

Alicia Blalock

From: Rebecca Nance <brindle_gal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 6:32 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comments RE: Proposed Wastewater, Water and Stormwater Rate Increases

RE: Proposed Wastewater, Water & Stormwater Rate Increase (2019-2020)

Dear City of Salem:

Normally I go along and get along with rate increases; I understand that systems are expensive to maintain and operate. This being said I feel compelled to comment after this summer's water emergency and the abysmal and delayed response by the City of Salem to the utility paying public.

I oppose this rate increase in protest of the lack of transparency and timeliness of reporting the algae bloom to the public. In brief, it was a little too late. I'm angry that there was a delay in notifying the public. This was not acceptable.

The expense of buying water added insult to injury when my water utility bill came throughout the summer months.

I sincerely hope the City of Salem will be more transparent in the future.

Yours truly,

Rebecca Nance
5650 Seeger Lane SE
Salem, OR 97306

Alicia Blalock

From: NoReply on behalf of jkjamieson1@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 6:35 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Utility Rate Hearing Comments
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Jay and Kelly Jamieson
Your Email	jkjamieson1@gmail.com
Your Phone	5035806707
Street	557 JOSEPH CT SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	I am writing to oppose the proposed wastewater, water, stormwater rate increase. Last year you raised our utility bill (tax) to change street light bulbs! I pay between \$100/month in the winter and \$200/month in the summer for water and sewer. My property manages its own rainwater without any help from the city, but I am charged for that, too. Then there is the backflow tax.... on and on... We pay ENOUGH in taxes. Now our property tax will include the police building, library and school bonds. In 2022, you will propose a bond to renovate city hall. Government never can get enough of our money. It has to stop. No rate increase!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/10/2018.

Alicia Blalock

From: NoReply on behalf of Mahessick@hotmail.com
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 8:08 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Utility Rate Hearing Comments
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Margie Hessick
Your Email	Mahessick@hotmail.com
Street	2960 Summer st
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	<p>If I could afford the hundred dollars your greedy city asks I would because I am the care giver to my mother with dementia. If I could afford a lawyer I would sue the city for ignorance and harrasment . I have not had running water for going on three months and they are still adding a hundred dollars a month to my bill. Salem is the worst city I have had the misfortune of livin in. I am being charged for a cities D- project. I am being billed for the city water weeds . I have been two two offices . Tales to several city employees and nobody cares . Maybe so will go to this meeting . I am a disabled female veteran of the United States Air Force and not one single person has looked into this problem. This entire system is a waste . It's why I share on you tube videos to tell the rest of the world how terrible and wasteful oregon is . Oh I am college educated too, too bad your employees don't seem to be .</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/10/2018.

September 12, 2018

City of Salem City Recorder
555 Liberty St SE. Room 205
Salem, OR. 97301

Dear City Recorder,

I will try to keep this letter short. I would like my written comments to be considered as part of the public hearing record on the proposed Wastewater, Water and Stormwater rate increases. I want to voice my opposition to the proposed increases. The City of Salem raised our water rates less than two years ago and now wants to raise them again? In reviewing our City of Salem utility bill for this year, our average monthly utility bill is \$111.82. We are retired and are on a fixed income like so many other Salem residents. In researching how Salem compares to other cities, an article written by Amelia Josephson dated August 20, 2018 titled "The Cost of Living in Oregon" states, "According to numbeo.com, the average utility bill in Portland, Oregon is \$113.42. That's for a 915-square-foot apartment and includes electricity, heating, water and garbage. In Eugene, the average monthly utility bill is \$105.53. In Salem, utilities average a much pricier \$164.74." As this article points out, it appears Salem has higher utility rate costs than most other Oregon cities.

Additionally, there are other factors that need to be considered when raising our water rates. According to SmartAsset, Oregon has a progressive income tax that ranks among the highest in the nation. Food prices, gas, rent and healthcare are all rising in Oregon. If passed, this rate increase will most likely have a ripple effect. For those who rent, the rate increase will be passed along to renters through a rent increase. Tax payers need a break, so we can actually enjoy some of our wages that we have so diligently worked hard for.

I respectfully ask that the City Councilors carefully weigh their decision on this proposed water rate increase and consider those who may not be able to afford it. Thank you.

Keith A. Blair
663 Lacreata Dr SE
Salem, OR 97306

Alicia Blalock

From: jr ma <jimbojonm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 2:21 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: water rate hike

To those considering water rate hikes. I would guess the estimated 2.50 a month will not be once undoing.

I would like to say it is frustrating to have our street flood with the frequency it does. It suggests to me that the system is not built to accommodate heavy volumes of rain. Let me remind you we are in Oregon where that is not that uncommon. It would also be nice that for that cost not only could we have an infrastructure to accommodate our regular weather pattern, but also a filtering system of the highest caliber to mitigate the toxic algae as much as possible. And last that there be a system in place that could detect leaks from the city to the house. Not that the repairs are the cities, obviously not, but if there was a concern of a leak it would reduce the waste of water if it could be detected much sooner.

Thank you for hearing my concerns,

Jennifer

Alicia Blalock

From: NoReply on behalf of samsuzyq@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 2:17 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Sammie Hattabaugh
Your Email	samsuzyq@comcast.net
Your Phone	5033999407
Street	5215 Norma Ave SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	<p>I think that it is unwarranted for the city of salem to raise it rates. Because it miss manages it recourses. Here how that city of salem used to figure it sewer rates by checking your by-monthly water use in the month of december and January. Number 1 Now it uses four month to get more money out of it customers pocket by having to hire more iemployees. Number 2 now it uses monthly billing which cost us consumers more because of using more city employess and more paperwork. Number 3 on the city billing it charges in fraction instead of whole numbers the way it use to be. Raising our rates 3 different ways by mismananging the city of salems funds. Go back to the old system. Quite gouging us all. I pay more money our of My Pocket for city of salem water than I pay for my Northwest Natural Gas and PGE per month than MY city of salem bill water bill. We need competition because the city of salem is robbing us blind with its bad management of water and sewer.</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/12/2018.

Alicia Blalock

From: Roaninn <roaninn@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2018 7:03 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: No Water/Sewer Bill increase!

Our water/sewer utility bill is consistently month after month the highest bill we have to pay! Both the cost for our electric and gas fall below our water fees. And we don't even water a lawn! City of Salem council members, this is Oregon, not California. We the residents should not have to bear the burden for an aging or inferior water/sewer system. It is the responsibility of the staff to do the research and find the funding via grants, building partnerships, and not land this squarely on the residents. Water scarcity and impurity is becoming the norm of the land. Raising our bill is not going to solve this fact.

R. Roaninn

Alicia Blalock

From: Floyd and Cheryl Eby <feby@qwestoffice.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2018 2:23 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Water/Sewer Increase

Once again, it is that time of the year when Peter Fernandez comes with his hat in one hand and his other hand reaching for our wallets to continue to prop up our public utilities department. One would think by now that the city council would have caught on to Mr. Fernandez's game, and maybe some of you have, but for those who continue to believe in his tactics, I think you need to wake up and listen.

First of all, you work for US, the rate and taxpayers, not Mr. Fernandez. Therefore, your first concern should be doing what is best for us, not him and his overinflated department. Every biennium without fail he appears with a rate increase proposal and all sorts of charts and rhetoric as to why it is so essential that his department have millions to do their job. Problem is, for all the money thrown his way, including adding new taxes on our bills for sidewalks and street lights, nothing ever seems to get done or change. Why is that?

Second, have any of you really reviewed his records and questioned where the expenditures go? I can tell you and I don't need to review the records to know. The majority of money, without question, goes to pay his exorbitant salary as well as his staff, and their benefits. It doesn't leave very much left to do the work he was hired to perform, i.e., maintain the water/sewer treatment plants, fix roads/sidewalks, etc. His department receives millions of dollars annually to maintain the city, but he does a very poor job at it. The sidewalks and roads in our neighborhood are in a deplorable state, yet despite repeated requests to him to fix them, he always replies with the excuse there just isn't enough money. Gee, I wonder why? And yet, this summer, he has had crews in our neighborhood moving water meter boxes from the parking strips to the sidewalk. Not replacing the lines, mind you, just moving the boxes. There is nothing wrong with where they are and they are certainly accessible to the meter readers. Now is this a good use of our money? Why aren't these people repairing the broken, crumbling, sunken, degraded sidewalks that I have already fallen on once, and I suspect others have as well?

Third, there is the water debacle of this summer. And debacle is the operative word here. After many years of dealing with this man and his antics to get money, this had to be the doozy of them all. Despite the fact that there is algae bloom all the time in summer at Detroit, somehow this year it was so acute we had to have emergency broadcasts twice (despite this being against federal mandate), and repeated closings and openings of the supposed water contamination site over and over. So my husband did some work and investigation and found, firstly, that Mr. Fernandez was given some money a few years back supposedly to update the water treatment plant. This, apparently, was never done. So where did the money go? Secondly, he investigated the best treatment facility for this kind of issue, and guess what? That's right; we already have it with the sand filter system. Then thirdly, the city of Portland decides to stick its nose in where it doesn't belong (this is the city that every time it rains in Portland their sewers overflow into the Willamette) and tell Mr. Fernandez he needs a charcoal filter that will solve all his problems. And Mr. Fernandez is telling us all this time that he can do a \$2 million patch job for now, but will need \$20 million to upgrade the plant in the future. And now, all of a sudden, we are told Mr.

Fernandez miraculously has such filter installed at the plant and we are good to go. So what's the truth here?

And fourthly, my husband started a dialog with Mr. Fernandez regarding all his claims and inconsistencies by email so he could keep a written log. After repeated presentation of his research and the facts of the issue, my husband came to the conclusion we are being lied to and fed a bill of goods. This whole water issue didn't exist. It was just another trumped up excuse to raise revenue; nothing more. Every time Mr. Fernandez was questioned on where the water was tested, he hemmed and hedged and dodged and wouldn't give a straight answer. Never once, despite repeated questioning, would he say the water was tested after being through the sand filtration system. It was tested here and there, he said, but you couldn't pin him down. And we drank the water straight through. There was never anything wrong with it. And my husband can provide all the emails to back up his claims.

So once again, it comes back to you folks. I hope, for once, the city council will do what's right and stand behind the ratepayers, not Mr. Fernandez. We deserve far better service for all the money invested year after year in this agency, and we have yet to see any fruit born or jobs done. I hope, unlike previous councils, you people will stand up and take a stand with this man. Tell him to live within his means and to get his crews out doing the job we pay a fortune to have done. We deserve better and you people are responsible as for where this goes next. We are counting on you to do what is right, not expedient.

Cheryl A. Eby
1960 Garfield Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PS I have had a sneaking suspicion for years that deals are being made before the fact between the council and Mr. Fernandez so the rate increase is already a done deal and the public hearing is just for show and to make it look like we have a voice. Now, I just couldn't be right about that, could I? The sarcasm is deeply intended and this year I'd better not see any of this kind of stuff going on or maybe I'll just have to connect with my contact at the newspaper and see what she thinks about all of this. I'm sure she would be very interested.

Alicia Blalock

From: NoReply on behalf of feby@qwestoffice.net
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 1:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Cheryl Eby
Your Email	feby@qwestoffice.net
Street	1960 Garfield Street NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>In the event you choose not to read written statements sent to the city recorder prior to the hearing on raising water rates, I am also sending it to you direct, and I strongly encourage you to actually read it. Once again, it is that time of the year when Peter Fernandez comes with his hat in one hand and his other hand reaching for our wallets to continue to prop up our public utilities department. One would think by now that the city council would have caught on to Mr. Fernandez's game, and maybe some of you have, but for those who continue to believe in his tactics, I think you need to wake up and listen. First of all, you work for US, the rate and taxpayers, not Mr. Fernandez. Therefore, your first concern should be doing what is best for us, not him and his overinflated department. Every biennium without fail he appears with a rate increase proposal and all sorts of charts and rhetoric as to why it is so essential that his department have millions to do their job. Problem is, for all the money thrown his way, including adding new taxes on our bills for sidewalks and street lights, nothing ever seems to get done or change. Why is that? Second, have any of you really reviewed his records and questioned where the expenditures go? I can tell you and I don't need to review the records to know. The majority of money, without question, goes to pay his exorbitant salary as well as his staff, and their benefits. It doesn't leave very much left to do the work he was hired to perform, i.e., maintain the water/sewer treatment plants, fix roads/sidewalks, etc. His department receives millions of dollars annually to maintain the city, but he does a very poor job at it. The sidewalks and roads in our neighborhood are in a deplorable state, yet despite repeated requests to him to fix them, he always replies with the excuse there just isn't enough money. Gee, I wonder why? And yet, this summer, he has had crews in our neighborhood moving water meter boxes from the parking strips to the sidewalk. Not replacing the lines, mind you, just moving the boxes. There is nothing wrong with where they are and they are certainly accessible to the meter readers. Now is this a good use of our money? Why aren't these people repairing the broken, crumbling, sunken, degraded sidewalks that I have already fallen on once, and I suspect others have as well? Third, there is the water debacle of this summer. And debacle is the operative word here. After many years of dealing with this man and his antics to get money, this had to be the doozey of them all. Despite the fact that there is algae bloom all the time in summer at Detroit, somehow this year it was so acute we had to have emergency broadcasts twice (despite this being against federal mandate), and repeated closings and openings of the supposed water contamination site over and over. So my husband did some work and investigation and found, firstly, that Mr. Fernandez was given some money a few years back supposedly to update the water treatment plant.</p>

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This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/17/2018.

Alicia Blalock

From: Marylon Simpson <msimps4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 5:02 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Water rate increase

To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my no vote for the water rate increase. I am a senior citizen on a fixed income and I cannot keep up with the increases of all of our utilities. I live in a senior mobile home park and everyone or 95% of the people in here are on fixed incomes. We literally cannot keep paying higher and higher utility bills. We are slowly being forced out of our homes. Our Social Security has not kept up with the cost of living at all. The last 2 "raises" we actually got a one dollar increase in spendable income. They took the rest of the "raise" and diverted it to medicare, therefore the insurance companies actually benefited from the increase and not us. We are constantly going in the hole. All of the things that you want the increase for is supposed to come under the heading of business expenses. However I have no one to pass on my living expenses to! You may want to make a provision that any one living in a Senior facility will not have the rate increases. We will be living under the bridges if something is not done. We already have enough homeless people without causing more.

Sincerely,

Marylon Simpson.

PS Try living on \$700 - \$1,200 a month.

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