

From: [Ande Hoyza](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Not again! Water rate increase? Again?
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024 1:40:14 PM

Howdy,

Andrew Heusser here responding to input on water rate increase.

Now is not a good time. Inflation, Gas, Food,, taxes, you name it.

Howabout go the other way: cut out some of those ever increasing fees.

Remember when you just paid for water and sewer? Every other month?

We went to every month and it just went up and up.

I sound like an ol' timer. I'm only 50.

Another idea: sell that pretty glass building down town and go back to the quonset building off state street. Why do water workers need a swanky glass building?

Anyway, you get my point. Not to sound like too much of a fud, I leave you with this: I am grateful for the safe, clean, drinking water. Best I've ever had.

-Andy Heusser, SE Salem Citizen
503.385.5480
ahoyza@gmail.com

From: [Christina Laurido](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: NO to rate increase!
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024 7:41:52 PM

The Water/Wastewater Task Force is recommending a 4.5% rate increase for water, wastewater and stormwater in 2025 and 2026.

NO! NO! NO! To rate increases. Many of us can barely make ends meet as it is. Please, STOP increasing our rates!!!

Christina L.
Salem, Oregon

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Dawn Baker](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed rate increase hearing 11-12-24
Date: Monday, November 11, 2024 10:32:04 AM

Dear Gentlemen and Ladies,

I am very concerned about the rising prices of all utilities. It seems they just keep going up and up. I already pay \$90-\$95 per month for water and cut back by doing maybe two loads of laundry per week, run my dishwasher twice per week and only flush my toilet when necessary.

I am a single woman, age 59 that owns a home in NE Salem and already am struggling to pay the cost of living, homeowners insurance, property taxes, internet, garbage, PGE etc.

I am a small business owner with a bookkeeping & payroll service, and if I keep raising my prices to accommodate inflation, I would not have any clients. My clients are all small business owners as well with financial struggles of their own to keep their business open.

I am begging you to please consider how this will impact our community. You just recently raised rates, as well as PGE and garbage service. We really can't take inflation anymore at this point in the game.

Thank you in advance for hearing my concerns.

Respectfully,

Dawn Baker
2461 Hollywood DR NE

From: [Donna New](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Rate Increase
Date: Monday, November 11, 2024 2:12:22 PM

Our Address is 3989 Timbet Dr SE Salem. I believe we started getting these Utility Billing during 2020. We do not have City Water; We are on A well. We do not have City Sewer, We ahve a holding tank.

We do not have City Storm Drains; We had to put then in when we built. We do not have City Lights.

However, We are currently paying \$271.13 a month.

How is this fair?

Thank you for your time.

Donna Newhouse

From: danka8@juno.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Rate Increases
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2024 4:28:52 PM

Every year (now every two years) Salem seeks an increase in utility rates. Every request is perfunctorily approved. Why bother to testify when the decision has already been made?

My property tax includes over \$300 to feed the transit system. Yet, every time I see a bus and count passengers, I seldom see more than five riders. Actually, five may constitute a full load.

For fifteen years I have counted passengers on buses east of the river and at all times. Do I exaggerate? Don't take my word for it. Do your own counting then attempt to justify this waste.

I know the transit system is a separate entity, but the council should be vocally advocating its closure. Isn't this just common sense?

Dan Reid
Ward 3

From: [Erin B](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Increase Utilities and A Raise for the City Manager
Date: Monday, November 11, 2024 8:18:08 AM

Dear City Councilors and Mayor Chris Hoy,

What I am hearing is that you want to raise our utilities 9% over the next 2 years, 4.5% in January 2025 and another 4.5% in 2026. You also want to increase the salary of the already over paid City Manager by another 7+%. Most of the general fund goes to salaries.

So with an increase of utilities over the next 2 years of 9% and an increase in the salary of the CM by 7+% that leaves less than 2% going back to needed other programs and projects that the citizens in Salem want or need.

I do not think you all are thinking this through. You gave the CM a cost of living raise in 2023. If you must give the CM a raise, give the CM another cost of living raise in accordance with the current cost of living of 2.3% or round it up to 3%. Not a 7+% raise. This is NOT managing your budget well, this is spending beyond your means!

Every time the City raises our taxes and utilities, that is less money in our household to meet our needs like housing cost, food, heat, etc.

Where are you spending that you can cut? Why do our utility bills go to Portland, Oregon to be processed and at what cost? Why is it not being processed here in Salem? Why is the City giving tax breaks to companies that if they paid their share the City may not have as large of a short fall. Why is the City subsidizing businesses to come into Salem where if the money went to the infrastructure and programs, like the library, and use that as a selling point that in itself may bring business in. Why does the City have a CM who currently makes over \$252,000.00 and yet he/she cannot manage to keep community programs open/running?

As citizens of Salem, we, for the most part, are not getting 7+% or 4.5% raises and yet our cost of living continues to increase and part of that is because you vote it in and/or approve it.

The City has a bond that taxpayers are paying for and yes I know that that money has to be spent on what was written in the bond but I also know that at the time of that vote not all of the projects were identified in that bond. Where has that money gone and in the bonds are there projects that need continued yearly funding even after the bond is paid for?

Think about this, if for the next 4 years you only have X amount of money coming in to your home budget no more and no less, how are you going to budget so that you can make ends meet? Are you going to make and \$18,000.00 or more purchase each year when you do not have the income to cover your yearly bills to begin with?

Respectfully,

Erin Baker

Citizen and Taxpayer of Salem, Oregon

From: [Vikki Cosentino](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Utility rates 2025/2026 to \$ 4 Salem Budget
Date: Friday, November 8, 2024 4:57:42 PM

City recorder,

Water sewer has already gone up for 2025 at homeowners are paying for it. To see it go up another 4.5% to pay for city employee salaries in Salem because you voted on an increase is unfair on the backs of voters. We are already paying high enough prices on every day goods such as groceries, water, sewer, electric, natural gas, etc.

I just read that for 2025 water sewer will be going up again. Through where I live I don't pay for it directly, but my HOA does. Therefore it is passed on to me in the form of what we pay in our monthly dues. It is also passed on to us in what we pay for garbage and our monthly maintenance fees. To see water sewer go up another 4.5% when households like mine are barely making it is unfair. Many of us have to choose between groceries and medication.

I have a budget that I stick to every month. If I'm outside of that budget, something gets cut. The city of Salem needs to maintain a budget. If they are outside that budget, something needs to get cut! Things that would get cut would be things like: employees, library hours, departments within the city of Salem that are not essential, etc. Salem needs to do an audit of the budget. Salem is throwing money at multiple problems, such as homelessness, drug, and crime. However, you still see homeless on the street and the Salem budget is paying for it, so our taxpayers.

Therefore, to increase our water sewer bills by 4.5% when you haven't looked at the whole picture by an audit and taxpayers are hurting is unfair. Cut those things that are non-essential. Our government is bloated. Salem city budget is no different. Cut the bloat. Salem needs to live within her means. Every family within Salem has money to live (budget). If we don't, then we rack up debt (via credit cards) and we can't pay our bills. Salem government is no different, live within your means. Don't make taxpayers pay because you can't live within your means!

Frustrated by the bloat!

Sent from my iPad