



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Council to meet on bond resolution for community center

Community invited to learn more and provide comment

Enumclaw, Wash. – The City Council will meet Monday, November 27, to discuss a resolution to place a bond on the April 23, 2024, special election ballot. The purpose of the bond is to build a community center. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting at 7 p.m. at City Council Chambers, 1339 Griffin Ave.

The city is planning a community center that will offer activities and a safe environment for children, teens, young families, and seniors to connect with friends and access programs and services. The city is growing with young families joining longtime residents, and the community center will offer sports and learning activities, space for community events and festivals (farmer’s markets, art performances), and a new senior center.

“A community center is a great investment for our city,” said Tim Dehnert, president of the Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce. “I’m excited for this opportunity to create a multigenerational space to bring much-needed resources and services to all residents – as well as a place to host community festivals and events that draw people to the city. All things a thriving community requires.”

One component of the community center is a new senior center. The city’s senior population has outgrown the current senior center building, which is why a new one is needed. The current building was built in 1928 and was never intended to serve as a community center. The building is outdated and does not have adequate space for seniors to exercise safely, attend classes or enjoy meals together. Additionally, the cost to renovate the building would exceed the value of the building.

“We have definitely outgrown our current space,” said Darlene DeGroot, senior center board president. “For example, we need a proper kitchen to provide daily meals for our senior population in a safe manner.”

The city cannot afford to fund the community center entirely through its general fund without making significant cuts to other city services, such as police, fire, planning, parks, streets, and sidewalks. Most community centers are funded through voter-approved bonds.

The bond is projected to cost \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (down from the original estimate of \$0.33). The city has been working with its design consultants to reduce the cost for taxpayers. At the reduced rate of \$0.28, the owner of a \$500,000 home would pay \$11.67 per month or \$140 per year.

City of Enumclaw
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In addition to a bond, the city has identified \$3.35 million in grant funding for the project and will pursue other grants and private donations to further reduce the amount of funding needed from taxpayers. These alternative funding sources are contingent on the bond passing.

Learn more at www.cityofenumclaw.net.

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The Mountain Starts Here! The city of Enumclaw, Wash., population 13,000 is the gateway to Mount Rainier National Park located less than an hour south of Seattle. Enumclaw is a full-service city providing police, planning, economic development, parks, and some utilities. The city's vision is to keep residents for generations by caring for youth, adults and seniors through excellent public service and programs. Enumclaw operates on a balanced budget and has passed all independent audits by the state.