



CITY OF SALEM

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Written Testimony #1

City Council

Monday, September 13, 2021 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

3.3f. [21-398](#) Priority Based Budgeting result area descriptions and definitions

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship;
Safe Community; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and
Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Recommendation:

Adopt the updated result area descriptions and definitions as recommended by the
Finance Committee.

Attachments:

[Priority Based Budgeting definitions - recommended changes](#)

[Priority Based Budgeting definitions - redlined recommended changes](#)

[Public Comment received by 1:30 p.m. 9-13-21](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 12:47 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item 3.3f

Dear Mayor and Council:

I would like to offer two comments on Agenda Item 3.3f, the proposed City of Salem Result Areas.

1) The proposed Result Areas do not appear to me to recognize the significance of the Council having adopted a goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and to get halfway there just 14 short years from now. The result area "Natural Environment Stewardship" doesn't cut it. The climate emergency that Salem has experienced this year with an unprecedented heat dome and wildfires and an ice storm and continuing drought doesn't call for "stewardship." It calls for emergency response. And there is no way Salem will cut its greenhouse gas emissions in half in 14 years if we only "plan and design the City's growth to minimize emissions, address climate change and other environmental impacts." *Minimize* emissions? Our goal is to dramatically reduce emissions. *Address* climate change? We need to do much more than that. *Other environmental impacts*? Adding this seems designed to downplay the existential threat of climate change — nothing else comes close. I would ask that you request from staff a new draft of this result area that acknowledges the Council goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2) I was also sorry to see not a single mention of our public library under the result area "Welcoming and Livable Community." How can this be? We will soon be reopening our renewed main library for which I led the bond measure campaign in 2017. My hope is that the renewed main library will stimulate more support for improved public library service throughout the city, including badly needed branch libraries in north, east and south Salem. I would remind you that the Salem Public Library ranks at the bottom of major libraries in Oregon for staffing and funding as this data for 2019-20 from the State Library demonstrates.

Paid Staff Per 1,000 Population	<i>Value</i>
Multnomah County Library	0.66
Eugene Public Library	0.60
Hillsboro Public Library	0.56
Corvallis-Benton Co. Library	0.52
Deschutes Public Library	0.51
Beaverton City Library	0.47
Jackson County Library	0.38
Salem Public Library	0.27



Expenditures on Collection Per Capita	<i>Value</i>
Deschutes Public Library	\$10.40
Multnomah County Library	\$10.01
Corvallis-Benton Co. Library	\$8.59
Eugene Public Library	\$7.15
Jackson County Library	\$5.70
Hillsboro Public Library	\$3.03
Beaverton City Library	\$3.01
Salem Public Library	\$2.87

Total Library Expenditures Per Capita	<i>Value</i>
Multnomah County Library	\$102.56
Eugene Public Library	\$84.94
Corvallis-Benton Co. Library	\$83.16
Beaverton City Library	\$56.44
Deschutes Public Library	\$66.24
Hillsboro Public Library	\$46.24
Jackson County Library	\$45.04
Salem Public Library	\$24.46

Including the library as part of what it means to be a “livable community” would be a start in beginning to turn this around.

Thank you for your service,

Jim

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559

Amy Johnson

From: Clair Clark <clairclark86@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 10:34 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item 3.3f

Good afternoon,

Regarding the Result Areas for the 2022-23 city budget, I am concerned the revisions by staff do not adequately reflect the City Council's climate goals to halve planet-warming emissions by 2035 and reach net zero by 2050. The "Natural Environment Stewardship" area mentions reducing the carbon footprint of City operations and that plans for the city's growth should "minimize emissions, address climate change". However, the city's goals for reducing carbon emissions are both not mentioned and are unlikely to be achieved with this framing of how the city's resources are to be allocated. Specific changes I would recommend include:

- State explicitly that Natural Environment Stewardship requires achieving the city's climate goals. There simply will not be a "natural environment" left to steward if we do not address climate change.
- Revise the first sub-area so that it reads, "Reduces the carbon footprint of [the City and its operations in line with the City's climate goals](#) and conserves energy and natural resources."
- Revise the third sub-area so that it reads, "Plans and designs the City's growth to [achieve the City's climate goals and](#) minimize ~~emissions, address climate change and other~~ harmful environmental impacts."

Achieving the City's climate goals will require re-evaluating how funding is distributed and making investments in 2022-23 that will reduce emissions in the short term. If the Result Areas for the City's budget do not clearly reflect that, then we have no reason to expect the 2022-23 budget will move the City towards meeting its climate goals.

I would urge you to ask for further revisions from city staff to more adequately meet the urgency of climate change and reflect the need for budget priorities to support the City Council's climate goals.

Thank you,
Clair Clark

Amy Johnson

From: Peter Bergel <pbergel@igc.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 10:22 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comment for the Next City Council Meeting

Members of the Council:

I wish to register my agreement with Jim Scheppke's comments regarding the upcoming discussion of "result areas." Specifically, I agree with his comment: "*Minimize* emissions? Our goal is to dramatically reduce emissions. *Address* climate change? We need to do much more than that. *Other environmental impacts*? Adding this seems designed to downplay the existential threat of climate change — nothing else comes close. I would ask that you request from staff a new draft of this result area that acknowledges the Council goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

In general, most government bodies are "addressing" climate change as though it were business as usual. Climate change is not business as usual. It is an immediate crisis and needs to be dealt with as such. Delays, coddling those whose business interests may be hurt by action to reduce emissions, more study, more surveys, etc., etc., are woefully inadequate and will lead to an environment in which no humans – even rich ones - can be comfortable or make a living. The time is now. The need is immediate. Please rise to that challenge.

Peter Bergel
pbergel@igc.org

Amy Johnson

From: Phil Carver <philiphcarver@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:26 AM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Scheppke Jim; Clair Clark; Roberta A; Laurie Dougherty; Bob Cortright; Nadene LeCheminant; Sarah Deumling; Janet Lorenzen; Lucy Hitchcock
Subject: Comment on Agenda Item 3.3f

To the City Council and Mayor:

350 Salem Oregon strongly objects to the proposed Results Area text proposed by staff as being inconsistent with the Council Greenhouse Gas Emission Goals. These goals call for a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions from the Salem area by 2035 and being carbon neutral by 2050. These goals will be very difficult to meet even with major shifts in the City's budget and policies in the coming years. The weak language in the result area "for Natural Environment Stewardship" regarding emissions of GHGs is inconsistent with the need for the City to make significant changes to meet its GHG goals.

Instead, the Council should instruct staff to prepare a new Results Area to specifically achieve the Council's GHG goals. The text for this new results area should emphasize the substantial challenge of meeting these goals and the need for significant changes in City policies and budget priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Philip H. Carver, Ph.D. (Phil, he/him)
Co-coordinator 350 Salem Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Ray Quisenberry <rayquisenberry@centurylink.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 4:09 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Public comment on agenda item 3,3 f

City council

It seems to me that after all the work so many people have done, there should be a separate category dealing with climate change. Currently it's folded into Natural Environment Stewardship. We have 14 years to achieve a 50 percent reduction in our GHG emissions. That is doable, but only with a concentrated effort by the city and the citizens of Salem. Please break this out, and in bold print, tell me that you're serious about this vital issue.

Thank you

Ray Quisenberry

Sent from my iPad