

City News

July 2021

Stormwater Rate Increase

On June 28, a resolution increasing stormwater fees by 2 percent passed the Veneta City Council. The resolution set new fees at \$2.64 per month for residential accounts and \$7.95 per month for commercial and industrial accounts. Since 2004, the City of Veneta has charged its utility customers a fee to help maintain stormwater runoff infrastructure. Further increases of 2 percent have been made each July 1 since 2014 in order to keep up with natural yearly inflation.

Water that flows from rain and storms over roofs, driveways, gardens and yards, and sidewalks is called stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff originates from rain and storms, flows over these landscapes, picks up potential pollutants and debris, and ends up in downstream water sources. Flooding, damaged habitats, and polluted water would all be major consequences if the City did not implement and maintain stormwater runoff.

(See "Stormwater" on page 2)

Budget Summary

Budgets make the world go 'round. From your family's budget to the local market's sales goals, understanding how and why money is spent is the first step to financial health. Cities, like Veneta, are required to build their budget in order to continue their operations legally. The City of Veneta and Veneta Urban Renewal Agency each have budgets that allow for them to provide the services that Veneta residents rely on.

The Budget Committees of the City and the Urban Renewal Agency both approved the proposed

budgets for the 2021-2022 fiscal year on June 1. They were given final adoption by the Veneta City Council and Urban Renewal Agency, which make up half of their respective Budget Committees, on June 28 and took effect this July 1.

Finance and Administrative Services Director Caitlin Hippler wants Veneta residents to know: the City and Urban Renewal budgets are important! The budgets are what allow the City to complete projects and deliver for Veneta residents. "There are several

(See "Budget" on page 2)

Seeking volunteers!

The City of Veneta is seeking two volunteers to participate in the Business Assistance Program (BAP) committee, a program to provide financial help to small businesses in Veneta.

ABOUT

- The purpose of the committee is to review applications for BAP funds.
- Meet as needed at Veneta City Hall, 88184 8th Street, Veneta.
- Preference will be given to applicants with commercial lending or accounting experience
- Two-year term appointments to the committee will be made by Mayor Keith Weiss.

APPLY HERE

<http://bit.ly/bapcommittee>



Apply at the link above or the QR code and email completed applications to David Grabicki.

Applications accepted until August 1, 2021.

QUESTIONS?

David Grabicki | 541-935-2191 | dgrabicki@ci.veneta.or.us

CIVIC CALENDAR JULY 2021

All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted

4	Independence Day	
4	Community Pool closed for Independence Day Holiday	
5	City Hall will be closed in Observance of Independence Day Holiday	Closed
6	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
7	Park Board Meeting	 4:30 p.m.
12	City Council Meeting	 6:30 p.m.
14	Economic Development Committee Meeting	2:00 p.m.
15	Municipal Court	 8:30 a.m.
26	Joint Meeting of Veneta City Council and Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.

Stormwater

(Continued from page 1)

The City uses natural and constructed waterways inhabited by vegetation to help decontaminate stormwater runoff. These completed facilities are staffed and require maintenance, necessitating the storm-

water fee. Property owners – commercial developments, subdivisions, and Homeowners Associations – are required to maintain their private stormwater facilities as well.

Budget

(Continued from page 1)

exciting projects planned for this upcoming fiscal year,” Hippler said. “Some examples include planning for the Bolton Hill Sports Complex, upgrading the Community Center, providing a Dog Park, building out Veneta’s Broadband infrastructure, adding restrooms

to City Park, and completing a large-scale street preservation project.”

The City of Veneta and Veneta Urban Renewal Agency budgets are available for review on the City’s website www.venetaoregon.gov

Noise Variance for Amphitheater

Improvements to City Park continue to make it a fun, safe, and beautiful place to relax and play. With these improvements come new amenities – in recent weeks, this means a newly finished and ready-to-use stage with a full sound setup. The stage will be available for public and private events and will allow local musicians, theater troupes, and other performance groups to make use of one of Veneta’s beautiful parks as a backdrop. The City of Veneta, its Boards and Committees, and the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce are all thrilled at the prospect of inviting performances to the City Park stage.

The new sound equipment will allow musicians and performers to amplify their sound and offer pro-

fessional-quality performances. No one can just walk up and make as much noise as they would like, however. A variance to the City’s Noise Ordinance, which limits noise nuisances and regulates amplified noise like what the City Park stage would allow, was recently approved by the Veneta Planning Commission. This means that, with prior approval, private and public event planners will be given access to the City Park stage as well as its sound equipment.

Amplified music will be allowed until 9:00 p.m. on week nights and until 10:00 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Federal holidays. As a reminder, unless there is an organized event, all City of Veneta parks close at dusk.

Backflow Testing

The City of Veneta, in partnership with EWEB, works hard to deliver its customers reliable water service. This reliability also includes a promise to deliver clean water. This responsibility means requiring property owners and managers to maintain cross-connections between the drinkable water supply and polluting uses using a Backflow Prevention Assembly.

Backflow Prevention Assemblies (Backflow) prevent water from flowing back through the line creating a backflow event that would contaminate the drinkable water supply. For most houses, the backflow protects against such events from underground sprinkler systems.

Backflow maintenance compliance comes in the

form of required testing of the backflow assembly. A tester, certified to work in Oregon, ensures that the backflow is still operating at state standards. If the first test fails, indicating improper backflow operation, the property owner or manager is required to make the recommended repairs and re-test. The certified tester is responsible for sending results to the City within five days of the test.

The City of Veneta maintains a list of certified backflow testers, which is available at venetaoregon.gov. Type “backflow” into the search field to navigate to the backflow supporting documents. If you have any questions, please call 541-935-2191.

2020 Consumer Confidence Report Now Available

Please visit our website at www.venetaoregon.gov under “What’s New”

If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please call City Hall at 541-935-2191

Proposed Public Safety Fee

City Council Seeks to Stabilize Public Safety Funding and wants your input.



WHAT IS A PUBLIC SAFETY FEE?

A public safety fee would be a monthly charge on your City utility bill that helps stabilize funding for public safety services.



HOW WOULD THE FEE BE SPENT

The public safety fee would help pay for the City's law enforcement contract with the Lane County Sheriff's Office and allow the City to provide additional support for local Neighborhood Watch groups and continue City code enforcement activities.



WHERE ARE WE IN THE PROCESS?

The Veneta City Council held a Work Session on the topic, at which the Council directed staff to start the process for creating and establishing a public safety fee. On June 14, Ordinance 562 passed the first of two required votes. Ordinance 562 creates the public safety fee – it does not establish the fee amount or start the billing process. The initial estimate for a proposed fee would be around \$4.00/mth.

- Ordinance 562 was first read and had an initial Council vote on June 14th.
- Ordinance 562 will face a second Council vote with potential passage at the City Council's **July 12th** meeting.
If it passes, the Council will consider adopting a Resolution on **August 9th** that would set the fee amount and determine the first billing date.
- The City plans to host another opportunity for public comment before the City Council meeting scheduled for August 9th.

HOW CAN I GIVE MY INPUT or SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENT?

Veneta City Council encourages its citizens to provide public comment on City issues. There is still time for citizens to comment on this proposal.



- 1) Written comments can be mailed to the City of Veneta, PO Box 458, Veneta, OR 97487
- 2) Email comments to dgrabicki@ci.veneta.or.us
- 3) In-person comments can be made at the City Council meeting on **July 12th & August 9th at 6:30 p.m.**
All City Council meetings are held at the Veneta Administrative Center, 88184 8th Street.

CURRENT FUNDING MECHANISMS

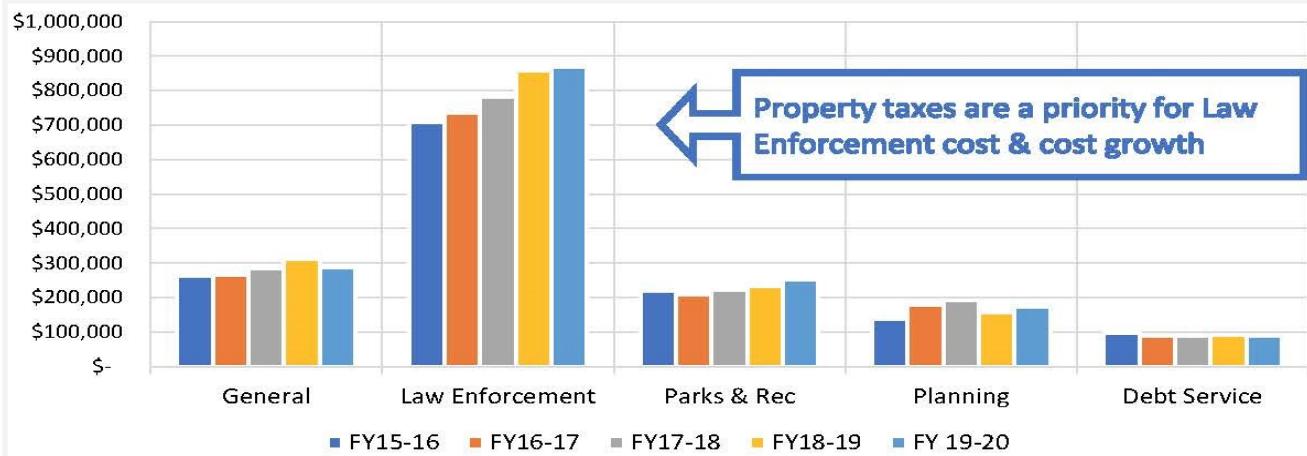
Of the many services the City of Veneta provides citizens, public safety services are often among the most important and dependable. The Lane County Sheriff's Office deputies and sergeant spend many hours protecting the citizens of Veneta and their property. They help our community remain a tight-knit, inviting and safe place to live. The City's contract with the Lane County Sheriff's Office ensures these important services are available to Veneta residents. As part of our contract the City provides space, equipment, and limited administrative assistance, while the LCSO provides the City 4 full-time deputies and 1 half-time sergeant, dispatching services, and agency backup during low-coverage times.

To pay for this contract for services, the City utilizes several different resources. Public safety costs use 59% of the City's collected property taxes, the entirety of fees collected from internet franchises, a portion of the Zumwalt Campground fees, half of the collected City and State Marijuana taxes, with the remainder coming from Law Enforcement Fund reserves. This is one of several issues with the current funding structure. These issues make the contract funding arrangement more tenuous than the City would prefer.

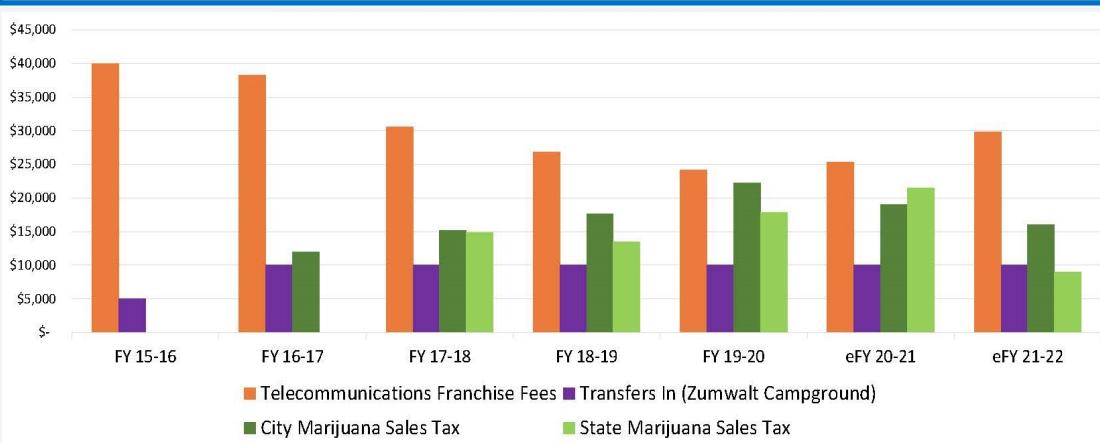


The main takeaway for the City is: Our current funding for public safety services is not stable enough to sustainably fund those services and is taking funding away from other City programs.

- Public safety services are currently using property taxes that could support other City programs.
- Internet franchise fees have seen a 50% decrease since 2014. The Zumwalt Campground fees are based on user fees and event sales and are not stable.



State Measure 110, which passed in 2020, uses roughly 75% of state marijuana tax funds previously sent to the City for drug treatment programs around the state.



The current use of Law Enforcement emergency reserves is not in-line with City policy.

	AUDITED AMOUNTS by Fiscal Year (FY)						BUDGETED / ESTIMATED AMOUNTS (eFY)				
	FY 09-10	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	eFY 20-21	*eFY 21-22	*eFY 22-23	*eFY 23-24	*eFY 24-25
Property Tax Revenues	\$ 1,169,888	\$ 1,327,598	\$ 1,245,840	\$ 1,450,218	\$ 1,617,368	\$ 1,558,125	\$ 1,604,869	\$ 1,667,459	\$ 1,717,483	\$ 1,769,008	\$ 1,822,078
P.T. to Law Enf. Fund	\$ 690,234	\$ 709,262	\$ 734,398	\$ 782,859	\$ 856,839	\$ 869,700	\$ 833,381	\$ 916,850	\$ 944,356	\$ 972,686	\$ 1,001,867
Law Enf. Fund as % of Total Property	59%	53%	59%	54%	53%	56%	52%	55%	59%	55%	55%
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 422,509	\$ 271,251	\$ 204,399	\$ 193,045	\$ 238,463	\$ 279,697	\$ 243,650	\$ 303,650	\$ 358,866	\$ 413,651	\$ 467,928
Target Ending Fund Balance	\$ 333,796	\$ 381,329	\$ 388,274	\$ 389,521	\$ 394,778	\$ 402,728	\$ 408,670	\$ 412,200	\$ 421,667	\$ 431,410	\$ 441,464
Annual Gap (rounded):	\$ (89,000)	\$ 110,000	\$ 184,000	\$ 196,000	\$ 156,000	\$ 123,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 109,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 18,000	\$ (26,000)

* No Public Safety Fee Revenue