on us and there is great momentum to create strategies to ensure we can minimize the impact of such an event in the future. On the heels of the fires, the City of Wenatchee was invited to apply for a Community Planning for Wildfire Assistance grant. We were one of three areas selected across the nation! A team of experts will be on the ground in March and they will provide us with a number of resources for our future consideration including recommendations for changes in our zoning/building codes and our wildland urban interface code, fire risk maps so we can plan for access and needs in threatened areas and they will interface with Chelan County and the cities of Chelan and Leavenworth to ensure a regional impact. For more information visit the city's website at: www.wenatcheewa.gov/cpaw



City Launching New Website in 2016

The City's website is currently in the process of being modernized with a new look and feel. One of the new features of the website will be responsive design which detects the screen resolution of the user's device and automatically optimizes the view specifically for that screen. The content will also be rearranged to make it easier for the citizens to find the information they are after and it will be more interactive. The updated website will be available later this spring.



Projects!

2015 was a great year for new projects! The South Chelan Street project was completed and is unique due to the high participation from residents who provided valuable insight and a stronger sense of identity to the project – can we say art on light poles? Look for a dedication in April. Hat's off to the Downtown Kiwanis Club, the Washington Park Shelter is wonderful and close to completion with a dedication scheduled May 5. Our Okanogan Street / Red Apple Road sidewalk project is getting a lot of kudos!! In 2016 we are adding security cameras to several parks and we are adding fencing to Cashmere Park and Pennsylvania Park. A big project coming is the Lincoln Park Shelter. Stay tuned!



Survey Time!

The input of our citizens is critical to how we carry out the work of the City. This year we have two contracts that we would like your input on. The first contract is for the City's Tourism Marketing effort. The City contracts lodging tax funds to the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce. We are interested in the impact – do you know what our tourism brand is? When you have people stay with you, are you aware of all of our attractions? Are there things that should be added? Please visit our website and chime in!

Secondly, we know you care about your garbage service. The City of Wenatchee contracts with Waste Management for overall garbage and recycling services. There are currently services that City residents receive that are under discussion. For example, do you value paying a bit more to make sure you can dump refuse four times a year? Do you need the 96 gallon tote or would you like the option of other can sizes? Would you pay for recycling? Please visit our website and give us your opinion.

North Wenatchee Master Planning ... Think Possibilities!



After the devastating Sleepy Hollow fires this last summer, the City is responding quickly with several recovery initiatives. One such recovery effort focuses on redevelopment of the area impacted by the fires between North Wenatchee Avenue and Miller Street. With the Washington State Department of Transportation relocating to Olds Station, approximately 30 acres will be available for near term redevelopment. This redevelopment is not only critical for restoring the tax base, but more importantly provides an opportunity to significantly enhance the economy and improve the business climate in North Wenatchee. In order to maximize this redevelopment opportunity, the city secured a grant from Washington State Department of Commerce and hired Crandall Arambula to critically evaluate the area and help us develop a Master Plan. Crandall Arambula was chosen based on their experience and ability to demonstrate and find creative solutions backed by analytics that lead to private development action. Crandall Arambula will work closely with stakeholders and City Staff to evaluate development options that ultimately will set the stage for all of North Wenatchee Avenue as well as the North end of our waterfront. This is an exciting time for the city in terms of Economic Development as the Mayor leads the city from disaster to recovery in which our goal is to emerge a stronger and better city!

Be sure to take a look at the annual reports for the Wenatchee Police Department and [Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department](#) on the city's website: www.wenatcheewa.gov

GO Request - Citizen Requests/Problem Reporting: See a pothole that needs filling? A street light that needs to be repaired? There's an app for that! There were 134 online submissions in 2015 through GO Request, the city's online reporting program. Citizens can access GO Request through the city's website or by downloading an app to their cellular phone. The top requests received in 2015 were: 1) Code Enforcement; 2) Traffic Issues; 3) Crime Concerns; 4) Potholes; and 5) Street Lights.