

# The City of Columbia City

*In Columbia County on the Columbia River*



## **CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SESSION JANUARY 12, 2011 - 6:00 P.M. CITY HALL, 1840 SECOND STREET COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97018**

### **Present:**

Mayor Cheryl A. Young  
Councilor Sally Ann Marson  
Councilor Shannon Fitzgibbons  
Councilor Josh Fromm  
Councilor Casey Wheeler (by telephone)  
Micah Rogers, Public Works Superintendent  
Leahnette Rivers, City Administrator/Recorder

The City Council met with staff to review updated water and sewer financial projections for water and sewer operations.

Well rehabilitation work, a reduction in water sales, and wholesale water purchases were the major contributors to a sharp decrease in the debt ratio coverage within the water fund this year. To correct the debt ratio deficiency, staff recommended a \$5.00 per month increase in the base rate effective 2/26/11, with another \$5.00 per month increase scheduled for 2/26/12, subject to further review at that time.

The sewer fund is currently faced with the emergency replacement of 680 feet of high pressure sewer main within the River Club Estates Subdivision, and St. Helens implemented another 32% increase in Columbia City's sewer treatment fees 12/15/10. The RCE project costs are estimated at nearly \$100,000, and the repairs are needed as soon as possible to avoid further sewer main breaks that lead to costly emergency repairs, property damages, and sewer spills. With the sewer fund still struggling to recover from the "A" to "E" Street Sewer Replacement Project, the funds are not currently available to complete the project. Staff recommended a \$10.00 per month increase in the base rate, effective 2/26/11, to recover the RCE project costs and begin to rebuild fund balance.

The Council reviewed the financial projections and discussed the recommendations at

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length with staff. It was the consensus of the Council that the City move forward with the recommended increases based upon the financial information provided.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.