



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

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## Next Stevenson City Council meeting public comment

1 message

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**Mitch Patton** <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 6:24 PM

To: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, City of Stevenson <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, rmuth@kilmerlaw.com, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: planningcommissioners <planningcommissioners@co.skamania.wa.us>

Leana here are my thoughts on the sewer extension and mandatory hookups from an environmental perspective. Releasing a significant amount of treated sewer water into the Columbia River appears to be a misguided approach. Drawing from my experiences living on Orcas Island for many years, I've witnessed similar debates unfold. In my view, the city should have conducted studies to determine how many existing city lots could maintain onsite sewer systems and how many vacant lots would be able to have onsite sewer systems. On-site sewage systems have made significant advancements, significantly enhancing the longevity of these systems. For example, we put a 3-bedroom onsite sewer system on a very small lot on Orcas Island. I think our lot was like 100 feet wide and 60 or 70 feet deep and we had no issues whatsoever with that onsite sewer system. This concept should not be underestimated or overlooked.

Over the last few years, I've believed that there is sufficient space within many of the city of Stevenson lots that could accommodate onsite sewer systems. For single-family residences, This approach could contribute to reducing repair and maintenance costs associated with the proposed new sewer treatment plant. As stewards of this remarkable area, we should prioritize thoughtful solutions, such as avoiding the discharge of treated wastewater directly into our freshwater streams and rivers. If we can implement onsite filtration, it should be the city's primary goal rather than solely relying on the new sewer treatment plant, which seems to impose a substantial burden on the citizens of Stevenson.

Repeatedly, I contemplate what might have transpired had the city prioritized addressing the challenges posed by breweries and the ailing sewer system before irreversible damage ensued. If the cost of repairing the outdated treatment plant exceeded a more economical solution, the city should now add a new business tax. The new studies reveal that around 53% of the treatment load is directly linked to these specific types of businesses. Therefore, it is rational to adjust taxes accordingly, sparing single-family homeowners from an unwarranted increase in sewer rates.

Anyhow just a few ideas to think about please add to the public comment if it is still open

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**"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."**

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, from "Oldtown Folks"