



City Administrator Update

From the desk of Michael Grayum

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Our Mission

To provide essential public services and infrastructure to keep Yelm a desirable place to live, work and learn.

Our Vision

To make the City of Yelm a safe, healthy, happy home for all, with:

- Safe neighborhoods and schools,
- Sustainable, cost effective essential infrastructure,
- A strong, diverse economy, and
- Vibrant public places with an enduring connection to our history.

Our Values

We believe in and strive for collaboration, innovation, and excellence in everything we do.

Welcome to Phase 3

Today marks the one-year anniversary of City offices being closed after the Governor's first proclamation regarding COVID 19. Fortunately, yesterday the entire State entered Phase 3 of Washington's Roadmap to Recovery and many of the restrictions have been reduced for social and at-home gatherings, worship services, eating and drinking establishments, sporting events, and fitness facilities. Remote work is still strongly encouraged when appropriate based on job duties and you can learn more about Phase 3 at: <https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-announces-statewide-move-to-phase-3-of-recovery-plan-return-to-spectator-events-and-tier-2-4a53000f2724>.

Although more and more in-person services and events are returning, it is important to remember that we are not out of the woods yet. Each county will be individually evaluated every three weeks. The first evaluation is scheduled for April 12th and at that time, counties could move up or down a phase in the Healthy Washington Plan, which would result in more or less restrictions. I am proud of the way everyone has transitioned and continues to work in a safe, smart, and productive manner as we all continue to adapt to the many nuances of this pandemic. Let's stay vigilant. We got this!

Vaccines

Many of us have been vaccinated and I encourage everyone to do so at your earliest opportunity. Tim's Pharmacy and Sea Mar health clinics are great resources and you can check their websites for vaccine availability.

Some people have asked if you experience C-19 symptoms after getting vaccinated, do you have to isolate and quarantine for 14-days? The answer is no. Some people experience COVID symptoms as part of the vaccination process and we will all use a sick day or two and come back to work when we are able. All of our other policies and practices remain in place until workplace guidance changes from State and County public health departments, including: maintaining social distancing, wearing masks inside city facilities and vehicles when not alone, and signing in at each building upon entry.

In our personal lives outside the workplace, here is a great resource from the CDC for those who have been vaccinated and can start doing things we've stopped doing because of the pandemic:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

In-Person City Council Meetings

With the occupancy changes as part of Phase 3, the Yelm City Council will return to in-person meetings beginning with the Study Session on Tuesday, April 6. Facemasks and social distancing is still required, but the Council Chamber will once again be open to members of the public and the entire City Council. With the limitations of occupancy and social distancing, there is room for the Mayor, all City Council members, and 6 or 7 members of the public. We will continue to broadcast the meetings live via YouTube and virtually on Zoom to maintain openness, transparency, and accessibility.

The microphone and camera system in the Council Chambers will be used to stream audio and video to the Zoom Webinar, and the entire room will appear as one panelist which will allow anyone who wants to continue participating remotely to do so from the convenience of their own home and still be consistent with the Mayor/Council Protocol Manual, Washington State Open Public Meetings Act and Proclamation 20-28 from Governor Inslee.

To maximize room for the public, staff will continue to participate in Council meetings remotely. They can participate from home (*if they have adequate internet coverage*), from their office, or masked and socially distanced in the City Hall Conference room which is set up with a dedicated PC and a webcam with microphone.

As we continue to transition and adapt to this hybrid model for remote and in-person Council meetings, it is important for everyone to be mindful that there are a lot of moving parts. Some initial hiccups are to be expected, but we believe the hybrid model will have added value for open and transparent meetings for the remainder of the pandemic and beyond.

City Operations Update

It is important to assess the roles, responsibilities and structure of an organization any time someone retires. Department Directors are currently in the process of evaluating potential changes that would help integrate and align our work in anticipation of Grant Beck's retirement in August. We are working to create three divisions focused on: public service operations, internal services, and external services. The changes we are evaluating would involve at least one new hire in addition to the Finance Director position that we are currently accepting applications for. Over the course of the next two weeks, we will be sharing the proposed organizational structure with the City Council and all employees involved. Please stay tuned as we continue to act consistent with our organizational values and our culture of continuous improvement.