

2020 City Council Policy Agenda

On November 18, 2019, the City Council held a Work Session to share their priorities for consideration in their annual work plan, the 2020 City Council Policy Agenda.

Original Idea
<p>1. Develop more affordable housing and provide aid to those experiencing homelessness in our community</p> <p><i>More affordable housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase density by removing permitting and/or cost barriers for accessory dwelling units on properties with existing residential units b. Look at areas in which the City impacts the costs of housing (time associated with inspections, permits) <p><i>Aid for those experiencing homelessness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Plan and site a low barrier shelter d. Expand the Clean Team e. Support a mobile response unit f. Lobby State legislature for mental health resources g. Consider organized camping for the unsheltered in our community h. Develop a mobile app for officers to access available shelter beds in real time i. Consider dropping the sobering center from the Policy Agenda
<p>2. Better coordinate with Transit to purchase bus passes for City employees and encourage other employers to do so (like Salem Health, the State of Oregon, and Willamette University)</p>
<p>3. Look at policies to stabilize and possibly reduce waste management fees for our community</p>
<p>4. Focus (economic development) activities to specific geographic areas in Salem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explore Downtown Entertainment Zone to allow for longer (or louder) noise from area businesses b. Encourage redevelopment on north Riverfront area north of Front Street to Fred Meyer c. Look at value of overlay zones that may impeded or restrict redevelopment in our industrial areas such as West Salem
<p>5. Relocate emergency and communication center, and harden it</p>
<p>6. Look at Library book retention and purchase polices; consider making parking free at the Salem Public Library</p>
<p>7. Develop an Environmental/Climate Action Plan with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to include ideas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increasing the cost of parking (paid parking) to encourage residents to leave their cars behind b. Reducing the cost of parking for carpooling to encourage City employees to get out of their cars c. Encourage telecommuting d. Using electric vehicles for City fleet (light duty, where it makes sense) e. Expanding the tree canopy, with a Tree Board or other engaged stakeholder group

8. Increase safety for cyclists and walkers to include missing connections safe routes throughout the City

9. Consider expanding the high speed internet idea to the entire City, pending results of the market study for Downtown

10. Communications and engagement to increase transparency and regain trust with community

- a. Provide clear routes to access and engage with information and City data such as a phone number to call with any question or any concern and receive immediate help and a self service link or tool to access City data and other public information
- b. Find ways to help volunteers organize for clean ups and other projects within their neighborhoods
- c. Develop an overarching messaging strategy for how we're engaging with our community that shows broader connections to all the City is doing
- d. Increase transparency and provide method of gauging the performance of programs against results through performance auditing
- e. Engage youth in decision making through reinstated Youth Advisory Commission or expanding youth participation in existing Boards and Commissions
- f. Focus on connecting with our community about their primary concerns (based on results of Community Satisfaction Survey)
- g. Continue work of Mayor's Resiliency Task Force to help prepare our community for natural disasters
- h. Require utilities holding easements for right of way (like PGE, NW Natural) to notify area property owners when their work may impact an area