



TOLEDO

City News

Mayor's Message

I want to thank all those that participated in our democracy and voted in last month's Primary Election. The election is over and with approximately 90% of the votes counted the Ammons Tank Bond has 65% of the votes supporting a replacement bond, of course final results will be in a week. Thank you for supporting the bond and for those who got out to vote. These votes help to determine the future course of our city, county, state and our nation. Your vote is a large part of what makes this country different from others around the world. Last month, we on your City Council, had to make the hard decision to raise the water and sewer rates. We do not take these rates lightly, as I, for one, have had to deal with years of \$200 bills as we raised our 5 sons. The average increase will be \$10.88 per month for the average user of the system. Some of our neighboring cities are seeing up to 15% rate hikes this year.

Infrastructure is expensive, and your city Public Works team knows this all too well. Projects are being planned to look more long term, rather than a quick fix. Fir Street is a prime example, as we are doing a complete rebuild of the affected area, rather than just "patch it up". This approach will save all of us many dollars in future years.

Another example is with the replacement of the Mill Creek Raw Water Line. This project has been on the board since the late 2000's, and estimates at that time saw the project cost up to 10 million to replace. Over the last few years we have been able to split this vital project into phases, and that has resulted in substantial cost savings to us. Just at our last meeting in May, we were able to see a cost savings of up to \$850,000 by just thinking outside the box while problem solving! Kudos to all involved!!

June is upon us, and with that comes graduations, vacations and all kinds of summer events. I want to draw your attention to an event that started a couple years ago, but it has become one that I look forward to all year long! On June 29, 2024, Art Toledo will host "Chalk the Block" right on Main Street! This is a great event for families, and kids of all ages, as you get to "compete" with other folks to show off your artistic (or in my case lack of) talent. Winners are showcased on banners and also receive awards!

Summer Festival is coming and volunteers are desperately needed! Please reach out to those on the committee via Facebook or contact me for their info. This celebration is looked forward to by scores of folks not just in our town and county, but from around the state, as they pour in for the fun, festivities and fireworks!

As summer begins, I wish all of my fellow citizens a safe and enjoyable season for the "Best City in Lincoln County"!

MAY COUNCIL SUMMARY

- Officer Dalynn Shinholster received recognition from the police department and appointed to Detective.
- Presentations received by the Library Board Chair, the Toledo History Center, and the Yaquina Pacific Railroad Historic Society.
- City Council received report from Lincoln County Health and Human Services Community Shelter & Resource Center regarding the Winter Shelter program and learned four out of five Toledo citizens were able to re-establish themselves and find housing through the program and Council will provide \$5,000 to the program for this next fiscal year.
- The City Council considered a sign policy for time, place and manner of banners at the East and West junctions into the City.
- The City Council approved a change order up to \$354,698 to complete Phase 1 for the remodel of the proposed new Public Safety building.
- The City Council approved rate adjustments for water and wastewater customers.
- The City Council approved a contract award to Black Rock Underground for Phase 1A of the Mill Creek raw water line replacement.

If you would like more on any of the discussions and business before the City Council, you can view their meeting videos on Youtube at @cityoftoledooregon9726.



National Donut Day

National Doughnut Day is on June 7th, 2024

There has been a long standing myth that cops like doughnuts. Where did this myth come from?



From Time.com, *“The short answer is that police officers have long worked odd hours, but the options for food in the wee hours haven’t always been plentiful. The option to pick up a doughnut dates to the years after World War II.*

‘Graveyard cops in the forties and fifties had few choices. They could pack lunch, pray for an all-night diner on their route or fill up on doughnuts,’ Norm Stamper, the former chief of the Seattle Police Department, says in The Doughnut: History, Recipes, and Lore from Boston to Berlin by Michael Krondl. ‘They were cheap and convenient.’ Former Baltimore City police detective Dick Ellwood likewise recalled being allowed to just eat doughnuts off the assembly line shortly after the shops opened in the wee hours of the morning. “ [https://time.com/4800386/donuts-doughnuts-police-cops/]

The images of cops eating doughnuts is popular in pop culture but it is far from the truth. Studies have shown that Law Enforcement Officers are at a higher risk for heart disease. This is due to the physically demanding job, long hours, lack of sleep, stress, and constant hypervigilance. As a result, officers have put down the sugary snacks and focus on healthy foods to be at their peak performance.

However, when officers and dispatchers at the Toledo Police Department do indulge in a doughnut they like maple bars with bacon, chocolate covered old fashion (Chief’s favorite), cinnamon rolls, chocolate, Long Johns, and sprinkled doughnuts (“It’s like a party in your mouth!”).



Please dunk responsibly and don’t dunk and drive!



ANSWER THE CALL

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

541-336-3311

Water and Sewer Rates to Increase



In May of every year the Toledo City Council, by Ordinance, has to review its water and sewer rates. When reviewing the rates during this time the City Council can then choose to approve, deny or modify staff recommended rates. This action is never an easy decision for Council especially given the past several years of inflation. The Council is very cognizant to how these rates affect our citizens, staff and themselves. This year while researching rates, it became clear that the small percentile increases over the past few years have not kept up with inflation. Thus, water and sewer rates will have a larger increase this year than in most.

It is important to note, staff recommended limiting the larger increase to operations and maintenance and a smaller increase to capital improvements this year. When looking at the City of Toledo rate increases over the past few years and given the few times Council had no rate increases, we found the City was lagging behind its materials and maintenance expenditures versus those revenues. Most of these charges fall under facility and service charges and not the variable use rates. To be clear, our facility and services charges were not keeping up with operational and maintenance expenses and simply increasing usage rates is not equitable to all citizens. Should we have only raised usage rates, some users would end up subsidizing other users in a disproportionate fashion. The increases approved by Council will begin with the water readings on May 22, 2024 through June 21, 2024 and will be seen on your July 1, 2024 bill.

Breakdown of the Increase

Water rates will trend up for the average user (6000 gallons of water) approximately 4.23% or \$2.83 per month. The sample below displays a comparison for illustrated purposes:

		Average Water Bill Increase		
		<u>Was</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Facilities Charge		\$27.84	\$29.00	\$1.16
Service Charge		\$6.29	\$7.00	\$0.71
		\$34.13	\$36.00	\$1.87
6,000 Consumption		\$ 32.70	\$ 33.66	\$ 0.96
Water total		\$ 66.83	\$ 69.66	\$ 2.83 4.23%

Sewer rates, on the other hand, will trend with a marginally higher increase for the average user (5000 gallon winter average). This percentage increase will be approximately 7.37% or \$8.05 per month as illustrated below:

		Average Sewer Bill Increase		
		<u>Was</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Base Charge		\$ 14.80	\$ 20.00	\$ 5.20
5,000 Consumption		\$ 94.40	\$ 97.25	\$ 2.85
Sewer total		\$ 109.20	\$ 117.25	\$ 8.05 7.37%

The reason for the increase being higher in sewer over water runs mainly due to the increases in supply costs over the past few years. The treatment of sewer requires many chemicals and these chemical prices have increased significantly since 2020. For example, the chlorine market as a whole has increased nearly 58% in price with some of its products experiencing almost a 200% increase depending on the region and product type. This is only one chemical in the myriad used for treatment to make effluent safe before it is placed back into the environment. Many of these other chemicals used have had significant increases ranging from 15%-45%. It's obvious the years of 3% increases have not kept up. Not only chemical, but pipe and fittings in both water and sewer have increased significantly. The City has been mitigating this by buying in bulk to help spread the cost, but the fluctuation on this price varies greatly. For example, the resin to make HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) pipe has increased \$0.60/pound versus the pre-pandemic normal of \$0.02/pound. This translates to a significant increase to pipe purchased. It's hard to give a direct correlation on the increase given the volatile pipe and plastic market, but it is safe to say there has been a 12-15% increase in HDPE pipe. Maintenance on water and sewer lines continue with our aged infrastructure and Toledo continues to update this infrastructure as we can afford to do so.

Oregon State law is clear that charges for water and sewer must be spent solely on water and sewer expenses and may not be shared into the general budget of the City. In layman terms, cities must balance their spending in water and sewer with the revenue collected on the system. The City has been working diligently on cutting costs, by working on projects in house, but this is a balancing act as we must keep up with maintenance as well.

Should you have questions of how your bill will be affected, you may contact City Hall during normal business hours at 541-336-2247 and ask for our finance department. We appreciate your understanding and strive to be transparent in how our rates affect your budget.



Read, Renew, Repeat

Summer Reading Program 2024



Toledo Public Library www.cityoftoledo.org/library 541-336-3132



Summer Reading Program
June 1st—August 31st
Register online or in person

Tween Book Club Kickoff Pizza Party

Tuesday, June 18th 12:00PM
Everyone who sign up gets the book and a bag full of fun to use with the book! Ages 8-12.



Summer Teens & Tweens Arts & Eats

July 12th Puzzle Piece Art
August 2nd Craft Chopped
August 16th Animation Art
All programs start @ 1pm
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Oregon Coast Aquarium Passes

All youth who register for Summer Reading will be entered in weekly drawings for free passes!



Performers

- 6/27 Alex Zerbe
- 7/11 Aquarium
- 7/18 Oregon Reptiles
- 7/25 Recess Outdoor Adventure-Bubbles!
- 8/1 Journey Under the Sea MNCH
- 8/8 Magical Mr. B
- 8/15 Siletz Tribal Dancers
- 8/22 Midcoast Watersheds

All performances start at 10:30AM

ENDANGERED ANIMALS
SCAVENGER HUNT



Endangered Animal Scavenger Hunt

Complete at the library—turn in for a free *Mini Murph* pizza coupon!

All Summer program activities are FREE and open to those who register. Limited space available. Please call the library to register for any of the activities, or if you have any questions.

Toledo City Council Contact Information:

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Non - Emergent / After Hours
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