

The City of Milton recently went through an audit for accountability on financial statements. We received a “clear” audit and were issued a statement that said “The city complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources.” You can read the full report on [the State Auditors website](#).

The City’s revenue for 2015 was almost \$14 million, \$8 million of which was from our utilities. We have 4,767 utility customers, our utility boundaries exceed our city boundaries, and our rates are one of the lowest around.

We currently employ 48 people; we are a major employer. If you know of anyone who would like to work for one of our utilities, please ask them to contact the City.

Fourteen of these employees are police officers. The City of Milton feels strongly about employing our own police department. We believe by having our own police department we are able to embrace the philosophy of community policing, which means transparency and accountability, as well as involvement with all aspects of the community, not just criminal situations. Milton does not have much crime, but we do have a lot of criminals that try to pass through our city. Our officers find a lot of stolen cars. Our response time is one of the best in the state – of course we don’t have to far to go – Milton is only three square miles!

We currently have 277 businesses licensed and located in the City of Milton, 115 of which are home-based occupations. Another 436 businesses are licensed to do business within the City of Milton but located elsewhere. We expect one more business, Albertson’s, will be beginning their improvement to the building in July with an opening date in late August. Just in time for Milton Days.

Milton Days continues to be a huge success due to the continued support from businesses like DM Disposal and Fife Towing, along with the hard work and dedication of the Events Committee and this year’s Chair April Balsley. If you’re looking for ways to get involved and be part of the fun, the Events Committee has openings, and everyone is welcome to come by during their meetings the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month in Council Chambers to learn more.

Last year the City of Milton started something new, something unusual. Because we as a small city could not get adequate IT service that met the needs of government accountability, as well as the strict security needs of our police department, we decided to create our own IT business. I say business because we act more like business than government. Our IT department is based on need, not a “one size fits all” scenario. We are able to grow and shrink depending on our customer’s needs. Currently we have two IT employees managing over 800 devices, in multiple locations across Pierce and King counties, and handling over 100 service tickets a month. We not only take care of the day-to-day problems, but we strategically plan business needs, capital improvement projects, and equipment rotation. Our Council whole-heartedly believes in this business approach and has dedicated the appropriate funds to build the necessary infrastructure.

Last month you heard from our Community Development Director Aaron Nix and I won’t repeat what he presented. I will tell you that, in 2015 we issued 108 building permits, and so far in 2016 we have already issued 58. Our Community Development Director has reorganized the department’s processes, and we are processing permits faster than ever before.

As a City we believe in customer service, whether it is utility, police, IT, or building permits. Our future focus will be the Pacific Highway 99 corridor. Our plan is to remove anything in our code that stands in the way of development, starting with height restrictions, as well as full cooperation with SR167 and light rail. Our Comp Plan that we completed last year supports that philosophy.

The City of Milton is a great place to raise a family. We are largely neighborhoods, and we plan to protect that; however, the City of Milton is “open for business”!