

Amy Johnson

From: Roberta A <robertaanne1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2018 11:27 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: rate increase garbage...

Please wait until you can hold a work session on whether to raise garbage rates - we pay higher than many other places already. Thank you.

Roberta Cade

Amy Johnson

From: Sarah Deumling <sdeumling@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2018 7:25 PM
To: CityRecorder; 350-salem-or@googlegroups.com
Subject: Increase in garbage collection rates

My name is Sarah Deumling and my house is located at 2667 Orchard Heights Rd. NW.

I have no problem with an increase in our rates for garbage collection, in fact I think it is a fine idea if it is used strategically to encourage folks to throw away less. Perhaps the first very small container free and steep incremental increases for ever larger quantities. Being very concerned about our rapid depletion of many of the earths resources and the impending serious consequences of climate change on our communities I have worked hard to purchase very carefully and have just one brown paper bag of "impossible" (not compostable or recyclable) garbage every 3 months with no negative impact on my life style. I realize this is not possible for everyone but we can all cut back.

My biggest concern, however, is that we send our east side garbage to an incinerator which emits more greenhouse gases than any other enterprise in Marion County along with other toxic pollutants and this in a low socio-economic part of the county. Before rushing to raise rates please consider seriously other alternatives for waste removal and all possible incentives to reduce amounts of residential, commercial and industrial waste in our area. The latter will be good for our pocketbooks and good for the planet.

I have one serious suggestion for alternatives to Covanta which you might want to look into at the following website:

<https://www.concordblueenergy.com/>

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling

Amy Johnson

From: Thomas Ellis <tiellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 11, 2018 7:50 AM
To: Sarah Deumling
Cc: CityRecorder; 350-salem-or@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: [350-salem-or] Increase in garbage collection rates

Good letter, Sarah! I especially liked your suggested alternative for them to consider. And I'm impressed by your reductions in household non-recyclable waste!

On Sat, Nov 10, 2018 at 7:25 PM Sarah Deumling <sdeumling@gmail.com> wrote:

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Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "350 Salem OR" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to 350-salem-or+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To post to this group, send email to 350-salem-or@googlegroups.com.

For more options, visit <https://groups.google.com/d/optout>.

Amy Johnson

From: Thomas Ellis <tiellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2018 8:19 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Proposed increase in garbage collection rates

My name is Thomas Ellis, and I live at 4553 Fir Dell Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302. I am unable to attend the City Council meeting next week, so I am submitting this written comment instead.

As a relative newcomer to this area, I was appalled to learn that the City of Salem ships our garbage to the Covanta Marion Incinerator, which emits over 160,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases each year. Conversely, West Salem ships its garbage to the Coffin Butte Landfill near Corvallis, which is cheaper to operate, and whose annual carbon emissions are only about 28,000 metric tons a year.

I can understand the need to raise disposal rates, given the unfortunate changes in the global recycling market. But

since we live in a time when climate change is already having drastic consequences throughout the world, we cannot be content with business as usual in the matter of waste disposal. As a citizen and property owner, I would be happy to pay higher rates for garbage disposal--but only if the City Council convenes a work session to carefully consider ALL options before agreeing to raise rates in order to continue to do business with a highly polluting enterprise such as the Covanta Marion Incinerator.

This is, after all, the only life-sustaining planet we will ever know, and if we do not assume responsibility for our wasteful, ecologically destructive lifestyles, we will doom our children and grandchildren to a horrific future.

So please--take the time, in a work session, to explore innovative alternative approaches to this systemic crisis before you make your decision about raising our rates to continue such a clearly destructive practice.

Sincerely,

Thomas I. Ellis, Ph.D.
(971) 701-6965

Amy Johnson

From: Linda Gray <lindaanddoug@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 09, 2018 9:15 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Garbage collection rate increase

The garbage collection rates do not need to be increased. Since our "acceptable" recycling is now very limited, and some residents continue to place trash in the recycle bin, stop the recycling program until such time as a less costly solution can be found. Newspaper could be placed in with the yard debris, as it decomposes and becomes mulch just like grass clippings. Continue the yard debris and regular trash collection at the current rate. The rate increases are too high and those of us on fixed incomes struggle to pay. Find another solution, such as the one I have suggested, before raising the rates yet again.

Linda Gray
Salem, Oregon

Amy Johnson

From: Susann Kaltwasser <susann@kaltwasser.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 6:21 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony regarding garbage rate increase
Attachments: Testimony on Garbage Rate Increase.pdf

Please accept this as my testimony on the proposed garbage rate increase Item #4.a. on tonight's agenda.

Susann

November 13, 2018

To: Salem City Council and Mayor Bennett
From: Susann Kaltwasser
RE: Garbage Rate Increase, Agenda Item #4.a

As the City Council considers raising the garbage rates yet again, I urge you to stop and seek more information on why this is happening again.

The rationale provided by the Staff Report is that the loss of revenue from recycling and additional operating costs is making it so the haulers are not making enough money, but no where in the report did I see them dig deeper than the surface. True costs are going up and revenue is impacted, but why?

It is true that for too long the United States has expected foreign countries to take our recyclables without understanding the pollution that goes along with processing it. But a lack of revenue from recyclable materials is not the only reason for raising rates.

A major problem is that in Marion County we burn our garbage in an expensive, aging incinerator. Something that at first seemed like a good idea is now becoming a burden on our community.

Marion County entered into a long-term contract that was not favorable to us. If you looked at the contract you would see that it binds the County to a very large amount of garbage each day. If they do not meet that amount, they have to pay a fine. With more recycling of course more garbage is going to the incinerator, but it also is a disincentive to try and find other places to sell recyclables. Also, the vast majority of the revenue from the incinerator actually goes out of state to Covanta. At first most of the revenue went to pay for the incinerator, but it has been paid off for years now. No major upgrades or repairs have been done on the incinerator either. So, the majority of the tipping fees charged to the haulers, goes to either Covanta as profit, or to Marion County's General Fund. How much is not disclosed.

While it is true that the incinerator produces energy. However, that comes at a price. The incinerator produces CO2 (a green house gas). The amount is self-reported to Oregon DEQ is equal to an estimated 30,000 vehicles. It also reports that it emits pollutants like lead, cadmium,

mercury, phthalates and dioxin that persist in our air, water and soil for decades. Basically we end up eating and breathing our garbage....and paying a high price for it!

Now the County is poised to sign another long-term contract that will mean that millions of our dollars paid for garbage service will go out of the state to a large corporation. A small amount will stay with Marion County. And customers will continue to subsidize this service.

As the incinerator ages there is pressure to expand it and to make it last even longer. But an expansion not only means more money, it means more pollution. Covanta and Marion County claim that they meet all DEQ and EPA standards. And while this is true, it does not mean that it does not produce significant damage to us. Ask any physician how much lead is safe to ingest and they will say zero. Yet the current standards allow Covanta to release pounds of lead each year. We ban BPA in some of our plastics like food and baby toys, but that does not mean that it is not in other plastics that the incinerator burns and then releases. These by-products are persistent in our water, soil and get into the plants that we eat. While the incinerator is not within our UGB, the pollution drifts into the Salem area, especially the hills of south Salem. Global Warming is increasing. Technology is changing. The recycling industry is changing. The Legislature is working on increasing air quality standards. Is it a good idea for Marion County to be signing a 20-year contract with Covanta? Is it wise to tie us this way of disposing of garbage?

Salem is producing more garbage even before the China ban on recycling. Why are we not working on alternative methods? Why are we not working on zero waste where we produce less garbage?

True this is under the Marion County Commissioners control, but Salem is the largest producer of the waste. Salem residents are the main customers of the incinerator. Salem City Council has a right...I think a responsibility to take a direct interest in the situation.

Before the City Council even considers raising the garbage fees some very serious questions need to be asked by the City Council and they need to get some much needed honest answers from Marion County.

- 1) Why are our rates in Marion County among the highest in the state?
- 2) What does the requirement imposed by the Marion County Commission that we burn our garbage in the Covanta owned incinerator do to our rates?
- 3) What is the impact of a rate increase on the low-income residents of Salem who are already struggling to pay their bills? What percent will stop having service and what will that do to issues of litter and dumping in rural areas?
- 4) What will happen to rates if the Legislature passes a Clean Energy Jobs Bill as the Governor and Senate President promised if Covanta/Marion will need to pay for their 160,000 metric tons of CO2 pollution every year?
- 5) Why did Metro in 2017 decide not to send their garbage to Covanta/Marion incinerator? Their findings pointed to concerns about environmental issues and cost!

Before there is another rate increase the Council needs to have a work session with Marion County and get some real answers. Please do not continue to ignore the real reason why we keep having to raise the garbage fees.

November 13, 2018

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From: Susann Kaltwasser
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Before there is another rate increase the Council needs to have a work session with Marion County and get some real answers. Please do not continue to ignore the real reason why we keep having to raise the garbage fees.

Amy Johnson

From: Joan Lloyd <jello879@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 12, 2018 11:09 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder; Chuck Bennett
Subject: Solid waste collection rates

In Marion County the rate for a 20 gallon bin would be \$2.75 and for a 35 gallon bin, the rate would be \$2.85. That's only

10 cents more for 3/4 more solid waste. The folks who throw away less are being punished. If the point of the increase is that people will dispose of more solid waste, the smaller containers should be charged much less.

Joan Lloyd
1577 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Amy Johnson

From: Caroline OBrien <mygardenshoes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2018 10:51 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: sanitation rate hikes

To whom it may concern,

Until the City Council has held a work session or work sessions to explore all the alternatives to burning our garbage in a costly incinerator that pollutes our air with 160,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases annually, all to benefit a multinational corporation, I absolutely and unequivocally OPPOSE any rate hike.

Thank you,
Caroline O'Brien
1692 Carilor Court NE
Salem/Keizer

Amy Johnson

From: Nancy Pfeiler <nancypfeiler6@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 8:03 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Garbage Rate Increase

Good morning. I am sending my second to a comment you received from Sarah Deumling:
Nancy Pfeiler
448 Sunwood Dr NW, Salem, OR 97304

My name is Sarah Deumling and my house is located at 2667 Orchard Heights Rd. NW.

I have no problem with an increase in our rates for garbage collection, in fact I think it is a fine idea if it is used strategically to encourage folks to throw away less. Perhaps the first very small container free and steep incremental increases for ever larger quantities. Being very concerned about our rapid depletion of many of the earths resources and the impending serious consequences of climate change on our communities I have worked hard to purchase very carefully and have just one brown paper bag of "impossible" (not compostable or recyclable) garbage every 3 months with no negative impact on my life style. I realize this is not possible for everyone but we can all cut back.

My biggest concern, however, is that we send our east side garbage to an incinerator which emits more greenhouse gases than any other enterprise in Marion County along with other toxic pollutants and this in a low socio-economic part of the county. Before rushing to raise rates please consider seriously other alternatives for waste removal and all possible incentives to reduce amounts of residential, commercial and industrial waste in our area. The latter will be good for our pocketbooks and good for the planet.

I have one serious suggestion for alternatives to Covanta which you might want to look into at the following website:
<https://www.concordblueenergy.com/>

Margaret Mead, ***“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”***

Amy Johnson

From: Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 11, 2018 9:13 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Item 4a for the November 13th Council Meeting
Attachments: Testimony of Jim Scheppke on Agenda Item 4a.docx

Dear City Recorder:

Please accept my testimony for the public hearing on solid waste management rate increases, Item 4a.

Thank you,

Jim Scheppke
1840 E Nob Hill SE, Salem
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559

TESTIMONY OF JIM SCHEPPKE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING ON AGENDA ITEM 4A, ESTABLISHING NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE RATES

November 11, 2018

To the Salem City Council:

I respectfully ask that you delay any action on rate increases for solid waste management services until you are able to hold a work session to gather more information about this matter. The portion of Salem in Marion County already has among the highest rates in the entire state. Many Salem citizens struggle to pay their garbage bill. Why is this the case? You owe it to your constituents to find out before raising rates any further.

Here are three specific concerns about the staff report I wish to bring to your attention:

1) EOW 20-GALLON SERVICE

I dispute the account of the roll out of this service in the staff report. I am apparently the one person in Salem who now receives this service at a reduced cost, but it was not the result of any "outreach" from my service provider, Republic. After waiting patiently for this service to be available I called Republic in June, 2018, to ask about this. The service representative I talked to had no knowledge of it and did not offer to inquire about it and get back to me. It took an email from me to Ryan Zink of the City staff to finally get a call from Julie Jackson, a manager at Republic, who offered me the service which began in June. She told me that I would be the "pilot test" which I found to be very peculiar! I still get the service for \$40.70 for two months, a savings of only \$6.40, but I'll take it. I want this service because my wife and I work hard to reduce our garbage and we cannot fill a 20-gallon container every week. I think if EOW garbage service were promoted in Salem there would be many smaller households like ours that would take advantage of it. We all need incentives to live a less wasteful lifestyle, which anyone can do if they work at it.

2) APPLES TO ORANGES COMPARISONS

I wanted to comment that I found the bar charts in the staff report comparing Salem's residential rates to other cities to be very misleading. It seems to suggest that Salem/Marion has the third highest rates and that Wilsonville and Gresham have higher rates. And yet the "Comparative Rate Summary" Gresham and Wilsonville both have weekly recyclables service, making this an "apples to oranges" comparison. What the "Comparative Rate Summary" shows is that Salem/Marion now has the *highest* rate for weekly garbage and yard waste service and EOW recyclable service.

3) "SUBSIDIZATION"?

While Salem has among the highest residential garbage rates in the state, we apparently have the lowest commercial rates, according to the bar chart in the staff report. The staff report explains that "other jurisdictions allow subsidization," presumably of residential ratepayers by commercial ratepayers. That is an interesting way to frame it. Do we really know the true cost of service for commercial ratepayers vs. residential ratepayers? I think it more likely that business-friendly Salem City Councils in the recent past endeavored to give commercial ratepayers a break, just like they did with the streetlight fees. Maybe I am wrong about that, but until the current City Council can answer the question of why we (in Marion County) have the highest residential rates and the lowest commercial rates, rates for residential ratepayers should not be increased.

Thank you for your service.

Jim Scheppke
1840 E. Nob Hill SE
Salem

Amy Johnson

From: Alicia Wilson <alicia.wilson03@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2018 3:55 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Opposition to garbage fee increase

I sincerely oppose an increase in garbage rates. Every other month Suburban Garbage Company charges a \$15.00 "contamination" fee, they charged me for this fee on a date that they did not even pick up my trash, and I called and had to fight to get them to refund me. They are fraudulent in their billing methods, and take advantage of consumers. If I am charged anymore for this horrible service, I will cancel my services and will promote the fact of my cancellation to persuade my peers in the community to do so also. It makes absolutely no sense for this company to pick up less recycling, yet charge us more. Also, because my bill was so high (\$82.00), I asked for a smaller trashcan to make my charges more manageable, then I was charged an \$18.00 fee to do so. This is the worst trash company I have ever encountered. This message is not out of resent, it is sincere in opposing the unnecessary increase.

Also, they had a rate increase last year. It is not necessary to charge more. I assume that the real reason behind wanting an increase is because people may be cancelling services from all of the fraudulent contamination fees being charged.

They should not be permitted to provide less, negative, and unprofessional services, and be able to charge more for it. Listen to the consumers voices. These are the highest charges in the state.

Additionally, the city should request a justification from Marion County that may provide a detailed cost of services analysis that is charged at the incinerator and maybe DECREASE the fees.

I OPPOSE THE RATE INCREASE.

Alicia Wilson
SE Salem Resident