

Skagit County Jail Siting Process

Skagit County has applied to the City of Mount Vernon to site a new jail facility within the City limits of Mount Vernon. The land use process is underway and on schedule. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is now available for review and public comment. The EIS is intended to document and provide full disclosure for probable adverse environmental impacts that may result from a proposal and identify possible mitigation for those impacts.

Items studied under this report include: Geology and Soils, Floodplain, Hazardous Materials, Aesthetics, Historical and Cultural Preservation, Transportation, Economics, and Land Use.

The full document can be found on the City website at www.mountvernonwa.gov or the Skagit County website at www.skagitcounty.net.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at the Commissioners Hearing Room, Skagit County Administrative Building, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, Washington, 98273. An open house will begin at 3:00 pm followed by a brief presentation and open hearing from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Citizens who plan to attend the public hearing and have special needs or disabilities are asked to call the office of the Board of County Commissioners at (360) 336-9300 at least 96 hours before the hearing to discuss and arrange any special accommodations.

Permitting Processes for Jail

	Timing	Description	Public Participation
SEPA PROCESS	Complete	The City and County are co-leads for the SEPA process. A DS and Scoping Notice are issued initiating the EIS Process	Done
	Complete	EIS Scoping Public Hearing	Yes
	Complete	Public comments accepted on the scope of the EIS (i.e., what elements of the environment will be studied).	Yes
	Late August to December 2013	Environmental analysis begins on the elements of the environment that will be studied through the EIS process.	Yes, in process
	December 2013	Draft EIS (DEIS) issued. Public hearing will be held on the DEIS and additional public comments accepted.	Public Comment Opportunity
	February 2014	Final EIS (FEIS) issued addressing the comments and concerns submitted through the processes outlined above.	
LAND USE CHANGES	March 2014 to June 2014	Comprehensive Plan amendment and Associated Rezone Process through the City	Yes, Public Participation Opportunities
EPF PROCESS	June 2014 to September 2014	Essential Public Facilities Process through the City.	Yes, Public Participation Opportunities

2014 Police Citizens Academy

Applications are now being accepted for the Citizens Academy, a twelve-week program designed to provide Mount Vernon residents first hand information about how their Police Department operates. Participants will find out what it's like to be a police officer in Mount Vernon, and learn the inherent dangers and stress in law enforcement. Academy members will also become familiar with the Department's policing philosophy.

The next Academy will run from **February 13 - May 1, 2014**, meeting every Thursday night from 6:30 - 9:30 pm at the Mount Vernon Police Department. Visit our website at www.mountvernonwa.gov/ca to apply or for more information.

Mayor's Cocoa Hour

Friday, December 20
3:30 - 4:30 pm
City Hall Lobby
910 Cleveland Avenue

Mayor Boudreau will host children at a special Mayor's Cocoa Hour - all children (and adults) are invited!

Skagit County Jail Draft EIS Public Hearing

Thursday, January 9, 2014
Skagit County Administrative Bldg.
1800 Continental Place

An open house will begin at 3:00 pm followed by a brief presentation and open public hearing from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

First Impressions Project



New entrance sign installed in West Mount Vernon

Check our website
www.mountvernonwa.gov
for Parks and Recreation offerings

Mayor Jill Boudreau
910 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 809
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.6211
www.mountvernonwa.gov



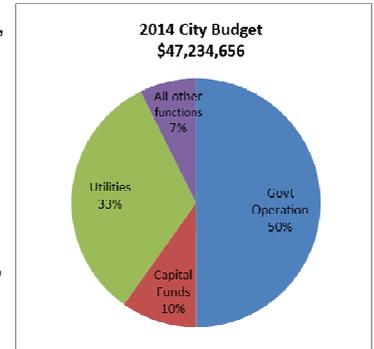
2014 City Budget

The 2014 proposed budget was prepared with a focus on the following objectives:

- Remove furloughs from all Departments to restore full staffing.
- Increase service levels in Police Department, specifically in traffic enforcement.
- Increase staffing levels in Community and Economic Development, driven by significantly increased development activity.
- Include funding for economic development, focusing on technology infrastructure.
- Provide honest and accurate recommendations for expenses essential to ensure the mission of the City of Mount Vernon is met.

The total 2014 budget for the City of Mount Vernon is \$47,234,656, representing a 0.1% decrease as compared to the 2013 budget. The governmental operating fund budgets total \$23,604,839, representing a 5% increase compared to the 2013 budget. Governmental operations receives 70% of its funding sources from taxes which primarily only grow in a strong economy, and pays for Police, Fire, Library, Streets, Permitting/Planning and Parks operations.

The City's capital budget is \$4.6 million or 10% of the total 2014 budget, including waste water, transportation, park and general facility projects. 47% of the capital budget is earmarked for waste water projects which are needed to support the City's \$100 million waste water facility assets. Other highlighted capital projects include:



- Downtown Flood Protection, Riverwalk and Park Plaza project. The City is anticipating the completion of Phase II of this project in third quarter 2014, which includes the addition of public restrooms, while we continue to complete financing of the 3rd and final phase of this project.
- College Way widening under I-5. The City is working in earnest on this top priority transportation project. \$212,000 of City matching funds has been set aside in the 2014 budget.
- The annual street overlay and repair program has been increased to \$450,000 (a 28% increase) of funding in the 2014 budget.

We are a mission driven organization. We provide professional, efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference for our Community.

Services are delivered by people. 75% of our operating costs are labor. We employ 193 full-time employees and 49 part time or seasonal employees to provide services to over 32,000 people and thousands of guests each day. City of Mount Vernon employees are highly respected for their talent and expertise.

You can view the preliminary budget document online – or at City Hall and our City Library. The Finance Department is diligently working on the final document to be available ASAP.

Year End

The community survey conducted in the fall of this year revealed that our population appreciates information in their utility bills. My office will respond with an insert each quarter in 2014. Look for a 'year in review' in your January bill.

I am grateful to the community for the support during this past year! Can you believe I am "half way done" with my 4 year term? Wishing you a joyful holiday season as we look forward to a bright future for our City in 2014.

See you at a coffee hour in the New Year!