November 2020 Utility Bill Insert ALMIRA TOWN HALL 639-2601

Assistance with utilities will soon be available for qualified households that have been negatively affected by COVID-19. On behalf of our cities, towns, and county, Rural Resources Community Action may be able to assist with water, sewer, garbage, electricity, and internet service costs. Call Rural Resources directly to get on a waiting list at 509-685-6000 or toll free 866-260-2729. They will start assistance as soon as the contracts are finalized."

The Utilities and Transportation Commission will serve as the single point of contact within state government for customers seeking bill assistance information. Utilities and Transportation Commission Consumer Hotline: 1-888-333-9882 or consumer@utc.wa.gov

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November Council Meeting:

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPERTY TAX: No guests, no questions or comments.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET: No guests, no questions or comments.

NUISANCE REPORT: CP reported that she was going to send letters out to about six properties as they were progressively getting worse. They would be given 30 days and then be fined.

UPDATES BY STAFF: The utility moratorium has been extended through the end of the year.

Jeanette attended the AWC Member's virtual conference, the IACC virtual conference and a webinar with the State Auditor's office.

We received our first CARES reimbursement for \$5305.55.

Jeanette has been doing a major email sort and save with the televar account before it is shut off the end of November.

Three utility deposits were refunded.

Budget work is in progress.

Brent and Dave have continued preparing for winter and wrapping up the fall work.

4th street was crack sealed and will be chip sealed along with Maple Street in the spring.

OLD BUSINESS: After more discussion the remaining CARES money the Town is eligible for was dispersed.

NEW BUSINESS: Resolution 2020-125, Property Tax increase was discussed and approved.

<u>BUILDING PERMITS:</u> One building permit for an addition to an existing garage was reviewed and approved.

STATUS OF UTILITY ACCOUNTS: Currently carrying \$12,457 in outstanding utility bills.

<u>BUDGET:</u> Currently the Sewer Fund is in the hole, partly from outstanding payments. The system is getting old and slowly needing more and more repairs, therefore costing us more. We are currently working on our Sewer System Plan to be eligible for future funding. Council made the recommendation to increase the sewer portion of the bill \$2.

The recycling fees are more than anticipated but we are collecting enough to cover the cost. People from outside the city limits need to pay the same as the town people (\$1 a month) if they are going to use it.

The next council meeting is December 8th at 7 pm

Please attend and have an input in our community.

ADJUSTED HOURS:

December 11th – Open at 1 p.m.

December 14th – Closing at noon

December 17th – open at 10 a.m.

December 24th & 25th – Closed – Merry Christmas!!!!

Other changes will be posted on the door.

The <u>Wilbur Food Pantry</u> is open the third Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. - 1 pm and 5 - 6 p.m. It is located at the Wilbur Community Church: Presbyterian Campus. The entrance is on the east side of the church, along Knox Street. <u>The Food Pantry is for Almira, Wilbur and Creston.</u> If you need more information or want to donate call Lori Rettkowski at 647-5402.

SNOW PLOW GUIDELINES: Parking on the street is prohibited. Alleys must be kept at a 20' width. Please check your alleyway to make sure it is free and clear by removing all clutter, including all overgrown bushes, shrubs and trees. If a car is parked on the street the snow plow will not clear that side of the road. There will not be a second trip if the plow comes by before vehicles are moved. The same applies to parking in the alleys.

*Snowmobiles are permitted only on arterials, only at a slow speed, only to get in and out of Town.

*Leaving faucets turned on slowly during low temperatures can help avoid frozen

WE STILL HAVE MASKS AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL

Meters will not be read again until April 2021

IF YOU SEE OR HEAR ANY ALARMS AT THE SEWER PLANT, RESERVOIR OR WELLS PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS
TO REPORT IT!