From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of brenda.reitz@salemhealth.org

To: CityRecorder Subject: Submission

Friday, June 9, 2023 5:02:11 PM ATT00001.bin Date:

Attachments:

Your Name	Brenda Reitz
Your Email	brenda.reitz@salemhealth.org
Your Phone	503-562-9299
Street	2988 NE 61st Pl
City	Lincoln City
State	OR
Zip	97367
Message	Salem City Council: The proposal to implement a payroll tax on employees working in the city limits is not only outrageous, but very concerning. Many employees are already struggling to 'make ends meet' - adding additional taxes would be a huge burden. There is a large number of employees who work in the city limits who do not live in the Salem city limits. Why should they have to make up your deficit due to extremely poor budget planning and unforeseen rise in costs (which should be inclusive in a proper budget). When employees run out of money toward the end of the month, they do without or make cuts elsewhere. You should be doing the responsible latter - making cuts in spending. Shame on you.

From: Brandon L. Winslow

To: CityRecorder

Subject: Proposed Payroll tax for People working in Salem City Limits

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:06:02 AM

Salem City Council,

I work at Salem Health. I live in Tigard.

This is a horrible thing to do to those of us that commute 50 miles each way.

Salem needs to do what everyone else is doing to address shortfalls, tighten the belt, eat less, spend less and figure out how to survive with what you already have.

If I can't afford to do something, I don't do it. I don't have the luxury of telling my employer to pay me more (effectively what you are doing).

Salem City needs to evaluate and cut back on offered plans and outreach projects if you can't afford the bill.

Cutback until it hurts. Don't make those of us that barely spend any time here, except to work, pay for your lack of planning.

This will effectively drive away trained folks to other jobs, and cause the businesses to suffer. If you want to raise taxes, propose business taxes, not worker taxes. We are already hit with higher costs due to inflation and we don't have the ability to get more money on demand.

Thank you for your time,

Brandon Lee Winslow, BMET, CBET
Biomedical Equipment Technician II, Clinical Engineering
Salem Hospital

SALEM HEALTH
Hospitals & Clinics
brandon.winslow@salemhealth.org
665 Winter St. SE | Salem, OR 97301
503-814-9615

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From: <u>Daniel Blackman</u>

To: <u>budgetoffice</u>; <u>CityRecorder</u>

Subject: Payroll tax for city of Salem 2023

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 10:32:35 AM

My name is Daniel Blackman and I live on Morningside Ct.

I strongly oppose a new tax payroll or otherwise for the city of Salem. I, as well as many others are still struggling to survive post Covid, at times I have to sacrifice feeding myself so my kids can eat. And some months I can barely afford gas to drive myself to work.

The city needs to find a way to make up the funds with money it already taxes. I already pay a ton in property tax as well as payroll taxes. The city needs to look closely at cutting something or how it can better handle the money it already has. Please don't pass this measure as it will only hurt the majority of lower and middle class families in Salem.

Sincerely a struggling family near you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Daniel Blackman
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Payroll tax 23-212

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 11:17:23 AM

My name is Daniel Blackman I live on Morningside Ct SE.

I wanted to add something as a sort of idea rather than just shutting down the payroll tax. Can we taxes those making over \$70,000-\$75,000 yearly at a higher rate. And those making \$60,000 lower or remove the tax for lower class altogether? Many family's are still struggling. I understand the growth of the city and the need for more funds. I'm trying to save those family's who are still struggling.

Thanks for hearing me out.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Deb Romano
To: CityRecorder

Subject: Meeting comment on agenda item **Date:** Monday, June 12, 2023 10:17:15 AM

I am opposed to the payroll tax. With the increased inflation over the past two years many of us are struggling to make our financial obligations. I am tired of seeing tax dollars continually being spent on homeless issues when I have children to support. We should not be taxed for working.

Deborah Romano

Sent from my iPhone

From: Evan West

To: <u>citycouncil; CityRecorder</u> **Subject:** Please Oppose Budget Plan

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 10:32:04 PM

Hello. Thank for your assistance in distributing this email to the members of City Council.

Mayor Hoy and City Councilors:

I am writing to implore you to please reconsider the budget plan that you are working with. Taxes and fees should be the decision of the voters. You can absolve yourselves from being responsible for budget cuts by putting the question to Salem voters. Please do not unilaterally impose an inequitable tax.

Employers and businesses - both large and small - should no longer be getting away with not contributing while employees are made to shoulder the burden. Any tax proposed should be 2/3 employer paid.

The budget question started, and was posed to the public initially, as a question of balancing to avoid an impending cliff. Somehow that question has now become "how can we superfund the police department." At this time we need to be balancing our existing budget. Please accomplish that task before tackling the request that the police department be dramatically expanded.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Evan West

--

Evan West, M.A. He/Him/His 970-980-1445 evanwest714@gmail.com From: $\underline{noreply@cityofsalem.net} \ on \ behalf \ of \ \underline{elizabeth.anne.ix@gmail.com}$

To: CityRecorder Subject: Submission

Monday, June 12, 2023 8:58:46 AM ATT00001.bin Date:

Attachments:

Your Name	Elizabeth Whitney
Your Email	elizabeth.anne.ix@gmail.com
Your Phone	503-983-6826
Street	775 NW Turning Leaf St.
City	Albany
State	OR
Zip	97321
Message	Good morning, I work in Salem, though I live in Albany, hence my decision to comment. I am deeply discomfited by this proposal to add additional income tax to those who work in Salem. Over the last several years the rise in inflation and the rise in the average wage have not increased at the same rate. The gap continues to grow. This means that the cost of living continues to climb while our income continues to lag. Those of us just coming of age and striving to become stable, productive, and independent members of society are already at a disadvantage. This proposal will further impede our efforts and destabilize us. The prospect of supporting my spouse and I on my ~\$55,000 gross annual income is already somewhat daunting. I am a budgeter and a planner; I have already run the numbers several times. We will struggle to save as it is, which will put us in a more vulnerable financial situation. And yet you are proposing to decrease my paycheck. How many other individuals and families are in the same boat? I am opposed to this proposal. I believe it will further destabilize people who are on the edge and increase vulnerable populations in our city. I do not think the benefit outweighs, or even equals the cost. Please, consider another option. Sincerely, Elizabeth

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of gabegaertner@gmail.com

To: <u>CityRecorder</u> **Subject:** Submission

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 7:14:20 AM

Attachments: <u>ATT00001.bin</u>

Your Name	Gabe Gaertner
Your Email	gabegaertner@gmail.com
Your Phone	5032073644
Street	1162 Willow Creek Dr NW
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	Salem City Council, I implore you to find alternatives to the 0.814% payroll tax as it will create undue burden on working families in the setting of record inflation. The tax increase will take a significant portion of our family's free income. I offer three points to consider: One-living in Oregon has become increasingly expensive. Property taxes rise every year, along with every other category of expense. A paycut of almost 1 percent for every person working in Salem is a heavy burden. Two-the increase will discourage growth in Salem, leading to stagnant tax revenue in the long term Three- the demand for services will continue to outpace the available funding. Why are we talking about funding new services when we cannot afford the services we already provide? I urge the council to aggressively pursue efficiency measures to fill the budgetary gap. Consider that individuals and businesses have also had to cut back more than one percent in recent months, we have no option to simply pass along a budget shortfall to those we serve. A Working Father, Gabe

From: <u>Jill Gatto</u>
To: <u>CityRecorder</u>

Subject: Safe Salem Employee-Paid Payroll Tax Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 7:40:08 AM

Dear Salem City Council members,

I was recently informed of your proposal for the Safe Salem Employee-Paid Payroll Tax. I have been an employee of Salem Health for nearly 8 years and commute down for my 12 hour shifts from Oregon City. Salem Health does a wonderful job retaining employees from other cities because of their incredible work culture and competitive wages.

We are already dealing with staffing shortages as nurses and CNAs are leaving the bedside in droves after the burnout from serving the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. If this passes, I anticipate Salem will lose many more employees. As someone who doesn't live in Salem, I would not be privy to any of these proposed improvements but would be sacrificing greatly when money is already tight given inflation.

I already pay city taxes where I reside.

Please do not force more employees out of Salem Health. There are jobs aplenty in Portland and surrounding cities and I will begin looking elsewhere for a job if this passes. Many RNs have echoed the same sentiments. Please do not ask this of hardworking people who are already barely making ends meet.

Jill Gatto BSN, RN

Clinical Nurse, Trauma Care Unit Salem Health

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From: Jim Scheppke
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil

Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 6a at the June 12th Council Meeting

 Date:
 Saturday, June 10, 2023 2:54:36 PM

 Attachments:
 Screenshot 2023-06-10 at 12.15.57 PM.pnq

 Screenshot 2023-06-10 at 12.15.31 PM.pnq

Screenshot 2023-06-10 at 12.13.31 FM.phg

Dear Mayor and Council:

With all due respect I am writing to correct a false statement made in the staff report regarding the Safe Salem Employee Paid Payroll Tax.

The staff report states that "the City has restored services previously eliminated due to the impact of the 2008 Great Recession ... Since that time, the City has ... restored library hours."

The fact is that Salem Public Library hours and services have never been restored to what they were prior to the Great Recession. While main library hours were maintained, and are roughly the same today as they were before and during the Great Recession cutbacks, the library bookmobile that at one time made 30 stops a month throughout the community was eliminated and West Salem Branch hours and services were severely cut and have never recovered.

Here is a screenshot of the Library website from July 1, 2006 that shows what we lost when we lost the bookmobile. For a library with only one branch, the bookmobile was vital to extending services in neighborhoods throughout Salem.





The Salem Public Library Bookmobile is making rounds with 30 stops every month throughout Salem. On board you'll find more than 2,000 library materials, an online catalog, and a friendly staff who have the uncanny ability to answer most of your questions. Oh, yeah, one more thing you ought to know: the bookmobile has the ability to "kneel" flush to the ground for easier access for everyone.

It's all designed to deliver books that fill your head with great ideas.

Our Mission

EN ESPAÑOL SCHEDULE OF STOPS ABOUT THE BOOKMOBILE KID'S FUN & GAMES PHOTO GALLERY

And here is a screenshot from that same website on the same day that shows the West Salem Branch at its peak. It was open six days a week, a total of 35 hours. Today it is open five days a week, a total of 25 hours,



CATALOG EVENTS OPEN.org

New Year * New Hours at the West Salem Branch

Beginning January 3, 2006, mid-week hours at the West Salem Branch of the Salem Public Library will shift one hour later so we can be here for our neighbors returning to West Salem at the end of the regular business day. Find us, beginning January 3: Monday 12-8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 1-6 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



West Salem Branch

The West Salem Branch of the Salem Public Library provides a full range of services for children, young a collection includes a variety of books, newspapers, magazines, and audio-visual materials. Public-use in available by reservation.

395 Glen Creek Road NW (behind the West Salem Roth's off Wallace Road) Driving Directions

Phone: 503-588-6301For renewals, computer reservations, and general information

Hours - Current

Sunday - CLOSED Monday - 12-8 p.m. Tuesday -Friday - 1-6 p.m. Saturday - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

As it says above, the West Salem Branch back then provided "a full range of services for children, young adults, and adults" including story time programs for pre-school children that are no longer provided. The community meeting room was in constant use back then. The library was a true community center for West Salem. Today that has been lost.

The reality is that we have yet to see a restoration of the public library services we enjoyed in Salem prior to the Great Recession and even before that time. We have by far the worst funded major library in Oregon:

Total Library Expenditures Per	Value
Capita in 2021-22	1 1
Multnomah County Library	\$99.09
Corvallis-Benton Co. Library	\$91.83
Eugene Public Library	\$80.45
Hillsboro Public Library	\$69.80
Deschutes Public Library	\$64.71
Beaverton City Library	\$60.74
Jackson County Library	\$52.39
Salem Public Library	\$25.80

I don't see any indication that a new employee payroll tax will change this situation, but if I am wrong about that I hope to be corrected.

Jim

Jim Scheppke, Ward 2 jscheppke@comcast.net

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of katherine.burch@salemhealth.org

To: <u>CityRecorder</u> **Subject:** Submission

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2023 12:08:38 AM

Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Katherine Burch
Your Email	katherine.burch@salemhealth.org
Your Phone	9712374478
Street	2238 nw elm st
City	mcminnville
State	OR
Zip	97128
Message	I am wanting to share, that many people who work in salem do not live in salem and that there are those including myself who are already living paycheck to paycheck and struggling. to have more money taken out is more money i don't have to support my 3 children.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of katherine.scofield@salemhealth.org

To: <u>CityRecorder</u> **Subject:** Submission

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 4:57:28 PM

Attachments: <u>ATT00001.bin</u>

Your Name	Katherine Scofield
Your Email	katherine.scofield@salemhealth.org
Street	4663 campbell dr se apt 258
City	salem
State	OR
Zip	97317
Message	So I think this is one more thing you are adding to the working people. We are already so poor due to the economy and everything being so expensive. they said they would put a cap on rent but voted to let landlords raise rent 14.6% due to cost of living. No one is getting raises enough to cover all the money you think we should pay. It's no wonder we have a huge homeless problem. no one can afford to live. Oregon is turning into california in that its becoming impossible to afford to live here. At what point do you stop trying to take more and try to make things affordable for the regular people. The average yearly raise given is 3% yet you want to take 8% of our wages. So your basically saying i'm taking your raises for the next 3 years good luck trying to afford to eat or pay rent. Yet you all are quick to vote to give yourselves big fat raises. why don't you start by cutting government wages and try to live off what you expect us to live on. before you decide this why don't you take a look at what the average rent is right now as im sure you own your own house. Do you know how much groceries cost? I'm sure you don't care as you make a great living. We do not. why don't you try taxing the companies you give all these tax breaks to to come open in your city. This is raping my paycheck pure and simple. you should be ashamed of yourselves

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of kelly.n.wadsworth@gmail.com

To: <u>citycouncil</u>

Subject: Contact City Council

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:49:39 AM

Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Kelly Wadsworth
Your Email	kelly.n.wadsworth@gmail.com
Your Phone	206-354-9895
Street	449 Innsbrook CT SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Dear City Council - I was able to receive helpful information about the possibility of a new payroll tax for upcoming operation needs in the city at my local neighborhood association meeting. Thank you for making this information available. I am happy to support the robust operations of Salem so that all of our residents may thrive. Could the Council please consider a scaled, progressive tax that specifically includes all of the tax brackets in the city? The proposal that I saw stopped differentiating salary above \$200k (if my memory serves me right.) Let us divide the responsibility for funding the city among all of the income levels in specific, meaningful ways rather than lumping together all high earners into one category. Those high income levels can surely be differentiated in even more specific ways that reflect their fair share of the tax. (i.e. a million dollar earner should contribute more than a \$200k earner, no?) Thank you! -Kelly

From: <u>Hale, Matthew</u>
To: <u>CityRecorder</u>

 Subject:
 6/12/23 City Council Comments

 Date:
 Sunday, June 11, 2023 8:26:19 PM

Let the Voters Decide – 6/12/2023

The proposed city budget that begins this July 1st projects a 3.2% increase in revenue, but it also has a spending increase of 9.4%. To satisfy this spending increase, you are now about to pass along a 71% increase in the City Operations Fee and enact a Payroll Tax at a rate of 0.00814 (0.814 percent), which will burden the median Salem wage earner (earning \$62,185 a year) an additional \$506 a year in taxes.

Before you decide to make these decisions in the confines of the City Council Chambers, please consider the following information that you were presented on May 15th, and compare that to the fact that there have been no City press releases at all indicating the magnitude of these tax increases being decided upon:

- DHM Research presented detailed results of their focus group discussions to you on May 15th detailing the City is on the Wrong Track, and residents are
 - Concerned about Homeless and Crime,
 - Concerned about Housing Affordability, and
 - They are concerned about the Cost of Living

Key takeaways from the focus groups were

- The City has adequate money but is not spending resources effectively,
- They were paying too much in taxes already,
- They preferred lower payroll tax rates than the highest rate proposed, a rate of 0.0066 (0.66 percent),
- They wanted the City Leaders to look at budget cuts first, and
- They had a lot of <u>doubt</u> about our City Leadership

When pressed by Councilors about if voters wanted to be able to vote on tax increases, DHM stated that from their experience, 9/10 voters would want to be able to vote on a tax increase of this magnitude.

• When asked "will we need more" by concerned councilors, the CFO stated "can't say for sure" and the City Manager stated it's "a half-step" to eliminate the fiscal cliff in the short term. What concerns me is that voters are unlikely to have a say at all in these decisions, and the median wage earner in Salem could be paying up to \$506 a year in payroll taxes, and an additional \$66 per year on their water bill. What's even more concerning is that this increase in taxes and fees of well over \$30m per year will only add 13 new Police Officers for community policing in the

- downtown corridor and East Salem area, and 3 more Police Homeless outreach officers to address crime and homeless concerns.
- I'm encouraged by a few City Councilors stating that they wanted to "ask" voters rather than "telling" voters, or in the case of the Budget Committee Chair (Councilor Gonzalez) it's "our responsibility to go to the voters." In fact, Councilor Gonzalez stated that "I asked twice for small cuts from staff and never got answers so we could build trust in voters." Has Councilor Gonzalez ever received a response to his requests from city staff?

Don't be lulled into convincing yourselves that engaging with voters and asking for their approval is "grueling", a "big lift", and there is "not enough time to educate voters and gain their trust" like I heard a majority of you say on May 15th. Be transparent, engage with voters, tell your story, and communicate, communicate, communicate.

Now is the time for you to overcome the "doubt" that residents have with you. Build some trust with residents and voters. Residents of Salem will be shocked if you decide as a City Council over the busy 4th of July and Summer Vacation time period when residents are vacationing, busy with family, and working on their homes to pass a Payroll Tax lasting till December 31, 2031 without being asked for their approval.

Sincerely,

Matt Hale

Ward #4

 From:
 We the People

 To:
 CityRecorder

 Subject:
 Payroll tax

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 8:59:20 AM

City council members,

I get it. We all want to do something to help with the problems, but taking the money without asking is not the way.

The mayor and city council unilaterally imposing new taxes of this magnitude reminds me of the slogan "taxation without representation" from the American Revolution.

Yes, it may take longer to put it to a vote than if you just take the money, but matters of this magnitude are voted on for a reason and unilaterally imposing taxes to fund new and expanded services of this magnitude is not the role of the city council.

Government taking money to make itself significantly bigger shouldn't be a decision made by the government itself.

I hope the council members will reconsider the charter/mandate of the city council (develop and decide on policies) and put matters of this magnitude to a vote by the people being taxed.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Robert Johnson, MBA, CPA City of Salem, Ward 1 From: <u>noreply@cityofsalem.net</u> on behalf of <u>sasha.clark@salemhealth.org</u>

To: <u>CityRecorder</u> **Subject:** Submission

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 7:53:21 AM

Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Sasha Clark
Your Email	sasha.clark@salemhealth.org
Your Phone	5037988751
Street	1113 Main st #962
City	Lyons
State	OR
Zip	97358
Message	This proposed tax is unfair and should not be allowed. The city of Salem's poor planning or diverting tax money to failed projects should not mean you get to take more money from the hardworking people. I for one do not even live in Marion County and commute to Salem to work at Salem Health as I have for over 15 years. This extra tax is preposterous. If the city can't even do anything about the homelessness and/or helping stores to prosecute the rampant theft, why should I pay more taxes? I cannot even walk through downtown alone and feel safe. Look at the other big cities on the west coast who are all a mess - why is Salem hellbent on following in their footsteps? Portland is a joke, Eugene is disgusting, Seattle is just as bad. How about if you tax us - we make better choices. It is embarrassing that the states capitol is a filthy crap hole now.

From: $\underline{noreply@cityofsalem.net} \ on \ behalf \ of \ \underline{stephen.schwarzenberger@salemhealth.org}$

CityRecorder To: Subject: Submission

Friday, June 9, 2023 6:04:59 PM ATT00001.bin Date:

Attachments:

Your Name	Stephen Schwarzenberger
Your Email	stephen.schwarzenberger@salemhealth.org
Your Phone	503-814-7980
Street	4544 Nicholas Court NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97305
Message	Attn: Salem City Council Re: June 12 Hearing on Proposed Tax Increase for Salem Residents I am writing to express my concern as a Salem resident regarding the proposed tax increase for employees who work in the city of Salem. The short fall that the city of Salem is experiencing is not caused by any of my actions, but is it a result of poor money management and law enforcement on part of the city of Salem. The city's shortfall is most certainly also a result of the increased and unregulated homelessness that has plagued Salem due to lack of laws and policies. I find this proposal quite unacceptable. I already pay an exorbitant amount of taxes each year for my property taxes, which have consistently increased every year since I have owned my home. For me, this proposed increase will amount to nearly \$1000 annual cut in my earnings—this is a 2-month grocery budget for my household. The proposed tax would nullify my already measly annual cost of living raise. No doubt this tax proposal will directly benefit Salem's unemployed homeless population. The tax does not benefit me. Additionally, it is an inequitable proposal—those making minimum wage do not have to pay into it, only the middle class. I work for Salem Health—many of their employees work remotely from other cities, or at other clinics outside of Salem. How will this proposal be enacted in these circumstances? As a 20+ year resident of Salem, I express my strong opposition of such a tax. Sincerely, Stephen Schwarzenberger

From: <u>noreply@cityofsalem.net</u> on behalf of <u>sarahjkw@gmail.com</u>

To:CityRecorderSubject:Submission

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 12:50:59 PM

Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Sarah Weitzman
Your Email	sarahjkw@gmail.com
Your Phone	503-201-4337
Street	140 Cambridge Ave
City	Silverton
State	OR
Zip	97381
Message	I'm writing in opposition of the city wide income tax for those who work in the city of Salem. While I work in Salem, I have my own taxes that I pay on my home/property and the city of Silverton where I live. I'm a part time worker and this would be an additional \$520 off my yearly take home pay which is a hardship for my family. If a tax was proposed it should be only on those who live here in Salem. It's not fair to those of us who commute, spend money on commuting as well to pay a required tax just because our job is here. I hope you'll strongly consider revising this tax to reflect those who live in city limits. Adding this tax would cause me to take pause spending any money in Salem. Thanks for considering my comment.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of williamlittle2@gmail.com

To: <u>CityRecorder</u> **Subject:** Submission

Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 8:09:09 AM

Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	William A Little
Your Email	williamlittle2@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038510512
Street	2945 Bonham Ave S
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Regarding the proposed payroll tax, I am against it. The city leaders need more training on budgeting. Using emergency services as a hostage to increase taxes is getting old. Try cutting non essential services. Learn to live with what you've already got. If the mayor can't lead the city of Salem in this manner, then he's in over his head. Signed, William A Little, Salem Oregon