



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, September 10, 2018 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

4.d. [18-415](#) Public hearing on Ordinance Bill No. 20-18, restricting use of single-use plastic bags

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Recommendation:

Hold a public hearing, and advance to second reading for enactment Ordinance Bill No. 20-18, restricting use of single-use plastic bags.

Attachments:

[Ordinance Bill No. 20-18](#)

[Ordinance Bill No. 20-18 Exhibit A](#)

[Public Comment](#)

[Public Comment Addition for August 27, 2018](#)

[Public Comment after August 27, 2018](#)

[Additional Public Comment Received by 5:00 p.m. 9-5-18](#)

[Public Comment received through 9:30 a.m. 9-10-2018](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: Bruce Lang <blangslang75@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2018 10:13 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

We are in full support of the ban as written. Please Pass this!

Beuce and Susan Lang

Amy Johnson

From: Johnathon Browe <johnathonbrowe@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 7:32 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Ordinance to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags

I think that the banning of plastic bags is something that we can do without. Plastic bags are not that big of a problem some people re use them for other things. They are also more efficient than paper bags that tear and rip because we all know we won't end up with the good sturdy paper bags with handles.

Also if you want to ban something it should be put to a vote. Most Salem residents I have talked to are tired of ordinances and the city of Salem decideing things for us without us voting for it. The government is supposed to be for the people by the people. Don't make changes that should be on a ballot.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Amy Johnson

From: Matt and April Davis <mattandaprildavis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 9:57 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Plastic bag ban.

I'm weighing in your proposed ban of single-use plastic grocery bags.

I haven't bought "garbage bags" in years. I re-use my plastic grocery bags as garbage bags. I re-use my plastic bags when scooping litter boxes for my 2 cats. The bags with tiny holes we use while camping as trash bags.

90% of Americans re-use them in similar ways. Many save them up and return them to the store for recycling.

They are a by- product of natural gas drilling. Studies show they disintegrate faster in landfills than traditional plastic garbage bags.

They are a tax on the working class. A plastic bag ban will force me to either pay for paper bags every time I shop, or buy re-usable bags.

SNAP recipients get their paper bags for free.

When I look at the streets of Salem, which in my opinion have gotten dirtier in the 24 years I've lived here, it's not grocery bags I see. It's garbage from the never ending parade of homeless using our city as a toilet. It's starting to resemble Portland, LA, San Francisco and Seattle. Those cities have a bag ban, by the way.

I strongly encourage you to keep these things in mind and do not ban plastic bags. It is not good for Salem.

Thank you.

April Davis

Amy Johnson

From: Elliot Groeneveld <Elliot@wrgncpas.com>
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 12:11 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: No to a ban on plastic bags

The desire to ban plastic bags is all based on false promises of saving the environment and reducing plastic in the ocean. But studies show most of the plastic in the ocean is coming from other countries. Plastic bags work because they are cheap and easy to handle. They are recyclable and reusable. Ours becoming waste basket liners or for dog poo...

We've tried the reusable bags but they get soiled and dirty. Also we forget them and the cost to get 20 reusable bags for our big grocery trips is insane.

And no plastic bags will be another reason to not shop in Salem. We can go to Keizer, Woodburn, Albany, etc...just as easily.

Sorry, but I think it is dumb to ban plastic bags.

Elliot

Elliot P Groeneveld, CPA/Partner
503-378-1120 office
503-378-7644 fax
elliot@wrgncpas.com

Windedahl Rangitsch Groeneveld & Norton, LLC
Marion Development Co., LLC
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805 Liberty ST NE, Suite 1, Salem, OR 97301 (CPA Office)

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Amy Johnson

From: KAREN R HEUBERGER <ejkroheub@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 1:59 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Regarding September 10 Council Meeting: Plastic Bags

Salem City Council:

I am a citizen and resident of Salem; specifically south Salem. I urge the city council to be pro choice: pro individual free choice and liberty regarding the "single use plastic bag".

The plastic bags aren't just "one use". They are used in our household to line the kitchen garbage pail, to serve as car waste bag receptacle, to pick up pet waste, to haul papers. If not re-purposing a plastic grocery bag, a specially manufactured bag would need to be produced for the aforementioned uses.

One rationale for eliminating single use plastic bags is to protect the environment and animals. But our garbage in Salem goes to the Brooks garbage burner and gets incinerated into powder. So that argument about not breaking down in a landfill is vacuous.

Because the proposal would treat WIC or SNAP recipients preferentially, the average working middle class person yet again gets treated differently/hammered by big government do-gooders.

I urge the city council members to not ban plastic bags. Please continue to allow free choice and individual liberty. Those who prefer to bring reusable bags along when shopping certainly can and should do so. Those who prefer a plastic bag may still be able to use them.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

K. R. Heuberger

ejkroheub@comcast.net

503-375-6270

Amy Johnson

From: ARTHUR HILL <ahillx@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2018 7:47 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: plastic bags

I am totally against this proposal. Another effort to take away freedoms from the little guy by a bunch of elites who think they know better than any body else and want to turn this town into another San Francisco or Portland.

Arthur and Gloria Hill

2932 Winslow Way NW

Amy Johnson

From: Tambi Hurd <tambih@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 11:03 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Plastic bags

I am writing in support of the Council's vote banning single-use plastic bags. Salem should lead in this effort to reduce the use of plastic. We need to look at alternatives that don't pollute our environment.

Tambi Hurd

Amy Johnson

From: Ken Jones <kjironwood@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 8:09 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Ordinance Bill No. 20-18 to Ban single-use plastic bags in the City of Salem

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed single use plastic bag ban. Salem doesn't have a landscape littered with plastic bags. Our rivers and streams aren't choked with plastic debris of any kind. While I've seen many pictures of developing countries that have severe plastic pollution problems, it's clearly evident that Salem Oregon does not have a plastic pollution problem, our eyes don't lie. The proposal to ban plastic bags seems to be nothing more than a solution looking for a problem that does not exist in Salem, Marion County, or anywhere in Oregon.

Passing a single use plastic bag ban would certainly send a message to like mind special interest groups, but nothing would be accomplished because there is not a local problem to solve. This is not a city, county, state or even a good partisan issue; it's an environmental activist's issue driven mostly by social media.

The use of plastics is not a problem. How we dispose of plastics is where pollution issues can be addressed. Plastic debris in the environment is merely a symptom of poor waste management; which is one reason why the United States ranks last on the list of top 20 plastic polluters. The growing consensus is the incinerating all plastic waste is the most effective way to deal with plastic pollution; well, we already do that. Salem/Marion County has excellent waste management and cleanly incinerates all trash to produce electricity; plastic pollution will never be a significant problem.

The anti-plastic activists also like to spin reusable bags as the perfect solution for our non-existent problem, but totally fail to acknowledge the tradeoffs. Everything we use has an environmental cost, reusable bags are no different.

You have an obligation to wash reusable bags after every use to prevent the spread of disease in the community. You could be washing could be washing a dozen bags a week. An undeniable fact about modern washers and dryers is they self-adjust based on load size. There are roughly 60,000 household in Salem. It's guaranteed that water, electricity, natural gas consumption, and sewage discharge will increase on a City wide level. If people wash their bags separately, then more phosphates will be released into our waterways. Has anyone considered the environmental cost of reusable bags?

I cannot support passing any single use plastic ban that would solve absolutely nothing, impose dictatorial control on the entire community by taking away an individual's freedom of choice, and forcefully impose a lifestyle change on everyone living in and around Salem.

Amy Johnson

From: jorgj1s1 <jorgj1s1@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 7:59 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Plastic bags

I wholeheartedly support the ban on single use plastic bags.
Shannon Jorgenson

Amy Johnson

From: Thomas Lancefield <woodrat2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 9:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Written Comment Regarding Proposed Plastic Bag Ban

City Councillors:

I lean against the proposed ban. Yes, it would reduce the amount of litter, but to me it seems more of a 'symbolic' gain than a substantive one. I don't think the reduction in litter is worth the cost in lost convenience.

I am retired, but when I was working I would often stop at the grocery store while riding my bicycle home after work, and carry my purchases in a plastic bag on my bike. If I had a backpack with me, I would put them in the backpack.

Also, if the alternative to a plastic bag is a paper bag, I think paper bags require more energy to make than a plastic bag does, though I can't cite a source for that belief.

The clincher for me is sea turtles. If there were many sea turtles in the ocean off of Oregon, I would support this ban. But from what I read, they are rare in Oregon waters. It is true that bags flowing into the ocean from the Columbia or other rivers could end up I don't know where.

I use a reusable bag for about 2/3 of my grocery shopping, and I support their use. I'm just not persuaded that the harm from plastic bags in Oregon is great enough to warrant banning their use in Salem.

Thank you.

Tom Lancefield
313 Ewald Ave. SE
Salem, Ore. (Ward 3)

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Susanlang381@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2018 10:25 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	susanlang381@gmail.com
Your Email	Susanlang381@gmail.com
Your Phone	5039676106
Street	6056 Lillian St SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	I strongly urge all city councilors to pass the Plastic Bag Ban as written. Let's pass this!!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/8/2018.

Amy Johnson

From: Susan Lang <susanlang381@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 08, 2018 10:11 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Plastic Bag Ban

This is to inform the Salem City Council that I am in full support of the Plastic Bag Ban as it is currently written.

Please pass this!!

Susan Lang
South Salem

Amy Johnson

From: webmaster@cityofsalem.net
Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2018 7:48 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Contact: cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net

Email from the City Contact form app.

Message Type: Contact: cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net

Details:

- From: Brian C McKinley at: loki08@mac.com
 - Phone:
-
- Message Body: I would like to have my oppositjon noted in the public record for the bag ban/tax measure on monday nights ajenda. Thank you.

Amy Johnson

From: Tamera Mittig <tameramittig@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2018 1:19 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Banning and Example of the slippery slope

If this gets to someone who actually will read it instead of someone like Jim Scheppke who dismisses anyone's thoughts or experiences. As I was speaking in the facebook group.. an I can not make it to your meeting as I am disabled but will do my best to get there. well I have a friend who went down south to 9-8-18 Corvallis to the Fred Meyer down there here's what your BANNING DOES he went in bought 5 items they have the ban in place he used a SNAP card knew nothing of the reusable bags there and had to scrounge up \$.05 for a paper Reusable bag because SNAP doesn't cover it REAL GOOD uh or else he would have had to carry everything out in his hands without a cart!!!! this is STUPID if he had to have bought much more he wouldn't have been able to carry them out. you go figure as I said before those were multiuse but they have been FORCED to be called Single use and the Paper bags WOW you can't find a use for those **CONGRATS** ya'll this is coming our way!!!! be careful WHAT you Wish for!!! your going down a Slippery slope Just Wait till they ban something you feel is a necessity for your life Banning is a Slippery slope the fact the plastic bags were created as Multi use bags to be reused.....

I just gonna throw this out there those plastic bags you get at the store for your groceries are more than just single use if you use your head I save up ours use it for our Garbage (haven't bought any 10-33 gallon bags in over a year), instead of saran wrap i use those bags, they are washable. if the bread or food of some sort needs covered I wrap it up with one of those bags instead of using zip lock bags or sandwich bags. it ain't pretty when you go to work but it is reusable. as for the paper bags I put hot cookies on there it pulls the grease off the cookies or baked goods (better for you) wrap up books for covers, wrapping paper, and many other uses, if we think back to when the Grandma's of the 50's they recycled much more than we thought of doing now. nothing should be banned we should be thinking of ways to reuse items instead of buying all these gadgets that require us to buy different plastic which can't be used 2-5 times. in different ways I am always against banning but using my head to recycle items. we need to change the way we at home think need classes yes you can take back to store but why when they can replace so much more instead of buy something that's just a touch different but does the same job. jmo but i am Shaking my head at all the new gadgets you see on the tv plastic and other items to make your lives more convenient and waste money on. just imagine all the money you could save with out all the gadgets an just reuse the grocery bags you get for free at the store that they have already charged you for in the products they sell that they spread the cost out over.

ppl make rugs out of plastic grocery bags also Thanks for listening or not. I'm sure someone up there or friends is going to make money off of the new bags besides the stores. Tammy Mittig

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



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NEN

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS
555 Liberty Street SE, Rm 305
Salem, OREGON 97301

(503) 588-6207
www.salemnen.org

Sept. 9, 2018

To: Mayor Bennett, City Manager and City Councilors

Re: NEN support of Ordinance Bill No 20-18
Ban of Single-Use Plastic Bags

On September 4, the NEN board unanimously voted to support proposed Ordinance Bill No. 20-18, banning single-use plastic bags in the City of Salem.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening our planet. Scientists predict that if nothing changes in our plastic consumption habits, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish (by weight).

Plastic bags are a big litter problem in our neighborhood as they get into the gutters during the rain and cause leaves to pile up and streets to flood. NEN has a cleanup activity which targets litter and these plastic bags are a component. They get into Mill Creek which feeds into the Willamette and end up in the ocean

We all need to work together to solve this problem.

Many cities in Oregon, including Portland, Eugene, Corvallis, Ashland and others, have already banned single use plastic bags and it's time for Salem to join the effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

NEN Board



September 7, 2018

Mayor Chuck Bennett & City Councilors
City of Salem
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: ***Resolution in Favor of Plastic Bag Ban***

Dear Mayor Bennett and City Councilors,

By a vote of 14-2, SCAN supports the proposal currently under consideration by the City to ban the use of plastic bags in most retail applications.

SCAN's Historic Preservation, Parks, & Gardens Committee reviewed the issue and, in the Committee's motion to the Board, noted that plastic bags do harm to the natural environment and are a common form of litter in many of our natural areas. Also, less plastic bags will aid in the recycling process, help protect wildlife, and reduce waste.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Yours truly,

Jeff Schumacher
SCAN President 2018-19

Enclosures: as indicated

Amy Johnson

From: Jami Smith <jami138@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 12:37 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Single use bag ban

It's well beyond the time this should have been passed in the city of Salem. It should actually be a state wide ban. We have to do everything we possibly can to limit/exclude the use of plastic, especially single use. I do not buy that it's a "hardship" for anyone to use cloth bags. They are either very inexpensive or I have even gotten them for free. I have more than I know what to do with. You could even have a bag donation program to collect bags to give to low income people. Where there a will, there's a way. Please pass this law/ordinance!!!

Sincerely,

Jami Smith

Salem 97301 resident

Sent from my iPad

Amy Johnson

From: D VanDyke <dmvdhome@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 2:31 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Comments re: proposed plastic bag ban

The proposed plastic shopping bag ban is based on a false premise. I know very few people who only use a plastic shopping bag from a store merely that one time. I will admit that the store only uses a specific shopping bag once, but many of us reuse them at least once (if not more times) for various uses - carrying lunch, collecting other items for recycling, carrying other items from point a to point b, wrapping items to be stored in the garage, packing filler in a box to be stored or shipped, or collecting the waste scooped out of the litter box. Yes, that last one does end up in the garbage. Some even use plastic shopping bags to pick up litter along the streets.

Would you like to know what a "single use plastic bag" is in my house? Here are some examples: a flimsy plastic bag from the produce/meat/bulk foods department that has torn or has food waste on it, and the zip-top or fold-top bag from my lunch that now has food waste on it. Those are the only examples I can think of. Note that these items are not included in the proposed bag ban.

The proposed ban will cost me money. I would need to purchase plastic bags for at least one of the uses mentioned above, which will still end up in the garbage. (Storing paper or other permeable bags containing used cat litter for the weekly garbage pickup is not an acceptable option. For those who are not aware, a litter box needs to be cleared at least once a day.) In addition, I would need to pay for each bag I receive at the store, or pay to purchase reusable bags - many of which are made from or coated with a plastic or other manmade petroleum-based material.

If you really want to address plastic waste in the garbage, how about trying to address the wasteful (and often difficult to open) plastic packaging that many products are sold in? Or the plastic rings around a six-pack of soda? Or microbeads? Or myriad other items made of plastic for no good reason (other than cost) given the many valid options? The vast majority of these other plastic items are no longer recyclable locally, thus are ending up as garbage. Perhaps that should be addressed. On the other hand, many stores have (or have had) collection points to recycle plastic shopping bags for years.

Additionally, people I know who live in towns with this type of ban have indicated that, while there was a slight decrease in litter at first, this has not necessarily remained the case. Locally, the majority of the litter I've seen has not been plastic shopping bags, but has been items like cardboard, paper, or fabric. The proposed ban would have a negligible impact on the environment, overall, as the bags will still be manufactured for use elsewhere - and there are a number of other problems/behaviors that make up a much larger part of the overall environmental problem. As for animal health, I assume that the concern is the consumption of or entanglement in the plastic bags. Animals that tend to consume or get tangled up in plastic shopping bags also consume or get tangled up in other plastic items that are harmful to them. The connection to human health is unclear to me, however, other than the potential environmental impact. (Incidentally, there have been studies showing that unless reusable bags are washed properly and frequently, they often harbor harmful germs that get transferred to whatever is stowed inside, and can make an entire household sick.)

I cannot see a benefit to banning plastic shopping bags. I urge the City Council to think about practicality, not about making a gesture, and vote against the proposed ban on plastic shopping bags.

Denise VanDyke
40+ year resident of S. Salem, Ward 7