

CITY OF SALEM
Written Testimony
City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, February 6, 2017

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

City Council Work Session- Police Facility

WORK SESSION - POLICE FACILITY

1. OPENING EXERCISES:

Call to Order

Roll Call

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: (Comment on agenda items other than public hearings and deliberations)

3. INFORMATION REPORTS: (Items that require no Council action)

3.a. [17-58](#) Police Facility

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Recommendation:

Consider reducing the cost of a police facility and refer the Council-preferred option to the May 16, 2017 election.

Staff has reviewed ways to reduce the cost of the police facility below the \$82 million measure that was not approved in November.

Option 1: If Council chooses to refer only a police facility question, the recommendation is a 127,000 sq. ft. building for a \$69.1 million bond measure.

Option 2: If Council determines that seismic upgrades should be included with a police facility question, the recommendation is to include the library (at \$15.3 million) and reduce the police facility to 115,000 square feet (at \$63.9 million) for a \$79.2 million bond measure.

Attachments: [Alternative Program Budget Analysis \(option 1\) - Attachment 1](#)
[Alternative Program Budget Analysis \(option 2\) - Attachment 2](#)
[Civic Center - Police Cost Summary - Attachment 3](#)
[Seismic Evaluation Executive Summary - Attachment 4](#)
[Appendix L](#)
[Appendix M](#)
[Written Testimony 1 from B. Hines](#)
[Written Testimony 2 from G. James](#)
[Written Testimony 2 from G. James - Attachment 1](#)
[Written Testimony 3 from B. Hines](#)
[Written Testimony 4 from G. James](#)
[Written Testimony 4 from G. James -Attachment 1](#)
[Written Testimony 4 from G. James -Attachment 2](#)
[2-6-17 Written Testimony 5 from TJ Sullivan](#)
[2-6-17 Written Testimony 5 from TJ Sullivan - Attachment 1](#)

Add - Added Appendices L and M which relate to attachment no. 4 of the staff report.

Add- Written Testimony

Add- Additional Written Testimony No. 5

4. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals needing special accommodations such as sign language, foreign language interpreters or equipment for the hearing impaired must request such services at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. To request accommodations or services, please call 503-588-6255 or 503-588-6003 (TTD/TTY 503-588-6439), or by e-mail at: cityrecorder@cityofsaalem.net at least two business days in advance.

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame 503-588-6003.

Amy Johnson

From: TJ Sullivan <tj@huggins.com>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 4:17 PM
To: Brad Nanke; Chuck Bennett; Courtney Knox Busch; citycouncil; Cara Kaser; Dan Atchison; Glenn Gross; Jim Lewis; Kacey Duncan; Kenny Larson; Lynda Rose; Matthew Ausec; Mike Gotterba; Natasha Zimmerman; Peter Fernandez; E-Mail Public; Ruth Stellmacher; Sally Cook; Steve McCoid; Steve Powers; Tom Andersen; Tami Carpenter; Amy Johnson
Subject: Police Facility
Attachments: 2015-11-19-FINAL DRAFT PACKET 4.pdf

Greetings Mayor & Councilors,

I regret that I will be unable to attend tonight's work session as I am coaching my daughter's basketball team and we practice at the same time as the meeting. I do look forward to watching the discussion later in the evening.

During my time on Council, we (citizens, staff and council) worked through a number of weighty issues and solved a lot of festering problems so that future citizens and councils wouldn't have to deal with them and can focus on other issues. The police facility was one we were getting to and preparing for when the recession hit. Despite the fact that Salem had passed \$300,000,000+ of bonds in this community at the start of the recession, (Salem-Keizer Schools, Chemeketa, Fire, & Streets & Bridges) we recognized that the public was not ready for another bond.

It was my honor to serve as the Chair for the Blue Ribbon Task Force and work with other citizens to look more in depth at the issues and make a recommendation to the City Council that could guide them in their decision making. This is a complicated issue and as we dug through facets to consider there were several things that stood out. **No one on our committee had any technical expertise in designing and building a modern police facility so we recommended that they engage with experts to dig into what Salem needs.** During our meetings it was clear that a **small, vocal, minority wanted the City to build it small and build it cheap.** We decided to add in the language that the police facility should be *at least* 75,000 – 106,000 to combat the noise- but ultimately we felt like the experts should be engaged and their advice should be followed. Finally, we implored the City of Salem to get out in front of the misinformation campaign that was sure to come. We heard the ideas of the small vocal minority and they were not included in our final recommendation to staff because they were based on narratives that don't exist.

As the campaign got started we saw the misinformation come quickly and without end. The idea that you can build something smaller and cheaper is always true, until you end up with a tent. The part that they don't share, is that this approach leaves an operation less efficient and makes for costlier changes down the road. **Is that your goal?**

One tool that was employed for spreading misinformation was to bring up other police facilities and their cost. Eugene for example is misleadingly held up as an example of what \$20,000,000 will get you. This example is a poor one because Eugene was a remodel- and there was no accounting for inflation. In addition, their Police Chief, during a tour of the facility kept remarking how inefficient their building was for their purposes. Another example is the State Police Facility off of Kuebler- which is home to a grand total of 22 police officers. In a tour with Station Commander Tim Fox, he laughed at the notion that anyone would compare the building they are in to a modern police facility.

Another piece that was considered by our task force, was whether to split the needs up (Civic Center/Library in one bond and the police facility in another) or wrap the needs together in one bond. Ultimately we agreed that it is more transparent and improves the chances of both needs being met, to split them into two different bonds and stagger the request so we can focus on one bond at a time. There are a lot of politically savvy folks who have agreed with this

approach. I would recommend that the City of Salem go each of the next three years, in May, for the Police Facility 2017, Library 2018 and Civic Center 2018.

You should not make decisions based on fictitious narratives and misleading information. Start by asking our Police Chief what he believes to be the best thing for the City of Salem. Then- be prepared to lead. For some of you, this means standing up to people who helped get you elected. I was dismayed at a recent meeting of civic leaders, when a member of Salem Community Vision who was invited to attend, informed the group what the new councilors would be willing to support. It was clear from his comments that meetings outside the public process have taken place and minds already made up. This obviously is a dangerous precedent, especially in light of the fact that a work session on the topic hasn't even been held yet.

Recent councils, using the intelligent input of our City Staff, have made wise decisions that helped foster the success that Salem is now enjoying. This is the reason that polls continue to show that residents are happy with Salem and optimistic about the future. Solve potential future issues now, so that the councils that inherit the responsibility can work on other issues facing Salem.

Be well and thanks for your service.

T.J. Sullivan

Salem Police Facility Preliminary Findings Study

November 16, 2015

NORTHWEST EXAMPLES

Square Foot/Officer

