



# CITY OF SALEM

## Written Testimony

### City Council

555 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

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**Wednesday, January 23, 2019 6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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#### City Council Work Session - Council Policy Agenda

**2.a.** [19-52](#)

2019 City Council Policy Agenda

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:**

Provide policy direction on issues for the 2019 Policy Agenda. Next steps for the issues include:

1. Hold a work session in 2019 for further development of City Council's specific policy interests.
2. For issues with a budget need, consider in the context of the City's budget needs through the City Manager's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Proposed Budget.
3. Place issue on list for consideration in 2020 or 2021.
4. Remove issue from consideration.

**Attachments:**

[Results of November 19 Work Session.pdf](#)

[Salem Result Areas.pdf](#)

[Tentative 2019 City Council Work Session Schedule.pdf](#)

[Status of Current Programs and Initiatives at the Library.pdf](#)

[Downtown Homeless Solutions Task Force Implementation Plan.pdf](#)

[Neighborhood Enforcement Division Assignments and Capabilities.pdf](#)

[Sobering Center.pdf](#)

[Tourism Promotion Area.pdf](#)

[Asset Management and General Obligation Bonding Strategy.pdf](#)

[Complete Streets Policy Analysis.pdf](#)

[Congestion Relief Task Force Implementation.pdf](#)

[Hillcrest Correctional Facility Acquisition Considerations.pdf](#)

[Public Comment received January 16, 2019](#)

[Public Comment received through 3:00 p.m. January 22, 2019](#)

[Public Comment received through 3:30 p.m. January 23, 2019](#)

*Add - Written Testimony.*

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Ellen Stevens <etstevens@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 12:34 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** for today's work session

Subject: Comment for 2019 City Council Policy Agenda Work Session 1-23-19

Dear Salem City Council:

As you develop your 2019 City Council Policy Agenda I recommend that you maintain the "multi-year ongoing action," included in the 2018 policy agenda for "improving Salem Public Library seismic safety." As part of that, I recommend that you reaffirm your support for the new Collection Development Policy that calls for a broad, deep, and extensive core collection of older and less frequently used books in addition to a "popular materials library" of more in-demand books.

When the community overwhelmingly approved the \$18.6 bond measure in November, 2017, to "Renew Our Library" it was with the intention to have the facility continue to accommodate a library book collection befitting the state capital — a collection which, in the words of the Collection Development Policy, “embraces *broad* fields of knowledge with *basic representative works* in most subject areas.”

I ask that the 2019 City Council Policy Agenda reflect this intention.

Sincerely,

Ellen Stevens

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Ellen Stevens <etstevens@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 3:05 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Jan 23 work session testimony

FROM: Ellen Stevens  
RE: Comments for January 23<sup>rd</sup> Work Session  
TO: Councilors, City Manager, City Recorder

Please add to testimony for work session, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Since the majority of City Councilors and City Manager are relatively new to their positions or to Salem, I would like to remind you of major changes in Library practices in recent years:

- \*\*Deep weeding of the Library's treasured core collection of books
- \*\*Reduced hours at West Salem branch
- \*\*A garaged Book Mobile (purchased with Foundation funds)
- \*\*Reducing the Library's voice by placing it in under Community Development
- \*\*Erosion of formerly highly qualified professional Librarians
- \*\*Reduction in reference assistance for patrons – in the Library and online
- \*\*Loss of the highly popular magazine exchange table.
- \*\*Along with the above – a lack of a strong voice to the Council by Library advocates.
- \*\*Fighting for a Library District which would stabilize funding.

The above list is a compilation of the concerns of members of my book club, of friends, neighbors and of many citizens during casual conversations.

You have heard well researched arguments that support these concerns. Please be open to this research. Please listen and consider how to restore Salem's Library to its former blue ribbon status.

**Amy Johnson**

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**From:** Jim & Jo <jimjohock@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 9:06 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Message for Salem City Council Work Session, 1/23/19

ATTN: Salem City Council:

I have been increasingly concerned about the degradation of the collection of the Salem Public Library. As a public library in our state's capital, this library demands a collection with a broad base of core literary works, fiction and non-fiction. I am hoping that the words of the Collection Development Policy are heeded: (a library book collection that) "embraces broad fields of knowledge with basic representative works in most subject areas." This certainly includes a extensive core collection of older, less frequently used materials as well as a "popular" group of books which might be in demand currently, but lose their "popularity" within a short period.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Sincerely,  
Jo Hockenhull  
1705 Church St. SE  
Salem, OR 97302

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Susann Kaltwasser <susann@kaltwasser.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 2:32 AM  
**To:** citycouncil; Chuck Bennett; Steve Powers  
**Subject:** Council Goals Work Session

I have a few comments that I hope you will consider on the Council Goals

Good Governance

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### **General Fund Revenue Strategy.**

#### **Revenue suggestion to add “an operating fee on the utility bill.”**

I think that this is a poor idea for two reasons.

- 1) adding to the utility bill creates an extra burden on low income and fixed-income households. Unless it is off-set by a waiver for such people, it will lead to more people having their water service turned off. Already people are making difficult choices between food and water, medicine or flushable toilets. This is a human rights issue in my opinion. Everyone should have access to water.
- 2) while it may be an easy way to collect funds, putting things on to the water bill is still a tax that people do not feel is fair. They want their utility bill to be for utilities and not other things. Adding the sidewalk/streetlight tax to the water bill upset a lot of people. This will create more distrust of the City.

Question: Will this be something the public will vote on, or will it just be decided by the City Council after a public hearing?

#### **Key Performance Indicators.**

The description sounds like gobbledegook! If the explanation is not in layman's terms it is NOT good governance!

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### **Welcoming and Livable Community**

#### **Salem Public Library.**

Collection development and maintenance;

With the recent upset over the 'weeding' of thousands of books, this goal is unclear to the public. The explanation by the Library director of why they are removing up to 1/3 of the entire inventory is not satisfactory in light of the fact that prior to the elimination process that was halted it was already clear that the library is removing far more books than they are adding. Either funding needs to be increase for book purchases or there needs to be a complete re-evaluation of the process.

If the City is sincere about wanting to increase Library usage, it does not seem prudent to upset the current users by not listening to their concerns.

I told a cautionary tale about my experience with the Salem-Keizer School District and their cuts to libraries. My observations was that the key decision makers in budgets for the library and the staffing while not wanting to harm their libraries were making important decisions without complete knowledge of what actually happens at libraries and their role in the overall system. Too often they thought that what libraries did and what libraries provide is book and other materials to be checked in and out. The truth is that they do so much more. I urge you to educate

yourselves more completely on this wonderful community asset before you assume that you know what is involved and what your decisions may mean long term for the community.

### **Downtown Homelessness Task Force**

I think that there are some good ideas in the proposal. Although I am a bit leery of the “crime prevention through environmental design.” I think it needs some clear guideline prior to implementation. We do not want businesses putting in something that impacts either the public mobility or the aesthetics of the streetscape.

As an example, do we want Salem to have those ugly roll up barriers over entrances and windows?

But also, if the work downtown moves more of the homeless into other parts of Salem, we need to look also at providing some support system in those areas. East Salem would really like to see a committee/task force to talk about Lancaster area as a joint effort with Marion County. The neighbors are getting a feeling that no one is caring about them and the problems seem to be growing by leaps and bounds over the last couple of years.

### **Neighborhood Enhancement.**

Thank you for your continued support of neighborhood associations!

### **Safe Community**

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#### **Sobering Center.**

The Sobering Center is not well understood in the community as how it is not better to put that amount of funding into housing of the homeless. The operating gap in funding seems huge and people would like to see something more substantial for a larger number of people.

It would be nice to think that there might be another “Plan B” for helping the homeless if this does not work out. At what point will the project be put aside for another homeless response effort?

### **Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure**

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#### **Asset Management and General Obligation Bonding Strategy.**

This whole topic is a mystery to the general public. No matter what the Council decides there needs to be a greater effort by the City to explain what is happening and why some things get attention and other things don't. In general people see failing streets and they think it is due to wasting money in other areas. If the City wants to consider a bond or other funding effort, it should be after some serious work is done on educating the public about the topic.

#### **Congestion Relief Task Force.**

Of the recommendations I support those that are least expensive be done first. I suspect the Council supports that idea too!

When the City worked with ODOT, County and Neighborhoods on addressing congestion on Lancaster Drive we learn a few things help a lot, but they do take time. Some of those strategies are listed, i.e. limiting left turns, controlling driveways, and providing turn pockets. So, while some of these things might cost more to accomplish, I think that the City should be looking at specific areas to implement when redevelopment is done or when new development is built. These strategies should be also clearly stated somewhere that developers are not surprised when asked to limit some of their driveways or to plan to share access points with other owners. Example of this was when the City required Walgreens to gain access through an adjacent business at Lancaster and Sunnyview.

The Downtown circulator bus or trolley is an excellent idea that I hope the City could work with Charriots to implement soon.

### **Natural Environment Stewardship**

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#### **Environmental Action Plan.**

I look forward to this happening sooner, than later!

**Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Strategy.**

As we learned during the joint work session with Marion County Commission, they are soon going to make a contract that will lock Salem into using the very expensive incinerator. That means funds will continue to leave our community and go out of the area. Millions of dollars siphoned away from the local economy.

Also, resources that are being sent to the incinerator are taking away local job opportunities. The City should also be concerned that the County seems to be pursuing a strategy of increasing their recovery machinery that will translate into higher and higher garbage fees being passed through to the Salem customers.

A lot more work should be done in trying to get more understanding of the issues and find ways in which Salem as the largest contributor to the waste stream can have more say in how the materials are dealt with and what the impact is on the local community.

The incinerator is the 19th highest producer of GHG in Oregon. We are impacted locally by their fallout. We only think that our air quality is good, because the DEQ lacks sufficient monitoring stations in our area. They are working on placing more monitors in the next few years. If Salem is found to exceed the amount of GHG emissions we might well have to go to DEQ automobile exhaust testing. This would be a significant change for Salem residents.

Marion County will be signing a contract for at least 10-years (could be more) in 2019. They did not tell the City Council exactly when that would be taking place, so time is short on working this issue with them prior to such an agreement. It would be my hope that the City would request that they consider a shorter contract of perhaps 5 years as they did the last time, and during that time, work together to improve recycling rates, and look at alternatives.

Current effort to educate the public about recycling are weak. Many people in the east part of Salem say that they have given up altogether on recycling. More should be done to find out if indeed it is true and if so what can be done. One additional thing to look at is recycling in apartment complexes by requiring it through a City ordinance and for businesses to be required to go through the Earthwise program.

**Strong and Diverse Economy**

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I am disappointed that there are only two items put on the list in this area. Not that they are bad ideas, but I see nothing that addresses the fact that we are a diverse community. How can we work to make sure that all areas of the community have a strong economy?

With 25% of the community being Hispanic is there ever going to be an effort to bring them into the discussion about how they can become a part of the economic systems as businesses and as cultural assets?

Thank you for your consideration of my opinions.

Susann Kaltwasser