

City of Port Townsend

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mon, December 2:
Regular Business Meeting
Second Reading 2025
Proposed Budget and Special
Presentation: Golf Park Report

Mon, December 9:
City Council Workshop
Comprehensive Plan Update

Mon, December 16:
Regular Business Meeting
2025 Legislative Agenda and
Encampment Update

Meetings are held at 6 p.m.
unless otherwise noticed,
and are subject to change. Visit
cityofpt.us/calendar for updates.



Ring in the New Year with Port Townsend's beloved First Night, an all-ages New Year's Eve party on December 31. This year's theme is Cosmic Connection.

Learn more: theproductionalliance.org/events/first-night

Photo: Sarah Wright Photography

COLLECTIVE STRENGTH CARRIES US FORWARD

A message from Mayor David Faber



As 2024 draws to a close and we gather with our friends and families to celebrate the holidays, I know that many of us are

also dreading the state of American democracy and what we might expect over the next four years and beyond.

While I, too, am concerned about the future, I am also confident in this community. No matter what happens

at the federal level, we know what we stand for. As a welcoming city, as a creative community, as a resilient and talented community, we aim to be inclusive, compassionate, fair, and forward-thinking. To bring people up. To build and improve. To make lives better. Simply put, our collective strength will carry us forward through political, economic, and environmental uncertainties.

I'm confident of this, because I can see it in action right now. We've got a dedicated and talented City staff who provide us a dizzying array of

services on which we build our lives and families, friendships, businesses, organizations, and events. Port Townsend is investing in long-neglected infrastructure, with \$73 million of funded projects on the books and a refreshing and sound approach to fiscal responsibility. We have hundreds of volunteers – thousands if you count those beyond the City organization – who help keep public spaces tidy, raise funds with book sales, plant trees, and directly advise City Council through their roles on boards and commissions. I'm also deeply grateful for my smart and

Continued on next page

REFLECTIONS ON THIS PAST YEAR

A message from City Manager John Mauro



December's transition into winter is a good time to reflect on this past year as we get ready for the next one. I start with

gratitude – for the talented City team and elected leadership, for our close agency partners, and for community members who continue step up to engage, dialogue, co-create, and fuel this special place with energy, care, and creativity. Thank you!

This past year has been an exciting and productive one. With the opening of a brand-new Discovery Road and a grant-funded accessibility overhaul of Lawrence Street, a robust kick-off to Comprehensive Plan engagement and an ongoing focus on housing, major sewer projects and repairs, securing funding for urban forestry work – and a lot more – we're building some real

COFFEE CHAT with City Manager John Mauro



Friday,
Dec 6

The Cup
600 West Sims Way
9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Join John on the first Friday of every month for casual conversation about the issues that matter to you in the city.

momentum. My team and I will be compiling an annual report in early 2025 to unpack what we achieved, unanticipated surprises, and what we learned that we'll want to carry into the future. The Mayor and I will also welcome you to the annual State of the City event in early spring.

The 2025 strategic workplan and 2025 budget will be finalized this month. Looking forward, we have more than \$73 million of funded capital facilities work on the books for the years ahead and, with our track record of securing millions of state and federal grants each year, more is likely. The Comprehensive Plan update will continue and be complete by the end of 2025, and we'll all be able to orient

and work toward our community's vision for our future.

As usual, while we might go faster alone, we'll get further together. Consider getting and staying engaged: coffee & conversation first Fridays, our quarterly newsletter, the City's Facebook page, KPTZ's *Brewocracy Now!* every Thursday, City Council, YouTube, events, our website, and more – or by joining our team: cityofpt.applicantpool.com/jobs.

Happy Holidays to you and yours. I look forward to seeing you at some of the many events planned during this celebratory season and, post-winter solstice, the return to light.

John Mauro, City Manager

Mayor's letter, continued

courageous City Council colleagues. We may not agree on everything – and that's partly the point in representative democracy – but we learn from each other, we evolve our own positions, we respect one-another, and we do our best to work collaboratively to make difficult decisions in the best long-term interests of our community.

So yes, the incoming federal administration appears to be making some brash and unsettling moves. But no

matter which individual or party is running the federal government or what our residents' political affiliations may be, Port Townsend will continue to self-govern with steadiness, inclusivity, and resolve for all residents. We will continue to deliver the core infrastructure and services you depend on. And we will continue to work together to make our community better, fairer, and stronger so that the future looks brighter for everyone.

Mayor David J. Faber

IRRIGATION WATER RATES UPDATE

Irrigation water rates will return from summer to winter rate pricing, effective November 1 and reflected on your November 30 billing statement if you are an irrigation water customer. The price per 1,000 gallons consumed will go from \$9.55 to \$5.44 for customers inside city limits and from \$11.46 to \$6.53 for customers outside city limits.

HELP THE CITY PLAN THE FUTURE OF OUR SHORELINES

What can be done to address the impacts of sea level rise?

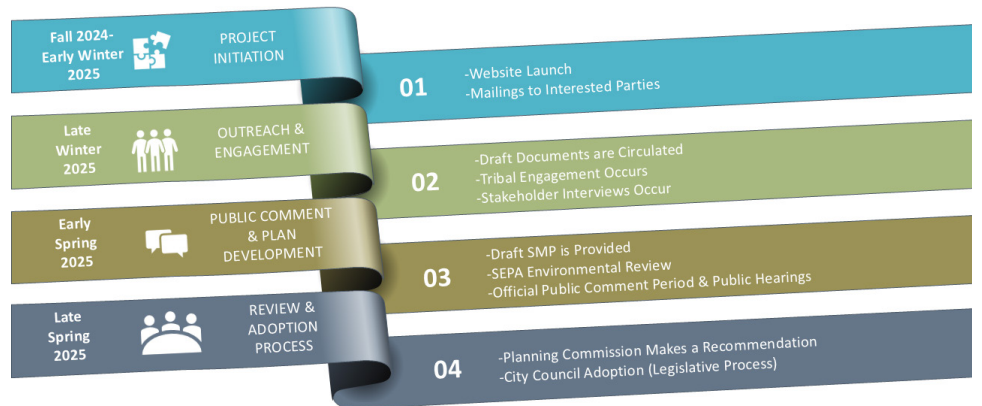
Thanks to a grant from the Department of Ecology, we are revisiting the Shoreline Master Program policies and regulations that govern use of our shorelines (including marine shorelines, Chinese Gardens Lagoon, and Kah Tai Lagoon). In addition to the mandated review, which requires us to keep current with state laws, we will update our permit processes and incorporate planning around sea level rise and king tide adaptation measures.

Sea level rise and reoccurring flood events are already causing substantial damage to public and private improvements along shorelines throughout the state. Locally, we experienced two of the highest tides ever recorded in 2022, with the December 27, 2022 king tide event breaking historical records. We expect the impacts to get increasingly worse.

The City has retained a consultant team to look at the options for our southern shoreline: from the bluffs west of the Boat Haven Marina, along the downtown waterfront, to and including Point Hudson. The consulting coastal geologists will identify and analyze design options for a range of passive to structural solutions (for example, sandbags to seawalls). We will coordinate with the Port of Port Townsend on their Phase 1 "Waterwalk and Sea Level

Rise Project" which is one possible solution for the area encompassing Boat Haven Marina. Once we have a menu of options, we will ask for public input on a series of questions: Which of the options are best for the environment? For shoreline development? For public access?

Public participation opportunities will include both in-person and virtual methods. Visit our project webpage to learn more and find out about upcoming opportunities to engage and stay informed: engage.ahbl.com/port-townsend-smp-update



The City is working with the Department of Ecology to develop a project schedule ensuring completion of the Shoreline Master Plan Update by June 30, 2025.

Lawrence Street Update: The Pedestrian Improvement Project is Almost Complete!

Over the last two months the core of our Uptown business district has been a bit torn up for new sidewalks, ramps, and other improvements for pedestrian accessibility. The project is proceeding on schedule and anticipated to be complete in mid-December. Thank you for your patience and support for the project, Uptown dwellers, businesses, and business patrons! Special thanks to Jefferson County Farmers Markets, Disability Awareness Starts Here (DASH), Port Townsend Main Street Program, and Jefferson Transit,

who have been essential partners in the success of the project so far.

The City is pursuing additional grants to reconstruct pavement and stormwater infrastructure on Lawrence Street and this accessibility project was the first step to repaving Lawrence.

Read more about the project on EngagePT: cityofpt.us/engagept/page/lawrence-tyler-streets-project



Water Street Sewer Replacement Project Update

This \$3.1 million project is on schedule for the general contractor to mobilize equipment in late December and begin project construction in the second week of January. Visit the project webpage to learn more by scanning the QR code.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS & NEW YEAR'S!

Community Tree Lighting & Santa Visit

December 7, 2 - 5 p.m.

Get ready to meet Santa! At Tyler Plaza Santa will greet visitors under the heated tent. The Wild Rose Chorale will be singing merry tunes, and PT Artscape will offer an ornament-making workshop for kids, funded by the Port Townsend Arts Commission. At 4:30, Santa will board the Kiwanis Choo Choo at Flagship Landing and make his way to Haller Fountain to light the Community Tree.

Holiday Merriment Throughout December with The Magic of Christmas and a Youth Arts & Crafts Market

December 8, 12 - 4 p.m.

The Magic of Christmas will bring holiday cheer all month long at the American Legion, with more festivities under the heated tent at Tyler Plaza, and a Youth Maker's Market at the Cotton Building.

FIRST NIGHT New Year's Eve Extravaganza

December 31, 3 p.m. to 2025

Come Downtown for live music, circus arts, stargazing, interactive art, theatre improv, history and art exhibits, fireworks, and more. Presented by The Production Alliance with support from City Lodging Tax.



LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

30 Years of Gingerbread

Submit your sugar and spice creation to the Port Townsend Public Library's 30th Annual Uptown Gingerbread Contest!

Submissions will be accepted from December 1 to December 8, and winners will be announced by December 20. This year's juror is Mayor David J. Faber. Come view all the delicious creations at the Library!

New Zen Booth

Need a quiet space for a school project, zoom meeting, or interview? Check out the Public Library's new Zenbooth! This small room is a quiet, enclosed space with a small adjustable table and two chairs. The space is lighted, has power and a fan for ventilation, and use is free. Reserve by calling the front desk 360-385-3181 or emailing ptlibrary@cityofpt.us.

Holiday Hours

The Library will be closed December 24 and 25, in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas.

The Library will be closing early at 4:00 p.m. on December 31 and closed January 1 in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Find the Library's calendar here: ptpubliclibrary.org/calendar/library



News about the City News!

Starting in January 2025 the City's Monthly Newsletter will be distributed directly to your email inbox! No more waiting for your utility bill or fiddling with a PDF - the enews format will be more timely and responsive to your personal device. And the City's Quarterly News magazine will be printed and sent to all residents and businesses on the Quimper Peninsula. Sign up for the newsletter using the QR code here.