

Turning a new page on the Old City Hall

Located at 344 H Street, Blaine's Old City hall building has been an important part of our community for decades. In addition to housing Blaine municipal offices, generations of locals can remember attending school dances and other events in the building's ballroom in its upper story.

Even so, the City outgrew its location years ago. For a time, City Council meetings wouldn't fit in the narrow confines of the old hall. Many City employees worked in satellite offices, divvying up their work day between the multiple locations. Not everyone who worked around these accommodations remembers them with fondness.

In August 2012, Blaine City Council relocated City Hall to 435 Martin Street and discontinued active use of the property. Today, the City Council is once again discussing the future role of its former residence.



*Blaine's Old City Hall then and now
archived photo (top) provided by Whatcom Museum*



*In August 2012, Blaine City Council relocated
City Hall to 435 Martin Street*

"We are excited at the opportunities of the location," City Manager Michael Jones said. "And we're looking forward to seeing the ideas people have about its future use."

An RFP is being drafted to be an open invitation for potential buyers to provide their vision for how to best use the space. A mixed-use retail space? Restaurants? A suite of offices? Apartments?

"The possibilities are limitless," Jones said, expressing the idea that plans that involve using, modifying, or even demolishing the old building will be considered. Though the exact future of

this space is uncertain today, Blaine's ongoing efforts to revitalize its downtown through collaboration, planning, and innovation are clear.

The RFP for the Old City Hall Redevelopment is expected to be released in Fall of 2019.