



# MAYOR'S REPORT

*March 3, 2021*

BREMERTON  
WASHINGTON



Photo courtesy of Port of Bremerton



## City of Bremerton Sales Tax History 2019 vs 2020

The graph represents the City's cumulative sales tax totals for 2019 and 2020. During COVID-19 in 2020, the sales tax rebounded significantly since July and increased by 4.9% compared to the prior periods.





## January and February Sales Tax Activity (2019-2021)



■ Feb ■ Jan



## Permit Activity Update

January and February of 2020 were the highest permit records the City had ever seen for the approval of construction for the start of a year (usually January/February is pretty "slow"). In 2021 we're breaking that record again.

<b>Permit Trending 2020 v 2021</b>	
2020 Total Year	\$143,423,389
2021 approved and in review as of 3/1	\$136,476,548
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$6,946,841</b>

We are already within \$7 million of last year's total and we still have 10 months of the year to go!



## **COVID–19 Assistance in 2020**

In 2020, as a result of COVID-19, my administration:

- Distributed nearly \$1.4 million in federal funds for Bremerton COVID-19 relief programs, including \$533,431 for the COVID-19 Bremerton rental assistance program; \$580,578 in Bremerton small business relief grants; and \$252,950 in technology purchases for virtual learning in the Bremerton School District
- Ensured residents would still have water and sewer services if they could not make payments due to the financial impacts of COVID-19.
- Waived late payment fees and interest in early months of COVID-19 for businesses who were not able to file their taxes and renew their licenses on time due to coronavirus
- Found a new location in downtown for the Bremerton Farmers Market so they could continue operating and meet coronavirus health and safety standards
- Supported City staff in staying healthy by providing remote working environment



## COVID–19 Assistance in 2020 (cont.)

- Permitted outdoor seating in public parking spaces for Bremerton restaurants so they could meet certain safety conditions. Provided ability for businesses and others (including churches and schools) to expand into their private property with temporary tents and other similar structures like awnings.
- Opened up temporary parking on downtown streets for essential workers and for those who needed to meet appointments for critical services and care. Neighborhood parking enforcement was also lifted temporarily to assist residents during state’s stay-at-home orders.
- Supported Salvation Army in creating a 24-hour/7 day-a-week shelter for those facing homelessness during the pandemic
- Provided planning and staff support for COVID-19 testing in City-owned parking garage, among other locations



## **COVID–19 Assistance in 2021**

In 2021, the City will continue to use CARES Act funding and provide staff assistance for COVID-19 response. This includes:

- Setting aside CARES Act funding to supplement the City’s Bremerton Rental Assistance Program to help prevent evictions
- Providing planning and staff support to Peninsula Community Health Services and St. Michael Medical Center in Bremerton for vaccination sites
- Continuing to support City staff in staying healthy by providing remote working environment
- Working to continue COVID-19 Bremerton small business relief grants this year