



# Your Utility Company Newsletter

## Utilities Commission

- Matt Winkel, Chair
- Mary O’Dea, Vice-Chair
- Sheryl Bremmer
- Daniel Graham
- Peter Hughes
- Patricia Soltys
- Don Starbuck
- Council Liaisons:
- Peter Braun
- Madeline Seymour

## Local Government

Question: Can we have a device in the Council Chambers that counts down and shows how much time a speaker has when he/she is making a public comment?

Response: This is a good question which will be brought to the attention of the City Manager as soon as possible.

## New Water Fountain

We have a new water fountain at the City Hall in the foyer between the restrooms outside of the Planning Department and the Public Works Department. You can refill your water bottle or just take a sip of water. (More info on the back page.)



## Water Fountain, cont'd.

The new water fountain (photo on the front page) has a device at the upper right-hand side of it that tallies the number of plastic bottles kept out of landfills by using this fountain. The next time you are in City Hall, check out this new water fountain and take a drink, fill up your water bottle, or just notice the tally of plastic bottles that did not go into the landfill.

## Consideration of Oregon Statewide Plastic Laws

**The Register-Guard** reported on December 13, 2018, that the "Oregon Legislature will consider a statewide tax on plastic bags and a ban on plastic straws." The proposals include a possible 5 cent per bag tax on single-use plastic bags used by retail stores selling food or alcohol and a requirement that the stores provide paper checkout bags. The tax would exclude meat and vegetable bags. People who use vouchers and state benefit cards would be exempt.

Revenue collected from this tax would go to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for a new Plastic Clean-Up and Recycling Fund.

Another measure would prohibit restaurants from providing single-use plastic straws to customers unless they request a straw. Exempted straws are those made from sugar cane, pasta and some other natural ingredients.

## Links



## FEMA Rumor Control

The hurricanes and large fires that have caused many people to lose their homes and property this year have triggered many rumors about how FEMA operates and what the agency can do to assist people impacted by these disasters. In order to expedite recovery when people have been displaced or affected by incidents requiring FEMA intervention, the agency has created a website to address concerns, quell rumors, and steer people to the correct places to find out accurate information.

If you go to [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) you will see two subsections now: California Wildfires and Hurricane Michael. If you scroll down the page, you will find other subsections: Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018; Super Typhoon Yutu; Hurricane Florence; Hurricane Maria; FEMA Podcast; and [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov).

To find the Rumor Control Page, just do a search for FEMA Rumor Control Page and you will see a page with the title: Rumor Control: FEMA disaster assistance concerns answered. This page has references to rumors and links to the correct information as well as an ongoing list of rumors and their true or false status.