



BREMERTON WASHINGTON



CITY OF BREMERTON, WASHINGTON
2021 ANNUAL BUDGET

For the period January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021

2021 Budget

City of Bremerton, Washington

2021 Budget

For the year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021

Mayor

Greg Wheeler

Council Members

Kevin Gorman – Council President .. District 3

Pat Sullivan .. District 1

Leslie Daus .. District 2

Lori Wheat .. District 4

Michael Goodnow .. District 5

Mike Simpson .. District 6

Eric Younger .. District 7

Executive Leadership

Roger Lubovich .. City Attorney

Thomas Knuckey .. Public Works & Utilities Director

Jim Burchett .. Police Chief

Pat McGanney .. Fire Chief

Andrea Spencer .. Director of Community Development

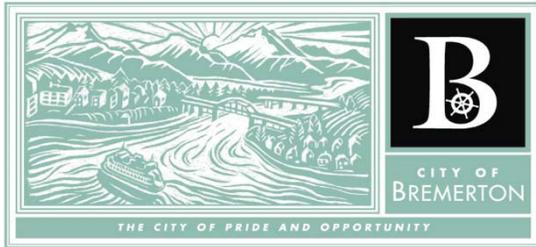
Jeff Elevado .. Director of Parks and Recreation

Mike Riley .. Director of Financial Services



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WSDOT
Visual Engineering Resource Group



Mayor Greg Wheeler

November 18, 2020

To the Citizens and the Honorable Council of the City of Bremerton:

I am pleased to submit the City's 2021 Adopted Annual Budget. I believe this budget is fiscally conservative while also supporting the initiatives of my administration and the City Council's goals and priorities.

We have experienced unprecedented and challenging times as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged in 2020. This budget addresses the needs of citizens for the foreseeable future while also planning for continued growth and economic development as our community focuses on recovery. As we move forward, it remains important to focus on homelessness, mental health and addiction help as well as support for safe neighborhoods and assistance for quality affordable housing. Additionally, improvements to parks, maintaining the streets and sidewalks program and supporting public safety while providing transparency continue to be priorities.

We have been monitoring the potential financial impacts of COVID-19 to the budget. The City remains on solid financial footing due to the smart financial planning that took place during previous years as well as the makeup of our strong sales tax base and other revenue. As a result, we have been able to keep financial impacts low and we are in a good position to maintain a healthy fund balance for many unforeseen circumstances.

2021 Adopted Budget Highlights

I'm pleased to present highlights from the budget:

- In order to support the business community, included in the budget is an increase in the City's Business and Occupation (B&O) tax exemption from \$220,000 to \$240,000. This would increase the exemption by \$20,000 for the year. At this level, more than 72% of locally based business will be exempt from the tax. Other businesses not completely included in the B&O tax exemption will also see a decrease in their bill.
- My focus as well as the City Council's is to support quality affordable housing. Included in this budget is \$200,000 to fund affordable housing assistance in the City of Bremerton. Half of the sum (\$100,000) will be used to assist the working

poor and seniors who are struggling to pay their rent. The other \$100,000 will support the weatherization and minor home repair program, which will help low income residents with energy costs so they can afford other expenses such as housing and food. This is the third year the City of Bremerton has provided funding for both programs.

- Our City police department is committed to protecting residents and to maintaining integrity and accountability with the community it serves. In this budget, I have funded \$281,555 to purchase and administer body cameras for our officers. The funding includes two new positions starting July 1st as part of the program.
- This budget includes \$3.7 million to fund road and sidewalk maintenance, and \$9.5 million toward road capital improvement projects. Of the total, nearly \$6 million of funds comes from state and federal grants. Funding will support repairs and construction of streets and sidewalks and improve bike and pedestrian safety. This budget continues the funding of Street Preventive Maintenance and General Operations, a goal established by the City Council and supported in my budget for the past three years.
- There is approximately \$11.8 million committed this year towards capital projects. These include roughly \$2.3 million in park upgrades, police body cameras, remodel of two fire stations, among other projects.

2020 Accomplishments During COVID-19

I'm proud of what was achieved under my administration during 2020. While there were some changes to operations due to the coronavirus, we continued to administer the 2020 budget to meet the City's goals and priorities and also distributed assistance and federal funds to support citizens and businesses impacted by COVID-19.

As a result of COVID-19, my administration:

- Distributed federal funds for Bremerton COVID-19 relief programs, including the COVID-19 Bremerton Rental Assistance Program; Bremerton Small Business Relief Grants; and Technology Purchases for Virtual Learning in the Bremerton School District
- Ensured residents would still have water and sewer services if they could not make payments due to the financial impacts of COVID-19. We worked with residents on payment plans and waiving late fees on bills. The City also suspended credit card fees for online payments.
- Waived late payment fees and interest for businesses who were not able to file their taxes and renew their licenses on time as a result of the coronavirus.
- Permitted outdoor seating in public parking spaces for Bremerton restaurants so they could meet certain safety conditions to operate during COVID-19.
- Opened up temporary parking on downtown streets for essential workers and for those who needed to meet appointments for critical services and care. Neighborhood parking enforcement was also lifted temporarily to assist residents during the Governor's stay-at-home orders.
- Found a new location in downtown for the Bremerton Farmers Market so they could continue operating and meet coronavirus health and safety standards.

- Supported Salvation Army in creating a 24-hour/7 day-a-week shelter for those facing homelessness during the pandemic.

Additionally, under COVID-19, my administration:

- Completed East Side Employment Center/Harrison Hospital Market Analysis EIS; and Charleston Business/Community District Study
- Finalized Wheaton Way/HWY 303 Corridor Study
- Began Implementation of Kitsap Lake Vegetation Management and Toxic Algae Control Plan
- Continued Restoration of the City's Streets and Sidewalks Program
- Completed 2nd Year of Rental Assistance Program and Weatherization Program
- Continued Improvements to the City's Parks, including Warren Ave. Playfield and Design of Kitsap Lake Park
- Co-Launched Mobile-response Unit for Opioid and Mental Health Incidents
- Approved Permits for Nearly \$100 Million in Residential/Commercial Projects with Another \$90 Million in the Queue
- Implemented the City's Workforce Diversity Plan and Updated the Equal Employment Opportunity Program
- Completed Art Initiatives Projects
- Continued Implementation of the City's Parking Study Recommendations, Including License Plate Reader Technology to Improve Parking Enforcement
- Opened the Primary Healthcare Clinic on Kitsap Way
- Secured Funding for Traffic and Parking Study in Partnership with the U.S. Navy
- Brought in Amazon jobs as Part of Efforts to Attract More Higher Wage Positions to the Community and Expand the Local Economy

The adopted 2021 budget will continue ongoing initiatives and programs that began when I took office in 2018. We remain committed to delivering services to the public and to sustaining recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Greg Wheeler
Mayor



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