

Rachael Gangelhoff

From: Bill Dixon <bill.r.dixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 6:39 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for September 15 Work Session

My name is Bill Dixon, and I live in Ward 7. I write to support staff's caution to the Council about ensuring adequate funding for any new services before those services are put in place.

Ignoring that caution will just exacerbate the persistent risks to the city budget from unfunded obligations.

These are not nickel and dime risks. The city is millions of dollars short of the money it needs to maintain its existing roadways – to the extent that it is doing virtually no preventive road maintenance. And the city is billions of dollars short of the money it needs to replace its failing waterlines.

Despite those unfunded obligations, the city is required by state law to encourage increased home production, putting further pressure on those same roadways and waterlines. All while knowing that each new housing unit requires more city spending on critical services than it produces in revenue. That won't pencil out.

Adding more unfunded services such as homeless relief and development subsidies to those that already burden the city (and ultimately its taxpayers) may provide short-term relief in one area. But those unfunded services almost certainly will further undermine the already shaky financial health of our city's government.

This is a situation to be avoided.

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Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem