

From: [Allan Evans](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: garbage rates increase
Date: Monday, August 22, 2022 12:06:44 PM

I DO NOT SUPPORT AN INCREASE AT THIS MAGNITUDE WITHOUT FURTHER INFORMATION.

Questions:

1. I did not receive any notice of the filing; I just came across it in the paper. I am not a regular subscriber so I would not have known about it. My garbage company does not send me a monthly billing as I run a credit on my bill.
2. Why are we using an industry model which is likely developed to help them, not the customer.
3. Do you require audited financials to support the filing? Is there an independent commission that reviews this filing before it is voted on.
4. Where did the percentage increase number come from?
5. If you feel compelled to deal with it, I can understand a 5% increase but nothing higher.

From: [Chris Munn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [Michele Munn](#)
Subject: Question and comment about 8.48% increase in Marion County for roll cart services.
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:04:06 AM

Hello,

Question.

*The increase would also coincide with the **addition** of service every other week and an increase in the discount on trash service provided to senior and disabled low-income customers from 10% to 20%.*

My question here, is the bi-weekly service and **option** for seniors and low income individuals, OR is bi weekly service going to be the 'norm' for all customers after Jan. 01, 2023?

Comments.

IF the biweekly service is going to be the 'norm' for all...then you MUST repeal the penalty fee for a container lid that is not entirely closed. You cannot increase the cost of the service, decrease the frequency of the service, and not expect that the containers will be, as a result of these policies, fuller.

That, or provide all customers with larger containers which I suspect would be expensive and counter productive.

Thank you for your attention.

Chris Munn

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Evan West](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Comment Opposing Trash Haul Rate Increase
Date: Saturday, August 20, 2022 11:47:40 AM

Hello:

I am writing to urge the members of the City Council to ensure that trash hauling companies (Republic Services in my service area,) that are barely providing quality service to customers with their currently exorbitant pricing, are not able to further gouge their customers.

It's not enough that residents of the city have no option to select their trash service provider. Residents suffer the consequences of these monopolies by being subject to terrible customer service. Excuses I have been delivered for missed pickup include "trash bins not out by pickup" when security camera footage clearly demonstrates that they are, "bins not fully closed" when neighbors bins are propped open or overflowing and still collected, and simply "we don't know why it wasn't collected." On multiple occasions containers have been hauled away, in mistaken cases of account closure or transfer of address, allegedly. This is abysmal service that is already barely worth paying for.

A uniform price increase does nothing to serve the city of Salem, and everything to further line the pockets of the companies with exclusive contracts. Thank you for opposing this blow to the quality of life for our community.

Sincerely,

Evan West

--

Evan West, M.A.

He/Him/His

970-980-1445

evanwest714@gmail.com

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 4a. at the 8/22 Meeting
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 4:41:41 PM

Dear City Council:

With regard to Agenda Item 4a. I ask that the Council consider my assessment of how the garbage rate proposal fares when compared to some of your “Equity Lens Questions” that I understand are still in draft. Here is my assessment:

How the 2023 Garbage Rate Proposal Stacks Up Against Selected Draft Salem City Council Equity Lens Questions

Does the initiative or policy align with the City’s mission/vision/strategic plan?

Only offering discounted 20-gallon every other week (EOW) service and not discounted 35-gallon EOW service does not align with the City’s Strategic Priority of “increasing equitable delivery of city services.” Even though garbage service is not technically a “city service” the City does set policy for how the service is delivered and paid for.

What data has been used to inform this initiative or policy?

Do we know how many households use a 20-gallon cart vs. a 35-gallon cart? Do we have data on the demographics of 20-gallon vs. 35-gallon cart use? That would be good to know before approving EOW service only for households with 20-gallon carts. My hypothesis would be that 20-gallon can users are older and more affluent.

Who are the groups supporting this initiative or policy?

The Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association supports the plan. 350 Salem OR and the Clean Air Now coalition do not because it does not go far enough to incentivize less waste and is unfair to larger households that cannot manage 20-gallon EOW service at the present time.

Who are the groups that are not represented?

Because the staff report on this was only released last Thursday, most groups are probably unaware of what is being proposed.

How does this initiative or policy impact all groups (positively and negatively)?

The garbage rate proposal for 2023 will create a hardship for larger low-income households that will see their garbage rates go up 8.48 -10.54% next year. Small families and single persons will probably be able to avoid the increase by switching to 20-gallon EOW service, but this opportunity is not being afforded to larger families.

How many members of the community have been involved in the decision-making process?

Very few to date.

What are the barriers to create more equitable outcomes for inclusion (i.e., socio-economic

status, language, gender identity, community expectations, etc.)?

Only offering discounted 20-gallon EOW service creates a barrier for larger low income families that will continue to be forced to pay for every week 35-gallon service, even if they might be able to reduce their waste so that they could pay 30% less for EOW service.

How does this initiative or policy build, support, and empower BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and other underserved communities?

This plan discriminates against many larger BIPOC families that will not have the ability to lower their garbage rates by reducing their waste.

What are the biases and unintended consequences of this initiative or policy?

This plan shows a clear bias in favor of smaller households and against larger households, many of which will struggle to pay for the increase in their garbage rates.

Are there any other possibilities and options yet to be explored?

Yes, the City Council should ask for a new rate proposal that includes the option of discounted 35-gallon EOW service in addition to discounted 20-gallon EOW service.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2
jscheppke@comcast.net

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 4a. at the 8/22 Meeting
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:24:36 PM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2022-08-21 at 5.15.34 PM.png](#)

Dear City Council:

In the past when the Council has deliberated on garbage rates City staff has provided you with a detailed comparison of rates in other cities. Why not this time? Please ask for this rate comparison before making your decision on rates.

Attachment 6

COMPARATIVE RATE SUMMARY

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>20G</u>	<u>35 G.</u>	<u>65 G.</u>	<u>95 G.</u>	<u>2 Yd.</u>	<u>+Disp./Rent 20Yd.DB</u>	<u>Recyl.</u>	<u>YdD</u>	<u>Fran Fee</u>
CITIES									
<i>Albany</i>	19.72	22.56	n/a	34.37	159.09	224.27	Weekly	EOW	6% *
<i>Beaverton</i>	24.70	27.85	41.50	47.80	168.81	131.00	Weekly	Weekly	4/5% ¹
<i>Corvallis</i>	22.00	24.30	31.65	39.05	156.39	213.13	Weekly	EOW	6% *
<i>Dallas</i>	19.95	21.60	n/a	33.85	163.35	221.40	EOW	EOW	6% *
<i>Eugene</i> ²	14.45	24.65	42.75	52.75	174.75	150.00	EOW	EOW	2.5/6% ²
<i>Gresham</i>	28.24	32.36	42.50	47.53	156.02	129.47	Weekly	Weekly	8.7% ³
<i>Hillsboro</i>	22.29	26.24	36.79	47.14	157.13	127.00	EOW	EOW	3%
<i>Independence</i>	n/a	24.34	31.81	39.85	118.83	139.44	EOW	n/a	7% **
<i>Keizer</i> ⁴	24.62	27.13	36.33	n/a	138.97	134.13	EOW	Weekly	5%
<i>Medford</i> ⁵	n/a	20.30	34.04	47.78	216.58	426.69 ⁶	EOW	EOW ^{7.75}	6% *
<i>Monmouth</i>	n/a	24.34	31.81	39.85	118.83	139.44	EOW	EOW	7% **
<i>Salem-M</i> ⁴	26.30	29.50	38.45	n/a	132.90	438.55⁶	EOW	Weekly	7%
<i>Salem-M Pro</i>	27.40	30.75	40.10	n/a	132.90	456.95⁶	EOW	Weekly	7% *
<i>Salem-P</i> ⁴	21.15	23.85	28.85	n/a	99.40	159.60	EOW	Weekly	7%
<i>Salem-P Pro</i>	22.20	25.05	30.30	n/a	106.55	177.95	EOW	Weekly	7% *
<i>Silverton</i>	26.30	32.68	40.53	43.36	204.67	166.88	EOW	Weekly	5% *
<i>Springfield</i>	13.36	19.00	27.71	35.36	199.95	142.38	EOW	EOW ⁷	7%
<i>Stayton</i>	23.30	27.40	37.30	41.80	172.70	169.80	EOW	Weekly	5%
<i>Wilsonville</i>	23.82	30.61	39.39	n/a	186.79	123.66	Weekly	Weekly	5% *
<i>Woodburn</i>	25.67	29.25	41.47	46.91	200.17	189.18	EOW	Weekly	5% *
MARION COUNTY									
<i>Marion/U</i> ⁴	25.64	28.16	37.45	44.00	145.90	149.44	EOW	Weekly	3%
<i>MarionU Pro</i>							EOW	Weekly	3%**

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2
jscheppke@comcast.net

From: [Phil Carver](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Laurie Dougherty](#); [Clair Clark](#)
Subject: 350 Salem Testimony on Agenda Item 4a. - Aug. 22, 2022
Date: Sunday, August 21, 2022 11:29:54 PM

To the Mayor, City Council and Staff

RE City Council Public Hearing Agenda Item: 4a. 22-369

350 Salem supports the plan for a every-other-week (EOW) pick up for 20 gallon trash cans. We recommend the Council instruct staff to revise the proposed rates by adding an EOW rate for the 35 gallon trash can. Larger families should be allowed to save money, not just smaller families. This is an equity issue and the Council must use its equity lens and not discriminate against larger families. We expect this would result in all rates being revised.

350 Salem also supports the testimony of Jim Schepke (pasted below)

Before the adoption of trash rates for 2024 the Council should pass a measure abandoning the current cost-of-service rate method for setting rates. Trash disposal causes many costs beyond those incurred by the companies that collect the trash. For equity and economic efficiency these costs should be reflected in rates. Toxic and greenhouse gas emissions come from the trucks that collect and transport the waste. Further emissions of both types come from burning the trash at the Covanta incinerator. Even the waste sent to the Coffin Butte landfill from West Salem causes both types of emissions.

The new method for calculating the rates should consider these environmental costs. It should also further discount the rate on EOW service on equity considerations so that lower and middle income households can reduce their trash bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Philip H. Carver, Ph.D. Natural Resource and Utility Economics
Johns Hopkins U., 1978
Co-Coordinator, 350 Salem OR

On Sun, Aug 21, 2022 at 4:41 PM Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear City Council:

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Thanks for your consideration.

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2
jscheppke@comcast.net

From: [Susann Kaltwasser](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Garbage rate increase
Date: Monday, August 22, 2022 4:03:34 AM

Tonight I will be speak at the hearing about garbage rates for Clean Air Now coalition, but I also wanted to share some thoughts of my own.

A group of us met with staff back in June at your suggestion and it was a very good discussion. It was nice to see that our suggestion for an every other week pick up for 20 gallon cans is being recommended by staff. I assume this is a direct result of our conversation. We, of course, think this option should be expanded to all sizes of cans.

We also talked about the need to generally reduce waste creation by Salem residents. Salem is one of the highest generators of waste in Oregon. Not sure why Salem is so bad, but it is clear that we can and must do better. A variety of issues in the world are growing that will require that we all think harder about adopting new ways of living.

Our landfills are eventually going to be full. Coffin Butte Landfill, where we send West Salem garbage and even some of Salem-Marion county garbage, is struggling to meet the needs of several counties and cities that send them their waste now, because their local landfills are full. They still need to get a permit to expand their operations. But even with the expansion, it is clear that eventually that landfill will be full. Getting a new landfill in the Willamette Valley is considered impossible. I heard that Lake County is actually thinking about opening a huge landfill east of Klamath Falls with the idea that the Arlington landfill might not be able to take all of Oregon's garbage in a few decades. It is expected that even Salem/Marion county will need to ship garbage eventually to eastern Oregon for disposal at the current rate of consumption.

It takes a lot of effort and many years to train consumers to change habits. Recycling has undergone a lot of problems in recent years, but Biden's Inflation Reduction Act actually has \$350 million included to help with recycling. Many companies are looking at how to create more recyclable packaging and others are working on recycling and reusing materials right here in this country. In five years or less we should see a resurgence in materials that can be recycled.

Oregon has set goals that all counties and cities will have to meet for recycling rates. Salem's has been dropping rather than increasing in the amount we recycle. We can't expect Marion county to carry the full burden of educating the public about waste reduction. A few years ago the City Council asked the haulers to work on a better recycling campaign. It never happened. Of course the pandemic disrupted a lot of things, but that does not mean that the Council should not reiterate the desire to have the haulers work harder at getting more people to recycle, compost and to recycle properly. Emphasis should be on getting more people involved in reducing the garbage that goes into the incinerator. Remember composting and recycling also produce income for the haulers.

The City needs to look at ways to require businesses to use recycling, composting and waste reduction. I don't think our current codes require that apartments offer recycling or composting. With almost 50% of the population in apartments this could help a great deal to reduce waste that goes to the incinerator or the landfill. Shouldn't all food services and restaurants be required to compost their waste?

Earthwise is a wonderful program and the City needs to require businesses of a certain size to go through the program. One of the goals of the program is to save them money by reducing what garbage they toss.

Members of CAN and 350 Salem are hoping to work with the Climate Action Plan Committee on ways for the City to adopt zero waste policies.

Another issue that was discussed at the meeting with the staff regarding garbage rates was their insistence that not much can be done about how the rates are set unless the City Council adopts new policies through your annual policy process. While I can see the need for clear direction for staff, it delays the whole process by at least a year, maybe two they told us. I hope that this could be sped up so that the CAP doesn't have to wait until that is done in

order to move forward on these issues.

I know that garbage is not an interesting topic, but how we consume goods and make waste is going to be key to whether we can meet the necessary goals for climate and to help the environment.

The incinerator is under estimated in its impact on the pollution and quality of life we have in Salem. Our group has done some preliminary studies of moss that show that the pollution is much greater and more dangerous than being reported. This is due to weak regulations at both the state and federal levels. We are now working with staff at OSU to do a more extensive testing and the US Forest Service as well as Oregon DEQ is expressing interest in our work. Moss studies are showing much more pollution from heavy metals that are dangerous to humans as well as other carcinogenic chemicals that is released from the incinerator in spite of their filters. Pollution is perhaps moved a bit away from the incinerator by the wind, but it is still something that Salem residents are creating that is polluting the air, water and soil in our area.

Carbon is the focus right now, but as we find more heavy metals and persistent toxins in our area, we must be aware and be ready to take actions to protect the quality of life in this area if we want to grow economically too. Imagine finding out that our local wine and berries are laced with PFAS or lead, because we burn our garbage!

Thank you for your attention to my ramblings.

Susann Kaltwasser

Ward 8

From: [Sarah Van Woy](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 8/22 City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:49:12 AM

Good Morning,

Below is my comment regarding the price increase for waste management.

Break

I am in favor of raising the waste management rates so that the 6 companies represented by Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association can continue to perform their important role without cutting corners. There are some serious limitations regarding the recycling (and solid waste) market right now, and investing in high-quality waste management is preferable to forcing companies to further reduce labor costs and compromise proper trash and recycling procedures in order to break even.

It must, however, come with a commitment that ensures this raise will actually contribute to better wages, better labor conditions, and environmentally-sound practices. It must not be a blind raise that increases company profits without actually impacting employee wages or sustainable practices.

Break

Thank you,
Sarah Van Woy

From: TBOR71@nasarulz.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] Public Comment: Trash Rates (8/22/22 Council Meeting on Resolution No. 2022-47 Establishing New Solid Waste Management Services Rates)
Date: Monday, August 22, 2022 8:15:48 AM
Importance: High

Public Comment

Marion County residents are already paying higher garbage rates than other Oregon Cities⁽¹⁾, which should tell you that you shouldn't raise the rates.

So, the Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association wants to raise rates mainly due to the TEMPORARY increase in GAS prices.

May I ask that our garbage rates go back down when GAS prices go down? We all know the answer to that, and it is NO! Currently, the cost of gas is down 22% nationally.

The citizens in Marion County are already hurting due to inflation. We are feeling the pressure at the gas pump over the following months, just like the garbage companies that the Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association represents.

We also feel it at the grocery stores, other goods and services, and other cities, state, and federal costs. Why should the citizens of Marion County bear the brunt of Mid-Valley Garbage and Recycling Association garbage companies' pain at the pump?

I highly suggest that the garbage haulers consider ways to reduce their costs before offsetting their extra expenses onto the consumers. I believe if you were to ask the citizens in Marion County if they are seeing a 4.5% profit in their wages. Again, I think the overwhelming answer would be NO.

I say it's time you say NO and stand up for the citizens of Marion County.

Respectfully,

Terry Bouie

5045 Hearth Court NE

Salem, OR 97305

(1) Source Material

a. File 22-369 – Version 1

b. URL: <https://salem.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5762938&GUID=BAC436EC-AEE1-4E2B-B203-1C9E49821879&Options=ID%7cText%7c&Search=22-369>