

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, October 11, 2024.

According to the Port Townsend *Leader*, although the Fort Worden Public Development Authority (PDA) passed a resolution in August requesting the Port Townsend City Council to authorize its dissolution, Jefferson County Superior Court Judge Brandon Mack has issued an order stopping the dissolution and appointing a general receiver over all PDA property and assets.

Mack's ruling was in response to a complaint filed by Kitsap Bank, which objected to the dissolution, saying the PDA owed the bank \$6.2 million for previous loans and had no plan to repay the debt. In seeking the action, lawyers for the bank wrote, "Notwithstanding repeated requests from the Petitioner, the Defendant has failed to articulate...how it will preserve and allocate its assets to satisfy its outstanding creditor obligations, including its obligations to the Bank. Appointment of a general receiver over the Defendant is necessary to protect the Bank's collateral, to prevent the Defendant from using an abrupt and unplanned dissolution as a means to impair and entirely avoid its obligations, and to ensure that it conduct its exit in compliance with the law and in the best interest of its creditors."

The court agreed that the PDA had not presented a statement of dissolution that describes how it planned to satisfy its financial obligations. The council, which had scheduled a hearing and vote for October 7, removed it from its regular meeting agenda.

The *Leader* also reports that crews have begun phase one of the Lawrence and Tyler streets improvements. The project, in process now through mid-December, includes sidewalk demolition and replacement, as well as the construction of new ramps and intersection concrete bulb-outs that are ADA-compliant. The project will also include a new bus stop, rain gardens, pavement restriping for bike lanes, tree removal, and tree planting. The grant-funded transportation improvements are the first step toward the eventual repaving of Lawrence Street from Monroe Street to the public library.

As part of phase one, crews removed three sidewalk-buckling, sewer-damaging European Hornbeam trees on the east side of Lawrence Street and will remove six more trees on Tyler Street between Lawrence and Jefferson before the sidewalk is replaced. Each tree will be replaced with a sidewalk-compatible species.

Phase Two of the project will begin next spring when crews repave Tyler Street between Lawrence and Jefferson Streets and implement back-in, angled parking. The city expects Lawrence Street and the adjacent businesses to remain open for the entirety of the project. There will be sidewalk closures along the side of the street where crews work, but the opposite side will remain open. Crews will work between 7am and 6pm. Monday to Friday.

In addition to the Lawrence and Tyler Street improvements, the city has informed us of several other Street paving projects starting this week, including:

- On Cook Avenue between Trail Crest Drive and Peary Street.
- On N and Fir Street, with flaggers detouring traffic onto Maple Street.

- On Sheridan Street from 29th through 32nd & Corona Avenue. Neighbors on 30th & 31st will be parking on Sheridan while paving occurs.
- On Jefferson Street between the Co-op and Penny Saver. Both businesses will have no parking signs out the day before the work begins.

For a free bike helmet and water bottle, be sure to join the Port Townsend Police Department and public agency partners for the annual Bike Rodeo and K-9 Demonstrations at Blue Heron Middle School this coming Sunday, October 13, from 10am to 2pm. The Bike Rodeo is from 10 to noon and the K-9 demonstrations start at 1pm. The event is free and open to all.

And finally, if you're looking for ways to help feed members of our community, Bayside Housing & Services now runs the Emergency Shelter for unhoused people at the American Legion in Port Townsend. You can sign up to help as an individual or as a group; you can offer cash donations for food purchases; or you can purchase and deliver frozen family-style dinners, items for sack lunches, or items for food prep and/or shelter operations. Contact info@baysidehousing.org for specific needs or visit <https://www.baysidehousing.org/> for more information.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.