



February 2012

## Montesano City Monthly Newsletter

Our goal is to bring you important news of what has transpired last month in our council meetings, what is known to be scheduled for the Council this month and any other subject that we believe will have interest to you. If you have questions please call and we will respond! 360-249-3021 Vol 1 Issue 1

### January 10 New Council

member, Ken Walkington was given the oath of office along with re-elected Council Members Pam McElliott and Lyle Powell.

Purchase of the 112 acres of Weyerhaeuser forest land (Just West of Lake Sylvia) was complete. Funds for the purchase price came from forest timber sales and will enhance our future timber sales in 2028. This was a long time goal for our former Mayor Ron Shillinger and the sale was all but completed before he retired.

Council approved the appointment of Garrett Dalan to the Parks Board. Council Liaison Pat Herrington reported Garrett had already been working with the board and could replace Brandon Klinger who had resigned. There is still one more opening to fill on the board. If you are interested contact the Mayor at 249-3021 or submit a short résumé to the City of Montesano.

Planning Commission is diligently working on the downtown plan. At their latest meeting it was decided to establish a "Downtown Plan Overlay Zone and the Form Based Code guideline/standard". This ambitious effort will change the way downtown and surrounding areas look in the future. At the request of the Mayor, several public hearings will be announced in the next several months, so you the public will become aware and have input in the fundamental change of our city. Stay tuned for these important public meetings.

Ambulance Standby Fees. The council approved an increase of \$5 for EMS/ ambulance standby fees. This increases our monthly fee to \$17.12. This aspect of our EMS service will be looked at very closely in 2012 to prevent future increases.

A State Traffic Grant was recently approved for Montesano. \$750,000 (yes ¾ of a million dollars) to do two blocks of Main Street from Wynooche to Marcy. The catch? The city has to provide a \$500,000 match. Crunch time is coming to decide if we can afford to accept and do this major effort, which includes new sidewalks, sewer line and storm drain lines as well as a 40 year road base and the asphalt overlay. The first part of this plan was from the Railroad tracks to Wynooche and the third part is planned from Marcy to Broadway.

SNOW! Our crews did great work removing snow with equipment they had. The next snow event we will have a blade mounted on a truck to help clear streets. Thanks to many volunteers for their equipment and help!

Contracts: Fire and Police contracts are complete. The council will soon review the negotiations with non-uniform staff. Our employees are very valuable to the city, but the city must be aware of property taxes, maintenance and funding to fix those pot holes in these lean economic times.

