

**COLVILLE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM  
BRIEFING SHEET**

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**Meeting Date: February 14, 2017**

**Contact: Mayor Janke**

**Topic: Discuss possible suspension of noon whistle**

**Type of Briefing:**

Information Only      x Discussion Only      Decision Needed

**Background of Situation:**

The City of Colville for many years has had a noon fire whistle. It is located in park area north of City Hall. It also supports fire operations announcing the need to respond to a fire emergency. The fire department feels it is still essential to fire operations as it helps insure emergency response by our volunteer fire department. Persons living in apartments, businesses, farmers market and entities near the whistle are negatively impacted by the loud sound. It is impossible to operate while it is going off. It has been measured at 112 decibels in the park where the whistle is located. It is measured at 78 decibels in City Hall. This far exceed decibels that could be harmful to health. Those who have expressed concern apartment residents, Library, City Hall users, Farmers Market , park users and businesses in the area. It is a nuisance and may create a hearing safety issue.

**Goals and Objectives:**

**Council goals:**

**Colville is a community where people want to live and work.**

**Evaluate Alternatives or Options/Consequences of Inaction:**

- 1. Stop the whistle from routinely sounding at noon but continue use for fire operations. This could be for a trial period say 4 months. The nuisance sounding of the noon whistle would be eliminated and fire response would continue. This may be more inviting for downtown atmosphere which is an emphasis in our strategic planning.**
- 2. Keep current use. Whistle sounds at noon and support fire operations. The nuisance of the noon whistle would continue but we would continue to have the historical sounding of the whistle at noon that is expected by many.**

**Funding Needed and Recommended Source (BARS #): N/A**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Email from fire chief**

**Recommended Actions with Justification:**

**Suspend sounding the noon fire whistle but continue use to support fire operations.**

## Mayor Janke

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**From:** Brad Manke  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2016 11:07 AM  
**To:** Mayor Janke  
**Subject:** FW: Noon whistle

Mayor-

I have no problem with making the siren so it does not go off every day at noon. That has nothing to do with fire department operations. We have discussed the use of the siren for fire operations, and it is essential we keep it. There are cases when pages are not able to be sent by dispatch and cases when firefighters pagers may not work, and the siren is the means of notification of a fire.

Brad

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**From:** Dave Harper  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:03 PM  
**To:** Brad Manke [firechief@colville.wa.us](mailto:firechief@colville.wa.us)  
**Cc:** Joe Floener <joe@floener.com>; Tom Tripp <tomt@trippdistributing.com>; Mel Fox <mel.fox@charter.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Noon whistle

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**From:** Mayor Janke  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 01, 2016 8:18 AM  
**To:** RJ Keetch  
**Cc:** Dave Harper; Holly Pannell; Mayor Janke  
**Subject:** RE: Noon whistle

Let's pursue. Last couple of times I tried, the fire chief at the time had no interest and it was important for their communications.

Louis Janke  
Mayor  
City of Colville  
170 S. Oak  
Colville, WA 99114  
(509)684-5095

*The City of Colville is an equal opportunity provider and employer*

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**From:** RJ Keetch  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:08 AM  
**To:** Mayor Janke <[mayor@colville.wa.us](mailto:mayor@colville.wa.us)>  
**Cc:** Dave Harper <[bldgofcl@colville.wa.us](mailto:bldgofcl@colville.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Noon whistle

Mayor,

FYI, The farmer's market asked us to consider eliminating the noon whistle as it is disruptive to the peace and enjoyment of the market. I know others that live downtown feel the same way.

Dave was going to check into how this might be done. Please let me know if you want us to pursue or drop it.



**RJ Keetch**  
City Planner  
(509) 684-5096

*"If you want people to behave like they're in a village, then build a village"*