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City of Arlington Press Release

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ARLINGTON CANCELS 2017 UTILITIES RATE INCREASE; UTILITY BUDGET REPORTED 'STRONG AND HEALTHY'

(Arlington, WA) – Arlington’s City Council had good news for its residents, businesses and industries Tuesday, January 17, 2017, voting unanimously to cancel a planned 2017 utility rate increase.

Mayor Barb Tolbert called the City Council's 2017 rescinding of utility rates increases for the fifth consecutive year “a clear example of how a well-managed budget and operation by a hard working staff can result in decreases, rather than increases, for the city's utility customers.”

“Our Utility budget is strong and healthy. Our emphasis on cost containment and best practices has enabled us to defer planned rate increases for five consecutive years” said Public Works Director James Kelly.

Each year the City Council and staff review the utility budget and consider whether an increase in utility rates is needed, based on an adjustment to the Consumer Price Index for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area.

Since 2010, the city ordinance has required a mandatory public utilities rate increase each year for Arlington residents and commercial customers. However, this is the fifth year in a row that the council’s vote made an exception, maintaining the rates unchanged since 2012.

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