



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Council passes bond ordinance for community center

Proposition will appear on the April 2024 special election ballot

Enumclaw, Wash. – The City Council passed an ordinance to place a bond on the April 23, 2024, special election ballot. The purpose of the bond is to build a multigenerational community center.

The community center will provide 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 opportunities, space for community events, art performances and festivals, and a new senior center.

The city cannot finance 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 community center will also be home to 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 needs major repairs and isn't big enough for seniors to exercise safely, attend classes or enjoy meals together. Additionally, the estimated cost to renovate the building exceeds the value of the building.

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.

In addition to a bond, the city has identified \$3.35 million in grant and city 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.