



# the Pulse

BI-MONTHLY (APRIL - DEC)



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017

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## 2018 BUDGET

The City Council adopted the annual City budget for fiscal year 2018 at their November 20 meeting. Revenues and expenses included in the 2018 budget are balanced in all of the City's 36 funds. The annual budget was developed to support the adopted City Council Goals, current and projected service and infrastructure needs, and is reflective of current and anticipated economic conditions impacting the City. The budget includes a number of important changes, including:

- Peanuts Park Restoration: A "Mercado" concept for the Farmers Market area and vision for activating other areas of this historic urban park will serve to identify and support downtown as a regional hub of commerce and a place to experience. The 2018 budget proposes a sum of \$1.54 million to complete design, environmental review and associated public outreach and ready the project for construction. Construction could potentially begin as early as fall of 2018.
- Fire Station 84/New Park: The City acquired the Fire Station located on Road 48 in the Riverview neighborhood as part of the annexation asset transfer in 2016. However, the current facility will not meet future demand projections. The long-term plan is to replace Station 84 with a permanent facility co-located with the 20 acre park land acquisition and development project located between Road 48 and Road 52 north of Court Street. The 20 acre park property purchase will be closing before the end of 2017 at a cost of \$880,000. The 2018 budget proposes a master planning and design effort of \$75,000 for the park with construction planned for 2019. The 2018 budget also includes funding for design of the new fire station.
- Relocation of the Downtown Police Mini-Station: As downtown Pasco is reshaped, the department is looking to relocate to a more central location in the downtown core. This will allow for higher visibility, increased opportunities for community outreach and interaction, greater convenience to the public and enhanced safety in downtown.
- The Pasco Boat Basin: The budget proposes \$500,000 as the City's share in removing and replacing the remnants of the weather damaged docks with a new facility. The specifics of this transaction are under negotiation and will require subsequent Council approval.
- Animal Shelter Facility: A joint study commissioned by the cities of Kennewick, Richland and Pasco was completed earlier this year which presented options for size, design concepts, and approximate budget for the construction of a new facility. The proposed 2018 Capital Budget includes \$800,000 toward the City's share of the new facility. It is anticipated that design of the facility will be complete in 2018, with groundbreaking a possibility late in the year.

The City has experienced positive growth as the overall economy continues to improve. Major sources of revenue for the City's General Fund include:

- Property Tax: The City experienced significant gains in

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new construction with a 51% increase over the previous year. During this same period, assessed valuation of the properties in the City increased by 12% to \$4,753,795,881 in 2018. Due to the impact of new construction, increased assessed valuation, and private investment, property owners will see a significant reduction in their general tax levy rate from \$1.880 per \$1,000 assessed value in 2017, to \$1.765 in 2018.

- **Sales Tax:** Sales tax represents the largest single-source of general fund revenue; however, it is also the most elastic of the fund's three major revenue sources. With an improving regional economy and high construction sales tax, the anticipated revenue for 2018 is \$11,500,000. This is an increase of 2.7% over fiscal year 2017.

City Manager Dave Zabell said, in his 2018 Budget Message, "The preliminary budget proposal as presented seeks to satisfy or make significant progress toward the City Council's adopted Goals for 2016-2017 by providing for the implementation of important policy decisions made by the City Council through the process of prioritization, recognition and implementation of efficiencies. As with the prior year, this proposal attempts to maximize value through the efficient provision of services while minimizing the level of taxes, rates and fees paid by the citizens of Pasco."

For a complete summary of the changes, please see the Budget Message on the 2018 Budget page at [www.pasco-wa.gov/budget](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/budget), where you can also submit comments. For more information, contact the City Manager's office at (509) 545-3404.

## 5 New Council Members Elected



The Pasco City Council will look nearly brand-new in 2018 with the November election of 5 new Councilmembers. The 2017 Council election was historic with all 7 Councilmembers up for election due to the January 2017 Federal court ruling that changed the

election process for Council to a more district-based system. Due to the change, some Councilmembers will serve a four year term and others a two-year term to make staggered Council elections in 2019. The new Councilmembers are:

- Blanche Barajas, District 1, elected to a four year term
- Ruben Alvarado, District 2, elected to a two year term

- Pete Serrano, District 4, elected to a four year term
- David Milne, District 5, elected to a two year term
- Craig Maloney, District 6, elected to a four year term

Two incumbent Councilmembers retained their seats:

- Saul Martinez, District 3, elected to a four year term
- Matt Watkins, At-Large, elected to a two year term

The City Council will be holding a Special Meeting on Monday, December 11, to swear-in the incoming Councilmembers and recognize the outgoing Councilmembers. The new Councilmembers will formally take office on January 1, 2018. For more information on this year's Council elections, please visit [www.pasco-wa.gov/councilelections](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/councilelections).

## Dog Licensing Made Easier

The City Council has recently made changes to dog licensing within Pasco which should make getting your license easier.

In the past, dog licenses were for one calendar year, and needed to be renewed by the end of February. This small window for renewal, along with no online renewal option, resulted in long lines at City Hall in January and February. To expedite renewals and hopefully compliance with the dog license requirements, the City Council recently approved the following changes to dog licensing:

- Pet licenses will be valid for one year from the date on which the license is issued
- Pet owners will have the option to choose a three year pet license (with proof of a three year rabies vaccination)
- The City will be introducing online pet licensing services by partnering with PetData

City analysis of providing the online payment option, a 3-year license option, and rolling renewal periods showed that the additional cost to be incurred by the City due to the proposed changes will be offset by savings in overtime labor cost, not to mention the increased convenience to pet owners. For more information on these changes, please contact Customer Service at (509) 545-3488.



### CITY COUNCIL:

- Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)**  
416-6696, [watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:watkinscouncil@pasco-wa.gov)
- Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Francik (Dist. 5)**  
545-6134, [francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov)
- Councilmember Tom Larsen (Dist. 1)**  
545-9916, [larsencouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:larsencouncil@pasco-wa.gov)
- Councilmember Al Yenney (Dist. 2)**  
547-8021, [yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov)
- Councilmember Saul Martinez (Dist. 3)**  
545-3404, [martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov)
- Councilmember Chi Flores (Dist. 4)**  
380-0256, [florescouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:florescouncil@pasco-wa.gov)
- Councilmember Bob Hoffmann (Dist. 6)**  
547-7373, [hoffmanncouncil@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:hoffmanncouncil@pasco-wa.gov)

### MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

- City Manager Dave Zabell**  
545-3404, [zabell@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:zabell@pasco-wa.gov)
- Deputy City Manager Stan Strelbel**  
543-5760, [strelbel@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:strelbel@pasco-wa.gov)
- Interim Administrative & Community Services Director Dan Dotta**, 543-5757, [dottad@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:dottad@pasco-wa.gov)
- Interim Public Works Director Rick Terway**  
545-3444, [terway@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:terway@pasco-wa.gov)
- Community Dev. Director Rick White**  
545-3441, [whiter@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:whiter@pasco-wa.gov)
- Finance Director Richa Sigdel**  
544-3065, [sigdelr@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:sigdelr@pasco-wa.gov)
- Fire Chief Bob Gear**  
545-3426, [gearb@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:gearb@pasco-wa.gov)
- Police Chief Bob Metzger**  
545-3481, [metzgerb@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:metzgerb@pasco-wa.gov)

The Pasco City Council meets every Monday at 7pm (except for 5th Mondays) at City Hall, 525 N. 3rd Ave. Watch the Council meetings LIVE on PSC-TV Channel 191 on Charter Cable, or on the web at [www.pasco-wa.gov/video](http://www.pasco-wa.gov/video).

Comments about the Pasco Pulse? Email to [communications@pasco-wa.gov](mailto:communications@pasco-wa.gov)

## HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

City offices will be closed **Monday, December 25** in observance of **Christmas Day** and **Monday, January 1** in observance of **New Year's Day**.

City Offices will be closed **Monday, January 15, 2018** for **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**.

For more information about the City, visit our website at [www.pasco-wa.gov](http://www.pasco-wa.gov)