

CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Matt Watkins (At Large)
416-6696, councilmatt@mattwatkins.net

Mayor ProTem Rebecca Francik (Dist. 5)
545-6134, francikcouncil@pasco-wa.gov

Councilman Mike Garrison (Dist. 2)
545-3404, Mike.g@a-lcompressedgases.com

Councilman Bob Hoffmann (Dist. 3)
547-7373, rshoff@juno.com

Councilman Al Yenney (Dist. 1)
547-8021, yenneycouncil@pasco-wa.gov

Councilman Tom Larsen (At Large)
545-9916, tomlarsenpasco@aol.com

Councilman Saul Martinez (Dist. 4)
547-7285, martinezcouncil@pasco-wa.gov

MANAGER & OFFICIALS:

City Manager Gary Crutchfield
545-3404, citymanager@pasco-wa.gov

Deputy City Manager Stan Strebel
543-5760, strebels@pasco-wa.gov

Police Chief Bob Metzger
545-3481, pascopolice@pasco-wa.gov

Fire Chief Bob Gear
545-3426, pascofire@pasco-wa.gov

Community Dev. Rick White
545-3441, communitydevelopment@pasco-wa.gov

Public Works Director Ahmad Qayoumi
543-5738, publicworks@pasco-wa.gov

Admin. & Community Services Rick Terway
543-5757, acsadmin@pasco-wa.gov

Send Comments to: Communications@pasco-wa.gov

City of Pasco
P.O. Box 293
Pasco, WA 99301-0923



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Progress



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City Annexation: Benefits for City Residents

There has been considerable discussion in the community recently about the possible annexation of the unincorporated “donut hole” area in west Pasco. Most of the Pasco area west of Road 36 was outside the city until 1982 when, in anticipation of the I-182 freeway construction, the City annexed the “plateau” area north of the FCID canal and west of Road 52 in order to plan for and provide the urban services necessary for the expected growth along that new transportation corridor.



In the early 1990s, the state adopted the Growth Management Act (GMA) which required counties to designate Urban Growth Areas (UGA) for each city. Because the west Pasco area was already surrounded by the city, the Franklin County Commission designated all of the donut hole as part of the Pasco UGA. UGA designation is intended to foster the orderly and cost effective extension of transportation

and utility services; the orderly transfer of service responsibilities from one agency to another; and avoid premature conversion of agricultural lands for urban or suburban uses. Accommodation of expected growth and reducing “urban sprawl” are two of the major objectives of the GMA.

The GMA anticipates the transition of properties from county to city jurisdictions through the annexation process. A planned, orderly process of annexation within the UGA of a city can typically benefit all citizens due to the following:

- **Service Delivery:** Virtually all government services – from utilities to fire protection and from animal control to land use administration – can be provided most efficiently where jurisdictional boundaries are simple and readily identified and where service providers do not have to travel outside of their jurisdiction to reach other parts of the jurisdiction. The annexation of unincorporated “islands” within a city, help both city and county service providers to be more efficient with tax limited dollars.
- **System Capacity:** Cities frequently make substantial investments in service systems which are sized for and repaid through growth, over time. If significant growth occurs outside of the service area, system capacity is not fully utilized and unnecessary duplication of system capacity may occur. An example of this may be a fire station constructed

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to accommodate growth and located to achieve a certain response time to surrounding properties. If actual growth were to occur at considerable distance from the station, its effectiveness would not be fully realized and taxpayers would not get the full benefit from the investment in the facility.

- **Fairness:** Larger populations typically allow cities to provide services and facilities (such as recreation, parks, and ambulance service) which are not affordable in unincorporated areas. As areas develop in close proximity to cities, annexation helps ensure that those residents who benefit from urban services contribute to the support of such services. As one example, Chiawana Park is enjoyed by donut hole residents but they do not contribute to the cost of maintaining it. Another example is the ambulance service; city residents pay a monthly fee to have the emergency transport service available, while donut hole residents receive the same service without any monthly payment at all.
- **Financial Resources:** Cities and counties both receive funding from the state for governmental purposes. "State Shared Revenues" in 2011 to Washington cities amounted to approximately \$39.00 per capita while shared revenues to counties were about \$5.20. In essence, the greater Pasco community receives \$120,000 less from the State of Washington, each year, due to the portions of the UGA that are not part of the city limits.

The policy of the State of Washington is for urban growth to be accommodated in the most cost effective ways as authorized in the GMA. Planned annexation of areas within a city's UGA is intended to provide all citizens with service availability, efficiency, fairness and cost effectiveness.

City Addressing Water Needs

The extraordinary growth experienced in Pasco over the past decade has brought some growing pains with it; one of those is "water rights." Though the Columbia River, from our view, contains plenty of water, the state controls withdrawals to ensure there is enough to fulfill many needs (homes, businesses, farms, fish, etc.).

The State Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River (OCR) is assisting the City to obtain new water rights necessary to bridge a gap between the City's existing water "rights" and its actual "use." While a resolution is in the works for the existing water rights deficit, Pasco's future growth is already assured under the "Quad Cities Water Right," a regional permit obtained collectively by the Tri-Cities region in 2003.

The City is expecting final approval of a \$2 million grant from OCR to assist in the construction of a new irrigation pipeline from the river to the City's irrigation reservoir. The new pipeline will allow conversion of about 1,500 homes from treated potable water to using less expensive irrigation water for lawns. This measure will not only reduce demand on the City's water treatment system, but free up the more expensive potable water for future growth.



Chinese students visit Pasco



The City played host to two Chinese students of government during the week of October 10-14. "Wesley" Rentao Lu and "Tiffany" Chen Lau of Liuzhou (pronounced "Lew Jo") China are attending a year-long program as Master of Public Administration students at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Twenty-seven students, all employees of the same city, are participating in the program which trains students in accounting and engineering in addition to government. During their stay, the students attended meetings of the City Council and the Regional Public Facilities District, met with officials in several City departments, and visited other governmental units in the community.

Liuzhou City, which is located in southern China, is central to a metropolitan area of about 3.6 million people. A major employer in the area is General Motors.

Holiday Observance- City Offices will be closed:

Monday, December 26 for Christmas

Monday, January 2, 2012 for New Year's

For information regarding City Council meetings, visit our website at www.Pasco-WA.gov

Rent Your Parks Shelter for 2012

Pasco Parks have multiple Picnic Shelters and Pavilions available for rental during the warmer months. If you like to spend time with your family and friends in our parks the following information will be helpful in planning your next event. Some things to remember:

- Parks will begin accepting rentals for 2012 on January 3rd.
- Reservations must be made at least 7 business days in advance of requested date.
- Rentals are available from April 1st – September 30th
- Rental times are as follows:
 - Full day – 8am – 8pm
 - Half Day – 8am – 1:30pm or 2:30pm – 8pm
- Payment in full is due upon reservation

More details can be found on the City's website at www.pasco-wa.gov. If you have questions you can reach us at recreation@pasco-wa.gov or (509) 545-3456.



Visit our website at: www.Pasco-WA.gov