



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #1

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, October 12, 2020

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

- 4.a.** [20-358](#) Proposed Fees and Charges for Utility Service Rates (Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater).

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Safe Community; Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2020-44 with exhibit, establishing fees and charges for utility service rates (water, wastewater, and stormwater) effective January 1, 2021, and January 1, 2022.

Attachments: [Sample Bills](#)

[City of Salem Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Proposal for 2021 and 2022](#)

[Resolution 2020-44](#)

[Exhibit 1 for Rate Resolution 2020-44](#)

[Notification Letter for Payment Plan](#)

[Public Testimony 20-358 as of 09-24-2020](#)

[Additional Public Testimony 09-30-2020](#)

[Additional Public Comments received by 5:00 pm, 10-7-20.pdf](#)

[Public Comments received by 11:00 a.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

- 5.b.** [20-383](#) Motion from Councilor Tom Andersen regarding adopting goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Attachments: [Public Comments received by 11:00 a.m. 10-12-20.pdf](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: Ashley Stringham <ashleystringham87@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 12:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Water Bill Proposed Increase

I am extremely opposed to increasing our water bills yet again when it has been done recently. Our property taxes already increase regularly. I think there must be a mismanagement of funds if this is being proposed, and if that is the case I don't believe I should be responsible for paying more money that will be mismanaged.

Ashley Stringham

Sent from my iPhone

Amy Johnson

From: CAROLYN NORRIS <cnorris1964@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 5:32 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: I oppose the proposed rate increase

My name is Carolyn Norris. I reside at 5939 Summerside Street SE, Salem, OR 97306. I would like to oppose the proposed rate increases for water, wastewater and storm water. The rate increase is not reasonable for Salem citizens to pay during a very financial unstable economy. So many people are not working and those who live on a fixed income are being nickeled and dimed constantly. All these supposedly requests for small amounts add up. It is time for the city to look for ways to cut spending while not cutting services.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Norris

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of heavenly52@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 3:52 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Diane M Cooper
Your Email	heavenly52@yahoo.com
Your Phone	5033649680
Street	2530 Mountain View Dr. S.
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>This is my written testimony to the City Council in regards to their public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on October 12, 2020. Subject: To increase water rates 3%, wastewater 3 %, and stormwater 5%. I have three main concerns. First, I can barely afford our monthly bill as is, (only living on Social Security) and at this time when we are dealing with the virus, many people have lost their jobs and do not even know if they can continue to live in their homes, or pay any of their monthly bills. I am not sure if any of the people who lost everything in the fires, are currently living in Salem, but for all of us who struggle to pay our bills, I want to ask you, where is your common sense, where is your heart, where is your compassion? How can you even think about increasing our bills at a time like this? I had those same concerns when you wanted to spend money on a new park. My second concern. You want to raise wastewater and stormwater rates, and because of your old and inadequate system, we have been living with constant flooding since we moved into this house on April 15, 2005. Look up my record of how many times I have requested help from the City. The City is having a meeting on October 15th to determine what they can do to correct the problem, but I have already stated to Risk Management and Public Works, what the solution would be. I was told that the replacement of the line down the center of the street, was on the books for 2017, and obviously that was a lie. Why am I even being charged for any wastewater and stormwater service, when I am dealing with constant flooding? We are still living with walls cut out in our lower level since the winter storm of 2012. I should be given a refund for what my husband and I have been paying all these years. Our house was built in 1956, and the flooding issue goes all the way back to when this house was built. I probably would not object to an increase as much, if the City would fix their problem. Which leads into my third concern. Our bill for the City of Salem recently went up, without the public knowing why. I do intend to ask why, but have been constantly working on cleaning up the mess from our September 10, 2019 flood, and now our September 18, 2020 flood. When I hear of the many unnecessary projects that the City works on, I know that if the City would use the money they have, more wisely, they would not need to ask for more money. I know that can be said about many people, but remember, we the people of this City pay your income, and I for one, demand that you stop wasting our money. I absolutely do not want you to increase our monthly bill, especially at this time. Get someone in there, that knows how to manage money. I actually overheard a city worker, that was parked in front of our house, tell a fellow worker, that they needed to stay at our location for another 20 minutes, so that they would get paid their full amount. I have not seen any wisdom in how the City of Salem has handled our case all these years, but I pray that you will decide not to raise our rates, and with the meeting on</p>

October 15th, I pray that the City will finally correct the problem in front of our house. Sincerely, Diane Cooper phone number (503)364-9680

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/10/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Deanna Garcia <dg.boardstuff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 10:03 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public comment

Dear Council members,

I am writing to ask that you consider postponing a rate increase for city utilities. I know that many of the public comments have mentioned the pandemic and the 'yet-to-happen' recovery as reasoning. I agree with them, many households in our community have been negatively impacted by Covid-related government mandates. I also want to point out that many households were already experiencing financial difficulties prior to the pandemic. Cost of living continues to sky-rocket while wages barely move, families are left with significant decisions on what to pay for and what to go without.

My community definitely has felt this impact. I live in a working-class community in NE Salem. My home is part of a homeowners association, the monthly dues includes water and sewer costs. For some reason, when the community was developed, all of the homes were put on one main meter. There are 70 homes in the community and our city water bill is the largest portion of our dues. We have approved a budget for 2021 and it already includes a significant increase to accommodate rising cost elsewhere. Another increase could have serious consequences as many of the homeowners in my community are on a fixed income or reeling from the impact of the pandemic. Please consider the members of your community who cannot afford an additional rate increase; table the rate increase until after the economy has shown signs of recovery. Thank you.

Deanna Garcia, President
Hollyridge Estates Homeowners Association

Amy Johnson

From: Dan Lane <laserlane@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 3:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: RE estimated increase in water bills for 2021 & 2022

I am a home owner in South Salem. I am retired and also a Veteran. I am having trouble paying our water bill as it is. Several months ago someone added an \$8 charge to our water bill. I have asked why this charge was added but could not get an answer.

Our water bill is one of our top three utility bills we have. if you continue to raise the water rates we will really be hurting financially.

I would ask you to please for go an increase in the water rates.

Dan Lane

Amy Johnson

From: DOUGLAS LUTH <towken@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 7:38 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Proposed water, wastewater, and stormwater rate increases

No! No! No!

Enough is enough!
Douglas Luth
4760 20th Ave S
Salem, OR 97302
Ward #7

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of dickandchris1011@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 6:01 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comments on proposed water, etc. rate increases
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Rife
Your Email	dickandchris1011@comcast.net
Message	No more water, wastewater, or stormwater rate increases!! COLA does not cover everything! No consideration given, even with proof, that No One is in this house, (most recently noon on 08-04-2020 to 2pm on 08-14-2020). This house is by occupied by elderly, disabled. No one else lives here. And we've Never seen any improvements despite several increases. We have seen new fees. PS: This is the email address provided.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/10/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Debye Williams <dm-williams@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 2:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Proposed Water Rate Increase

This message is in response to your request for feedback regarding a rate increase. I believe the timing of this request is ill advised. With everything we have been through in this state and in this nation this year, the timing couldn't be worse. So many of the citizens of this state are hurting financially, and those who have been able to contribute to assist those in need in the past will be unable to do so in the near future. I believe this is a request best kept for another time.

Respectfully,

Debra M. Williams

Amy Johnson

From: Frances Holman <franholman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 7:17 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Proposed Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Increases

Hello City Staff,

My husband and I are low to middle income retirees who "own" our 1978 3 bedroom 2 bath rancher in South Salem.

We'd be happy to pay the stated rate increase for improved water supply related infrastructure. Salem is growing. We need infrastructure repair.

As a first world country we should have the kind of infrastructure folks have in Europe, Canada, Australia, and other Western civilized nations. Poor water systems, bad roads and broken bridges are characteristic of third world countries.

Thank you.

Frances and Harold

Amy Johnson

From: Al Catel <ktrac.2017@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 11:10 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Water rate hike

Dear Councilors and Mayor,

I understand that costs are going up. It makes sense to pay more for water, but coupling this rate hike with the utility fee is making this basic necessity of life affordable for many. I would say allow the rate hike but only if you remove the utility fee/tax.

John and Kathleen Hill

Amy Johnson

From: renojim@juno.com
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 7:59 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: water increases

to the City Recorder and Hopefully the City Counsel:

I am writing in regards to the proposed increase in all water related rates for the city of Salem. It is obserb to me to think of increasing these rates when we have hundreds of people out of work or ill do to the Covid 19 that is going on. I am a senior citizen living on a limited budget and squeking by as it is. If we the people have to cut back during this time, why can't the City do the same. We have to watch every penny we spend but, oh not you, you just say let's increase the tax on this and on that. The new Police building was voted on when things were find with no Virus and most people working. Same with school repairs and work on the city library. Now that the people are down, you want to stick it to them.

If the City of Salem can't live for a short time without a raise in all these services, then maybe it's time to get new managers in that can do the job. I am ashamed of our City managers and the City counsel that they would even consider this kind of an increase during these terrible days. I know I know my voice will go unheard but at lease you can't take that away from me like you want to do with more of my money. Please think of all the people that are out of work and desperate for food when you decide to take more money our of their pockets.

Thank you,

James E Krueger citizen of Salem for 76 years.

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Amy Johnson

From: Hale, Matthew <MatthewHale@corban.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 4:17 PM
To: CityRecorder; Jackie Leung; Chuck Bennett
Subject: Written Testimony

Mayor Bennett, Councilor Leung, and City Recorder,

The following is my written testimony concerning the October 12th Public Hearing concerning City of Salem Proposed Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Rate Increases.

I ask that city leaders make responsible rate increase decisions while all of us continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, now going on 8 months. Rate increases of 3%, 3%, and 5% for water, wastewater, and stormwater respectively for 2021 and 2022 are too high and unreasonable.

The news media (Statesman Journal) recently reported "Rate increases are necessary to keep up with the cost of personnel, materials, and reinvestment in our capital projects," said Peter Fernandez, director of Public Works for the city.

I respectfully ask that you consider the following information when making rate increase decisions:

- A new operating fee of \$8 each month was meant to keep up with personnel costs so why does the City need more rate increases to "keep up with the cost of personnel" according to Peter Fernandez, Director of Public Works? It seems that the City is asking residents to pay twice for personnel costs increases.
- An analysis of my water, wastewater, and stormwater bill over the past 30 months shows an increase of over 37% in total cost, making these basic services unsustainable for many Salem residents over time.
- AARP and the Senior Citizens League estimate a 1.1 percent COLA going into effect in 2021, must less than your proposal to raise rates by 3% and 5%.

Now is not the time to seek huge rate increases, but for a more measured approach that does not harm the residents of Salem and is more in line with actual inflation statistics that impact those on fixed incomes. A more reasonable 1% increase is optimal.

Sincerely,

Matt Hale
Ward 4

Amy Johnson

From: pauleckley@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:43 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for October 12th Rate Increase Hearing

Give Us A Break On Rates, Please

The Covid situation will carry far into 2021. With 1,000's of women and men still out of work in Salem and many many businesses either closed or on the brink of closing, Council should consider giving us a break this year on the upcoming rate increase. Most of us live on a fixed income, whether we work or are retired. If working, with the Covid conditions, you may not receive a wage increase this year at all. If retired, you also may not receive a retirement income increase this year or at the best you might receive a 2% cost of living increase. Does Council care about this? I trust they will discuss this thoroughly before making a final decision at the upcoming October 12th meeting.

If you own a home or rent in Salem, or if you own a business, you pay a monthly utility fee to the City. Either directly or through your rent payment. This fee is not only for water or sewer service, but includes stormwater, a franchise fee, a streetlight fee and the brand-new \$96 per year operations fee. The franchise fee is a tricky way of taking money from the water and sewer funds and moving it to general fund. The operations fee also goes to the general fund. The general fund is for police, fire, library, parks, and administrative staff. Don't get me wrong, all these services are needed for a city to properly function.

But normally these services are paid for by taxes or special levies, in our case these are property taxes collected by the county. What our Council has figured out is this. Taxes and levies must be voted on by the public for them to be created or increased (thank goodness!). Not that long ago we voted on and approved a new tax for a much-needed new police building, which is a good thing. But Council also has the authority themselves to create and increase rates, which is the upcoming decision for them. In summary, for taxes and levies, Council can ask and we the voters decide. For rates, Council asks for our opinion, but they decide. There is a big difference.

Because of our current Covid dilemma and continuing economic conditions, Council should consider either not raising rates this upcoming year or at least not raising them the 3% and 5% numbers requested by staff.

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of rrandolphburwell@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 9:20 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Robert Burwell
Your Email	rrandolphburwell@gmail.com
Your Phone	503-580-1973
Street	2665 Mountainview Dr. S.S.
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Ask yourselves if this is an appropriate time to increase utility bills for Salem citizens by 8.0 % during these extraordinarily challenging economic times. A rational answer is what you must render. Thank you.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 10/12/2020.

Amy Johnson

From: Sofie Parra <sofiepar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 10:22 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Jackie Leung; Chuck Bennett
Subject: Testimony regarding proposed utility rate increases

City Recorder's Office
555 Liberty St SE, Room 205
Salem OR 97301

RE: Water and Sewer Rate Increases public hearing Oct 12, 2020

Dear Salem City Council,

I object to any rate increases at this time and ask that you please reject these proposed increases. I see that the utility has stated that they are being frugal with their capital projects and operating budgets, but I believe they can make do without a rate increase. We are all struggling right now with the fallout of multiple events, including:

- Business closures (some permanent) because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Employees losing work from business closures, quarantines, illness, and stress because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and often without any pay.
- Businesses and individuals having additional expenses to keep themselves safe with extra precautions and purchases of protective equipment.
- Some loss of business due to protests and riots over the summer.
- Business losses and closures due to changes in consumer behavior and concern about safety and well-being due to these recent events.

Please mandate that utilities make do with their current income by making reductions in capital expenditures and their operating budget. Please also make sure their debts are financed at the lowest possible rates; if not, they need to be refinanced.

Many of us have attempted to reduce our water usage and are struggling with the fallout from recent events. Our bill has increased over 30% from 2016 to 2020 even though we are keeping our consumption and sewer usage about the same. I'm sure it's similar for others as most can likely only reduce their usage by so much. You also recently added an \$8 per month fee (tax) earlier this year. These frequent increases average to \$60 increases per year every year just for my small household who uses an average of 1.3 units per person per month. Those who have larger households will be even worse off. We certainly do not have that type of increase in our income over the last few years and I imagine it's the same for the other residents of the city even before recent events. With all these recent increases, now is not the time for more increases, especially for something that everyone needs to live in this city.

The utility has not learned to operate on less and continually asks for more money. I realize that outside governments mandate some projects and the utility does not have a choice on those projects, but they should be put on hold with current events. I also realize that current infrastructure needs to be maintained to avoid expensive emergencies, but those costs need to be closely evaluated to see what's really necessary.

I believe that projects and unnecessary maintenance need to be eliminated until the economy has a chance to recover from recent events. If a project will reduce future maintenance costs or have some other financial benefit, they need to carefully review the breakeven point to decide whether to complete the project and if it can be delayed. I also feel that you must mandate the utility to look for ways to reduce its operating budget. You may want fees and taxes on everything to maintain city services that some people are accustomed to, but that needs to change. You need to stop expensive services and programs, so that utilities that everyone must pay are not spiraling out of affordability.

Please consider my objection to these utility rate increases and the objections of all the other consumers who have written to you or provided oral testimony. Please mandate that the utility go back to the drawing board and look for ways to make do or come up with a proposal that has a smaller rate increase delayed until at least 2022 and is contingent on the economy recovering from the issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please also do the same for all other city departments and agencies.

Thank you,

Sofia Parra
South Salem residential water & sewer consumer

Amy Johnson

From: Wyatt Bartlett <wyatt.bartlett@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 11:58 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: water bill

Hello -

Something should be done to prevent the continually increasing charges on our water bill.

The \$8.00 charge that appeared this spring is offensive. I am a retired widow living alone on a fixed income in my home of over 26 years, and I do not feel I should be paying for the rest of the city and all the new California transplants.

AND NOW while we are in a pandemic and an economic depression, you want to increase my bill?! I think you should be ashamed. Maybe in a year's time, but not now.

I have to curb my budget based on my incoming. I think you should do the same. Shake someone else's couch cushions.

Sincerely,
Wyatt Bartlett

Amy Johnson

From: Brian Amstutz <bamstutz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 9:59 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: greenhouse gas reduction

Hello,

I am writing to ask the City Council of Salem to adopt greenhouse gas reduction goals, consistent with the established scientific goals. The Kyoto protocols were passed when I was 5 years old. This science is well known and well established. What we need to do is well known and well established. It has been for the past 30 years. I am now 35 years old, asking for something that should have been moved forward when I was 5 years old.

Please support our planet and environment. And for god's sake, stop building roads everywhere. More cars are not the answer.

Thanks

Brian Amstutz

Amy Johnson

From: Brian Hines <brianhines1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 9:39 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony on agenda item 5.b

I heartily support Councilor Andersen's motion to designate greenhouse gas reduction goals in the Salem Climate Plan. The recent wildfires on the West Coast and record number of hurricanes in the Gulf area point to the horrendous effects global warming is having on our planet.

It is no exaggeration to say that the habitability of Earth for humans hangs in the balance. Large decreases in greenhouse gases must occur as soon as possible.

Everyone needs to contribute to these reductions. Nations, states, and, yes, cities. It makes no sense to argue that since Salem contributes a small fraction of global emissions, Salem doesn't have to do anything to fight global warming.

By that logic, no one anywhere would do anything, since everyone contributes a fraction of global emissions. Councilor Andersen's motion is a great first step toward Salem doing its part in this worldwide effort.

Brian Hines
10371 Lake Drive SE
Salem, OR

Brian Hines
Salem, Oregon USA
brianhines1@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonBrian>
<https://www.facebook.com/StrangeUpSalem>
<https://www.facebook.com/SalemPoliticalSnark/>
<http://twitter.com/oregonbrian>
www.hinesblog.com (blog)
www.churchofthechurchless.com (other blog)
www.salempoliticalsnark.com (other other blog)
www.brianhines.com (web site)
<https://brianhines.journofolio.com> (selection of my writings)

Amy Johnson

From: Danielle Hoffman <dalazzaro@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 8:33 AM
To: citycouncil; Vanessa Nordyke; cotyrecorder@cityofsalem.net; Chuck Bennett
Subject: Climate Action Plan Support

Good Morning,

I move that the City Council adopt the following goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) & urge you to as well:

- By 2035, Salem's greenhouse gas emissions shall be reduced to 50% of the citywide greenhouse gas emissions for the baseline year of 2016, and
- By 2050, Salem should be carbon neutral.

Thank you,

Danielle Hoffman

3585 Crestview Dr S, Salem, OR 97302

Amy Johnson

From: Helen Caswell <helenjcaswell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 4:56 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comment in favor of Councilor Andersen's motion

Dear City of Salem City Councilors,

I support Councilor Andersen's motion to join other Oregon cities - and forward thinking cities around the world - in setting goals for greenhouse gas reduction.

Climate change has endangered our city's public health in recent years, both with two years of grave forest fires and with the serious disturbance to our water system several years ago from toxic algae.

It is costly to ignore the warming climate. It is bad for human health, for environmental health and the health of our businesses - no construction, for example, was done several weeks ago because of the hazardous air.

It is high time Salem took action on the issue of climate change. As we learn from other communities, so will those who have not made this issue a priority learn things from us.

That is the kind of example I want my city to be.

Thank you for your time and service,

Helen Caswell
Salem

Amy Johnson

From: Janet Lorenzen <jlorenze@willamette.edu>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 4:45 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comments on climate reduction goals

Hello Salem City Staff,

I live in Salem and I'm writing to support the city council in adopting specific climate reduction goals. Salem should be net zero by 2050 and halfway to net zero by 2035. Setting these goals are necessary to guide the Our Salem comprehensive land use plan revision and the Climate Action Plan.

Thank you,

Janet Lorenzen
1725 John Muir Cir SE
Salem, OR 97302

--

Janet A. Lorenzen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Willamette University
900 State Street
Salem, OR 97301
jlorenze@willamette.edu

Office: Smullin 218
Office Phone: 503-370-6313

Affiliations: Women's & Gender Studies, American Ethnic Studies, Sustainability Institute

Amy Johnson

From: Kim Davis <k.mdavis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 1:36 PM
To: CityRecorder; CityRecorder
Subject: Support Motion to Adopt Goals as Part of the Climate Action Plan

I am writing to express my strong support for Councilor Andersen's motion to reduce Salem's greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2035 and to be carbon neutral by 2050. Salem needs to move swiftly and proactively to address the rapidly escalating impacts of emissions on the global environment and ecosystems. As we have just endured the worst wildfires, and must now attempt to protect our waterways from probable floods and mudslides that will result, I would hope the sense of urgency has finally found its way to even the most skeptical minds. Around the globe, nations and peoples are dealing with unprecedented storms, fires, ice melt, sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification, all which jeopardize the basic biological systems that support life on Earth.

Salem must actively participate in the regional, national and global efforts underway to reduce green house gas emissions. Action now by City Council will set clear goals for the Climate Action Plan Task Force, which has precious little time to lose in establishing specific strategies to create the changes needed.

Thank you, on behalf of my grandchildren and their grandchildren, Kim Davis

Amy Johnson

From: Meredy Goldberg Edelson <medelson@willamette.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 9:52 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Pass motion 5b

I support Councilor Tom Andersen's climate action plan motion 5b for Salem. Please vote in favor of this motion. It is a vital step toward reducing greenhouse gases and addressing climate change.

Thank you,

Meredyth Goldberg Edelson, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology/Women's and Gender Studies
Willamette University

Amy Johnson

From: Meg Hummon <meghummon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 8:19 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Motion from Councilor Tom Andersen regarding adopting goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan.

To: City Council, Salem, Oregon

From: Meg Hummon, South Salem resident

Date: 10-9-20

Subject: Support for Motion from Councilor Tom Andersen regarding adopting goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Please support Councilor Andersen's motion, to reduce Salem's GHG emissions by 50% by 2035 and to be carbon neutral by 2050. Salem needs to be part of local, regional, national, and international efforts to reduce GHG. Action now by City Council will set clear goals for the Climate Action Plan Task Force. As a community, we must do all we can to reverse disastrous trends related to climate change. We cannot afford present complications, like wildfires, and they will get worse even faster if GHG are not curbed. Thank you.

Amy Johnson

From: nadene@yatesguitar.com
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 12:32 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Tom Andersen
Subject: Support for Councilor Andersen's motion to reduce GHG

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for the time and effort you have invested in the Our Salem process and Climate Action Plan.

I am writing to urge support for Councilor Andersen's motion, to reduce Salem's GHG emissions by 50% by 2035 and to be carbon neutral by 2050. Before we go further with Our Salem and the Climate Action Plan, I urge you to set these goals as the foundation of our planning, not an afterthought.

Cities across the world, and more than 60 countries, have adopted these goals. As the capitol city, Salem should be leading the way in climate action and yet we are lagging far beyond our peer cities like Eugene, Corvallis, Bend, Ashland, Milwaukie and Portland. Salem has just received an influx of people who have fled wildfires. These climate refugees in our midst should be all the wake-up call we need.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. If we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change, including more destructive wildfires, we need to develop a plan that will allow us to meet this most urgent priority of our time.

We have a choice. Our Salem isn't about planning for the next few years. The actions we take right now will solidify growth patterns for the next century and beyond. Please help ensure a stable climate and secure future for all of us.

Again, thank you for all the work you do on behalf of Salem citizens.

Nadene LeCheminant
Salem, Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Phil Carver <philiphcarver@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 8:16 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Clair Clark; Roberta A
Subject: Comments by 350 Salem Oregon on Item 5.b.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. The comments below have been endorsed by 350 Salem Oregon.

Phil Carver, Co-coordinator

COMMENTS by 350 Salem Oregon On Councilor Andersen's Motion #20-383 Oct. 11, 2020

350 Salem Oregon thanks Councilor Tom Andersen for his Motion #20-383 (Item 5.b.) and supports passage as drafted at the Oct. 12 meeting of the Council.

We also thank the City for initiating a Climate Action planning process to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions. We applaud the City's actions to date, including estimating baseline emissions, conducting a climate audit, assigning staff, budgeting for and hiring a climate consultant, and selecting a taskforce.

The City's climate audit calls for setting at least two measurable emission reduction goals, one for a date less than 20 years in the future and one for 20 or more years ahead. 350 Salem supports the two dates in the motion. 2035 is soon enough to inspire quick action. 2050 is late enough to gauge the likely effects of policies that have lasting effects. These dates, of 15 and 30 years in the future, satisfy the audit recommendations. It is appropriate for the Council to set goals early in the development of a climate plan. Setting the goals is a high-level policy choice that would be an inappropriate task for the staff, the consultant or the taskforce. 350 Salem supports the two numerical goals in the motion as consistent with the urgency and level of reductions needed and with the goals of other governmental entities. The goals are strong yet achievable.

The unprecedented weather conditions on Labor Day evening and the next few days created the largest firestorm the state has ever seen. The acreage burned in the last ten years is beyond the state's historical norms. These disastrous fires are a stark reminder of the severity of the climate crisis. The increase in average global surface temperature to date has been just over 1 degree Celsius. Under the Paris Accord the world is struggling to limit the increase to 2 degrees. The goals in the motion are consistent with limiting the damage to that level.

In addition to being consistent with the goals of the state of Oregon and many of Oregon's cities, the two goals are consistent with national and international efforts.

Over 40 developed countries have promised to become carbon neutral by 2050 or before. These include the European Union (only Poland dissenting), the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, South Korea, New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay, Chile, and Canada. Japan and Singapore have promised to be carbon neutral as soon it becomes viable after 2050. China recently promised to be carbon neutral by 2060.

A diverse array of other states have also made a similar pledge for 2050, including:

1. California: Carbon neutral by 2045.
2. Nevada: Carbon neutral by 2050.
3. Washington: 95% reduction by 2050.

4. Montana: Carbon neutral between 2045 and 2050
5. Michigan: Carbon neutral by 2050
6. Louisiana: Carbon neutral by 2050
7. New York: Carbon neutral by 2050

Once the Salem City Council has adopted numerical emission goals, 350 Salem sees the Climate Action Plan Taskforce's task to be to develop reasonable and achievable strategies to meet the goals, focusing on the near-term 2035 goal to cut our greenhouse gas emissions in half compared to 2016 levels. While achieving these goals will require cooperative actions by other governments and by the citizens of the Salem area, the City of Salem must take every reasonable action to achieve these community goals.

Amy Johnson

From: Philip Ratcliff <skazz999W@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 10:01 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Climate Action Plan:

To use an analogy of a baseball game, it's the bottom of the ninth inning, two outs, the bases are empty, and the batter has two strikes. That's the global climate situation. The game may be lost already. Carbon dioxide (CO2) persists in the atmosphere for decades, and the 418 parts per million of CO2 is dangerously high, the highest it's been in 400,000 years.

Salem can set an example for the state by adopting a tough plan to reduce CO2. The rest of the nation will take notice if the plan succeeds. But Salem can't "kick the can" down the road by setting goals far into the future. The situation is critical, and action is called for. The usual suspects would protest that stringent measures to cut CO2 emissions would hurt business. It's a matter of survival, and the fools who see their profits suffering would drag the rest of us down with them. Bold action cannot wait.

Philip Ratcliff - Salem

Amy Johnson

From: Roberta A <robertaanne1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 6:54 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Climate Change Considerations for City Councilors...

City Recorder,

Climate change is real; it is here; it's past time for Salem's Climate Action Plan to set realistic goals to reduce carbon.

Councilor Andersen submitted a motion of absolutely necessary goals to mitigate the slow start we've had. He mentioned several cities in Oregon which have set goals already.

While I'd like to think, living in the Capitol, we'd be the engine and lead in Oregon, at the least, we need to be on the train, even if the caboose.

The Climate Action Plan Task Force must develop strategies to achieve the goals in Andersen's motion.

Thank you,
Roberta Cade
1321 Chemeketa St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Amy Johnson

From: Robert Hoffman <rahoffman80@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 10:43 AM
To: citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Vanessa Nordyke; CityRecorder
Subject: Support for the Climate Action Plan

Good Morning,

I move that the City Council adopt the following goals as part of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) & urge you to as well:

- By 2035, Salem's greenhouse gas emissions **shall** be reduced to 50% of the citywide greenhouse gas emissions for the baseline year of 2016, and
- By 2050, Salem should be carbon neutral.

Thank you,

Robert Hoffman

3585 Crestview Dr S, Salem, OR 97302

Amy Johnson

From: Ray Quisenberry <rayquisenberry@centurylink.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 11:18 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Regarding 5.b. Setting GHG limits

I'm writing in support of moving forward as quickly as possible and have Salem finally step up and set goals for limits on Green House Gas emissions by our city. It's the responsibility of the city council to set the targets, and then we can develop the plan via the consultant and advisory board on how to meet the goals.

By the council setting the goals now, it puts the mileposts out there to guide the advisory board in their work. It also underscores the seriousness of the issue. Salem is years behind other cities in Oregon that have already accepted their responsibility. I was told growing up that I shouldn't expect others to do my work for me. I'm glad Salem is finally seeing that we need to do our part as well.

Ray Quisenberry
Ward 1

Sent from my iPad

Amy Johnson

From: Sarah Deumling <sdeumling@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 8:51 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: GHG Emissions

Mayor Bennett
City Council Members,

Councilor Anderson's upcoming motion to establish GHG emission goals is perhaps the most basic foundation of both the Salem Climate Action Plan and the "Our Salem" project. Climate change is the greatest threat, by far, to the livability of Salem (as well as the rest of Oregon and the world). The seriousness of this threat can and must be addressed at all levels from the household to .internationally. I urge you to pass the motion to create the foundation on which to build both the CAP and the "Our Salem" document. Then, the proof of the pudding will be figuring out how to reach these goals. Investment up front will pay off in the long run and 350 Salem stands with you, ready to do the hard work of turning goals into reality.

Thank you for past, current and future work on behalf of Salem.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling
2667 Orchard Heights Rd. NW
Salem, OR 97304

Amy Johnson

From: Susan Lloyd Graves Chapman <susanlloyd@peak.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2020 9:34 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: support for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Dear City of Salem Mayor and Council;

This is to urge you to support Agenda item 5.b, regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases in Salem. It is urgently needed, and it's time to join many other Oregon cities in taking this action to protect our planet.

Thank you

Susan Graves
1240 Hillendale SE
Salem 97302

Amy Johnson

From: Spens Wu <spencerpharmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 9:18 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Shaundi Woolley
Subject: Support for a carbon neutral Salem

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to voice my support for the motion Ward 2 Councilor Tom Andersen will introduce to set Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHG) goals for the Salem Climate Action Plan.

The goals to reduce Salem's GHG emissions by 50% by 2035 and for Salem to become carbon neutral by 2050 are critical for our children's future.

Oregon has already witnessed the beginning of the devastation global warming will bring by lighting ablaze our homes and communities. We cannot allow this to become any worse than it is. Will we stand by and do nothing? Please support this motion.

Sincerely,

Spencer Woolley, PharmD
779 Van Buren Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304

To reiterate my specific request, here is the motion (Agenda Item 5.b) that Councilor Andersen will make:

<https://salem.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4662997&GUID=14D81794-7DE6-46A6-8F6D-B3FF419978E5>