

# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 8, 2020  
Contact: Mayor Brett Gailey, City of Lake Stevens  
(425) 407-3497 [bgailey@lakestevenswa.gov](mailto:bgailey@lakestevenswa.gov)

### **Lake Stevens City Council Passes Ordinance to Assume Sewer District**

Lake Stevens, Wash. – The Lake Stevens City Council voted at its December 8 meeting to integrate the Lake Stevens Sewer District into the City Public Works Department. Consolidation saves money for taxpayers, better manages growth, enhances economic development, and means one less government agency.

In 2005, the City of Lake Stevens and the Lake Stevens Sewer District entered into an agreement that created a unified sewer system. Integrating the Sewer District now means cost savings and efficiencies for taxpayers. It also will help the City better manage growth and enhance economic development, which is called for in the Lake Stevens Comprehensive Plan.

“Many governments are looking for ways to be more efficient for taxpayers,” said Mayor Brett Gailey. “We’re ready to provide this service, which means taxpayers will realize cost savings and benefits.”

An independent analysis shows that a consolidation is projected to save taxpayers as much as \$595,000 in the first three years. These savings are a result of combining accounting, human resources, facilities and IT departments to eliminate duplication of services. A merger also will provide better prices for goods and professional services due to economies of scale.

A City sewer utility also will better manage growth and enhance economic development. The City is responsible for planning and development within the city limits and urban growth area. However, the Sewer District makes decisions on whether or not to extend service, and the two governments can have different priorities.

For example, the Sewer District makes more revenue from housing developments while the City wants service extended to industrial and commercial areas to create jobs and aid in economic development. Consolidation will allow the City to determine when and where growth happens to reduce impacts to area residents.

Less government is also a benefit of consolidation. Lake Stevens has elected City Councilmembers. The Sewer District has an elected Board of Sewer Commissioners. The consolidation will eliminate salaries for sewer commissioners and save on future election costs. Ratepayers will still have representation through the Lake Stevens City Council, which will set sewer rates annually in a public hearing.

There will be no change to sewer rates in 2021 or billing services. State law says the City can start providing service no sooner than 90 days after the ordinance is adopted.

More information can be found on the City’s website at [www.lakestevenswa.gov](http://www.lakestevenswa.gov). Mayor Brett Gailey also is available to answer questions at (425) 407-3497 or [bgailey@lakestevenswa.gov](mailto:bgailey@lakestevenswa.gov).

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*Lake Stevens (pop. 33,000) is a city in Snohomish County, Washington, named for the lake that it surrounds. Lake Stevens' vision is to be a sustainable community with a vibrant economy with unsurpassed infrastructure and providing residents an exceptional quality of life. More information about Lake Stevens can be found at [www.lakestevenswa.gov](http://www.lakestevenswa.gov).*