

From: [Peter Fernandez](#)
To: [Amy Johnson](#)
Cc: [Alicia Blalock](#)
Subject: FW: Support for water fee increase
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 10:13:27 AM
Attachments: [Support for water fee increase.msg](#)

Testimony for 22-293.

Thanks,

-Peter | 503-588-6008 ext. 7341

From: scott46ac@gmail.com
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support for water fee increase
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 9:49:44 AM

To the Mayor and City Council:

I support the proposed water fee increase. I also support two other issues:

- Fold the garbage fee into the city utilities which would provide all city residents with garbage service. Maybe the amount of garbage around the city will decrease.
- Move the Salem Art Fair to the waterfront.

Respectfully,

Alan Scott
Salem

"Life is not to serve yourself but to serve others"

From: cnorris1964@comcast.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Rate Increases
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 7:01:06 AM

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed rate of increase of 5% for water, 5% wastewater and 5% storm water starting January 2023 and another 5% January 2024.

I understand the need to meet the ever-increasing rising costs of materials and employees. However, the City of Salem is made up of a lot of retired people who live on fixed incomes that do not receive increase. It is hard enough to keep up with the increase costs in food, fuel, and prescriptions as it is, not to mention the crazy high rent. Adding more agency increases at the rate of 5% is a lot for those of us on fixed incomes.

If an increase is needed a more gradual increase of 2.5% for January 2023 and 3% for 2024 would be more easily absorbed.

Keep Salem affordable.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Norris
5939 Summerside St. SE
Salem, OR 97306

From: [Erin Baker](#)
To: [UtilityRateAnalyst](#)
Subject: Rate Increase
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 6:32:04 AM

Dear City Counsel,

I understand that everything has gone up in cost and somehow that has to be covered.

However, my and many others incomes have not gone up to cover the cost of just the basics like food, the cost of fuel to get to work, etc. There are many Salem residents that are on fixed income or are single income households and the proposed rate increases will become a hardship on already tight and stretched budgets. For some of our community members it will make it so they will have to make a choice of whether to pay the bill or eat.

That is the harsh reality and I would bet that none of you will have to personally make that choice but there is a very good chance that you know people who will and yet you will have no idea of the choices they have to make.

The proposed utility rate increase is just another rate increase added to all of the others that make it more and more difficult to make ends meet.

Vote No on the increases or go back to the drawing board and come up with much less and tighten the city budget.

Respectfully,
Erin Baker
Salem, Oregon

From: [Evan West](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Opposition to water rate increase
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 9:40:36 AM

Hello:

I am writing to ask the members of the City Council to oppose the blanket five percent water rate increase that has been proposed for Salem. While the city reports that it's accounts remain financially stable, citing only the need to address inflation as a reason for increasing utility rates reeks of profiteering.

The City of Salem, the City Councilors, and the public utility staff should be driven by a desire to serve their constituents, first and foremost. In an economic climate where users continue to utilize the emergency assistance program at an alarming rate, unilaterally raising fees does little to end this growing emergency.

Please return the proposed rate increase to the City of Salem so that it can be restructured in a manner that actually meets demonstrated needs.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Sincerely,

Evan West

--

Evan West, M.A.

He/Him/His

970-980-1445

evanwest714@gmail.com

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of karend15@comcast.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 1:29:30 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Karen F Davis
Your Email	karend15@comcast.net
Your Phone	503-999-0071
Street	5150 Dome Rock Court SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	I am not in favor of a rate increase from the City of Salem Utility. This is the worst possible time for a an increase in utility rates. Inflation is sky high, including high gas, food and housing costs. People are struggling. Please reconsider!

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/23/2022.

From: [Lori Lazo](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for Proposed Water/Sewer Rate 2022 Increase
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 7:06:27 PM

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to give written testimony for the Proposed Water/Sewer Rate Increase that will be on the agenda before you on July 25, 2022. I have attached a copy of my most current utility bills for your review. These bills show my current utilities for our house with a family of 4 as follows:

Water/Sewer = \$115.83
Natural Gas = \$92.00
Electric = \$86.00

This makes my current Water/Sewer bill 23% higher than my gas bill and 29.5% higher than my electric bill.

The proposed increase of 5% will make my water/sewer bill 28% higher than gas and almost 35% higher than electric.

This is simply unconscionable, especially in light of the fact that the citizens of Salem are faced with extremely high inflation and coping with high gas and grocery prices at the present time.

Our family has made changes this last year to reduce water, electric & gas consumption... to what end?

The cost from the City of Salem continues to rise even though our consumption has declined.

I beg you, on behalf of all families struggling under the weight of the current inflation, to represent your constituents and decline the proposed water/sewer increase. While 5% does not seem like much, it is excessive when our water/sewer utility would be, on average, over 30% more than our gas & electric utility billings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lori Lazo



Account Number: [REDACTED]
Customer Name: LORI LAZO
Service Address: 4540 DRAKE CT NE

Please make checks payable to City of Salem

Current Charges Due 08/15/2022

Total Amount Due \$ 115.83

Amount Paid \$

Pay Your Bills Automatically!



CITY OF SALEM UTILITY BILLING
PO BOX 2795
PORTLAND OR 97208-2795

Enroll in the City's free Automatic Bill Pay service to have your monthly Salem utility bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account or charged to a debit or credit card. To enroll or for more information, visit www.cityofsalem.net.

23% higher than gas
29% higher than electric
Current percent → proposed 5% increase on top of this

99000030009000301000115831



NW Natural

PO BOX 6017
Portland Oregon 97228-6017

Please detach and return this portion with your payment.

CHECK BOX IF ADDRESS
CHANGE OR COMMENTS
NOTED ON BACK OF BILL

ACCOUNT NUMBER

[REDACTED]

DUE DATE FOR CURRENT BILL	PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT
7/29/2022	\$92.00

*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 97301 C 19 P 2 5231 1 AV 0.452

Seq=254



LORI LAZO
OMAR A LAZO
4540 DRAKE CT NE
SALEM OR 97301-3058

NW NATURAL

paid 7-18-22

Ref# RBP WWJ5

000000001675393100000000000039750000130950000092000009



P.O. Box 4438
Portland, OR 97208-4438

Please detach and return this portion with your payment.

*027731



LORI LAZO
4540 DRAKE CT NE
SALEM OR 97301-3058

16

Account Number

Due Date: 07/11/22

Amount Due: \$86.00

paid 7/5/22

Please indicate amount paid below

\$

Questions? Call 1-800-542-8818 or
portlandgeneral.com

PGE

Ref# 4BMC DW11



Account Number: [REDACTED]
Customer Name: LORI LAZO
Service Address: 4540 DRAKE CT NE

Please make checks payable to City of Salem

Current Charges Due 08/15/2022

Total Amount Due \$ 115.83

Amount Paid \$

Pay Your Bills Automatically!



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PO BOX 2795
PORTLAND OR 97208-2795

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Portland Oregon 97228-6017

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*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 97301 C 19 P 2 5231 1 AV 0.452

Seq=254



LORI LAZO
OMAR A LAZO
4540 DRAKE CT NE
SALEM OR 97301-3058



NW NATURAL

paid 7-18-22

Ref# RBP WWJ5



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P.O. Box 4438
Portland, OR 97208-4438

Please detach and return this portion with your payment.

*027731



LORI LAZO
4540 DRAKE CT NE
SALEM OR 97301-3058

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Account Number

Due Date: 07/11/22

Amount Due: \$86.00

paid 7/5/22

Please indicate amount paid below

\$

Questions? Call 1-800-542-8818 or
portlandgeneral.com

PGE

Ref# 4BMC DW11



Account Number: [REDACTED]
Customer Name: LORI LAZO
Service Address: 4540 DRAKE CT NE

Please make checks payable to City of Salem

Current Charges Due 08/15/2022

Total Amount Due \$ 115.83

Amount Paid \$

Pay Your Bills Automatically!



CITY OF SALEM UTILITY BILLING
PO BOX 2795
PORTLAND OR 97208-2795

Enroll in the City's free Automatic Bill Pay service to have your monthly Salem utility bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account or charged to a debit or credit card. To enroll or for more information, visit www.cityofsalem.net.

99000030009000301000115831

23% higher than gas
29 1/2% higher than electric
Current percent → proposed 5% increase on top of this

Please detach and return this portion with your payment.



NW Natural

PO BOX 6017
Portland Oregon 97228-6017

☐ CHECK BOX IF ADDRESS
CHANGE OR COMMENTS
NOTED ON BACK OF BILL

ACCOUNT NUMBER

[REDACTED]

DUE DATE FOR CURRENT BILL	PLEASE PAY THIS AMOUNT
7/29/2022	\$92.00

*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 97301 C 19 P 2 5231 1 AV 0.452

Seq=254



LORI LAZO
OMAR A LAZO
4540 DRAKE CT NE
SALEM OR 97301-3058



NW NATURAL

paid 7-18-22

Ref# RBPE WWJ5



000000001675393100000000000039750000130950000092000009

Please detach and return this portion with your payment.



P.O. Box 4438
Portland, OR 97208-4438

*027731



LORI LAZO
4540 DRAKE CT NE
SALEM OR 97301-3058

16

Account Number

Due Date: 07/11/22

Amount Due: \$86.00

paid 7/5/22

Please Indicate amount paid below

\$

Questions? Call 1-800-542-8818 or
portlandgeneral.com

PGE

Ref# 4BMC DW11

From: [Melissa Ho'okano](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Comments/questions to be included in the record re: Proposed rate increase
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 8:47:33 AM

I would like to know what repairs have been completed so far with the funds from the last rate increase? I have heard that the City is NOT using the funds for our water system infrastructure like they said they would when they implemented the last rate increase. Perhaps a forensic audit is in order?

The City needs to learn to live within its budget and complete the repairs and maintenance that were promised with the last rate increase and should not be increasing rates again if funds are being misappropriated and not used as promised.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nellyda Anslow](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Rate increase testimony
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2022 9:10:55 AM

Dear city officials,

Thank you for including me, a Salem home-owner, in conversation regarding the proposed water rate increases.

I support the rate increase. I understand and appreciate the importance of working infrastructure, which keeps our city clean and functional.

To those who don't support the rate increase, ask yourselves, "do I want to live in a third-world country where sewage rolls freely through the streets?"

I doubt anyone would answer 'yes' to that rhetorical question.

Thank you city council members for helping our city stay modern, clean and safe.

Sincerely,
Nellyda Anslow

Sent from my iPhone

Dear People of the Salem city council. I am writing
To you on Behalf of my self, And all other people of
Salem, on Fix incom. As we all know times are
Hard. Being on A Fix income, A Long with Health
Problems. And There is allways more month
Then Money. We eat Less, Drive Less To cut Cost
So we can buy our medication needed. We all are
Faced With some kind of change or cut Back These
Days. Don't get wRong I know cost From Labor
To Equipment, To old Water Line Needing To Be
Replaeed. But you could Hold off with the increas
At this time. you dont know how much that would
Help! we have made A Lot of changes. From No
Dishwasher, To more going To Laundry mat once A
month. The Only other thing I have A Problem with
is how you charge for Wastewater 75% of our water used
Is for Plants and free for food year round. A Long
Income. No water is going Down the Drain. From the
Tanks go to water plants.

And why Do I get charged for stormwater,
All the water that comes out of the Down spouts
goes to StormDrains goes on my yard. And my
Driveway is crushed Rock. so why is there
A charge for stormwater. A Lot of People
might say 5% Increase is not much.
But All total is Not 5% it is 15%, That's the
cost for People Like me that are on fix income
is Hurt 15%! when things are all Really hard to
make Ends meet.

I Thank you all very much
And Pray Gods Blessing over your Lives

Richard D Roberts
4244 Homer Rd NE
Salem OR 97305

Thank you!

RECEIVED

JUL 22 2022

SALEM LEGAL DEPT

From: [steve.palecki](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Proposed Rate Increases
Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022 3:13:30 PM
Attachments: [Rate increase.odt](#)

City Council Members,

Please see attached file in response to proposed Rate Increases. I question the proposed increases especially in light of increased development(s) along the Cordon St. corridor which requires additional infrastructure (water/sewer) and traffic concerns which the affect(s) and effect(s) will negatively impact the immediate area - my area!

Please see attached file.

Respectfully,

Steve Palecki
886 Blackbird Ct NE, Salem, OR 97301



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Dear Members of the Salem City Council;

I recently received the Proposed Rate Increase flyer in the mail outlining the rate changes for the water/sewer utility bill. Having retired from the Public Utility industry where I worked in both water distribution and sewer operations, I understand the need for infrastructure updates and replacements due to aging pipes, federal and state mandates for testing, etc...! This being said, however, certain factors are not being taken into consideration – namely those residents (I include myself in this category) who have large gardens! If rates are based solely upon the amount of water through the meter, it is not a true representation of what is actually going into the collection system. Does the City take this scenario into consideration for bill estimation? Also, could an exclusion from the this 5% increase be waived for those of us who grow large gardens and maintain landscape to beautify our homes?

I would welcome any members of the council to visit my residence to substantiate my claim(s) Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Steve Palecki (707) 617-0196 email: palecki.steve@gmail.com
886 Blackbird ct NE
Salem, OR 97301