



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony #1

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Monday, June 17, 2019

6:00 PM

**Main Library - Anderson
Rooms - 585 Liberty St SE**

City Council Work Session - Revenue for City Services

2.a. [19-290](#) Revenue options for the General Fund.

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:

Direct the City Manager to prepare two ordinances for Council's consideration to enact an operating fee and an employee-paid payroll tax to support current services in the General Fund.

Attachments: [General Fund FY 2020 - FY 2024 Re-forecast](#)

[Operating Fee Projections \(Rate Structure\)](#)

[General Fund Re-forecast and Operating Fee](#)

[Employee-Paid Payroll Tax Revenue Projections](#)

[General Fund Re-forecast, Both Revenue Sources and Capacity Enhancements](#)

[Written Testimony received by 3:30 p.m. 6-17-19](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of scott.mccanna@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2019 8:50 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: Salem_City_Taxes_Letter.pdf

Categories: Follow-up

Your Name	Scott McCanna
Your Email	scott.mccanna@gmail.com
Your Phone	5033756139
Street	8782 Boulder Ridge Ct SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97317
Message	Please see the attached document regarding the City Revenue work session scheduled for Monday, June 17. Please provide this attachment to the Mayor and City Council members before this meeting. Thank you.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/16/2019.

June 16, 2019

Honorable Mayor and Salem City Council Members

Dear Sirs;

My name is Scott McCanna – a native Oregonian, born and raised in Salem. I have spent my life and my career here in the great state of Oregon and the city of Salem. I have raised a family here, built a home here, and grown a network of friends and family here. I earned my Civil Engineering degree here in Oregon, and spent the first 27 years of my career working for a public agency here, in Salem.

My family and I have experienced good times and bad. We have been forced to live with many, many political decisions adversely affecting my family's economic livelihood, as well as our physical and mental well-being. We are *deeply* concerned the Salem City Council is about to make another very poor and very impactful decision.

In 2013, to offset economic impacts of the 2008 recession, I started a second job to help make ends meet for my family. From early childhood, a strong work ethic was instilled in me – the importance of supporting my family and loved ones to the best of my ability being top priority. I have worked so very hard fighting through inflation compounded by pay freezes, furloughs, employment cut-backs; and, "efficiency" and "right sizing" efforts.

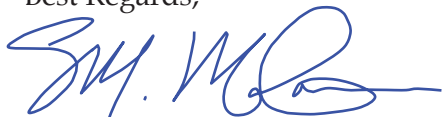
On June 14, 2019, I read in the Salem on-line FlashAlert your plans for a June 17 work session where you plan to discuss revenue generating ideas for the City for the next several years.

In the alert, one of the draft ideas includes a formula where a percentage of a person's income would be taken to fill your coffers (Idea #2). By this formula, you are telling me (and thousands of other registered voters) because I make more money, I should pay more for the **exact same services** received by someone who only has one job, or makes less than I do. By paying more, will I get a better road to drive on? By paying more, will I get a cleaner public restroom? By paying more, will I get a better parking space? By paying more, will I wait in a shorter line at City Hall? You know the answer – "No, of course not." If you are developing a "User Fee" (Idea #1), then consider a flat fee generated based on usage. If you are hoping to develop a City Income Tax, then I can only hope a good tax attorney is listening as this is the **last** thing Salem taxpayers need – especially on the heels of Kate Brown and her Super Majority's education-colored shopping spree! My family will never support this approach to solving your budgetary woes. How does poor, future economic planning on your part constitute a lopsided, emergency response on the backs of my family?!

If new City taxes are a certainty, then I challenge you all to find a means whereby the amount paid by each citizen is the same for the **same** services rendered. Further, please include a more transparent description of the services this new taxation represents.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in these matters.

Best Regards,



Scott M. McCanna, P.E.

SM₂ Engineering