

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PLANNING COMMISSION CANDIDATE

CANDIDATE: Alton Hoover

PLEASE RESPOND IN WRITING BY: Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 5 p.m.

PLEASE SEND TO: Lynda Rose
Assistant to Mayor Chuck Bennett
VIA EMAIL: lrose@cityofsalem.net
OR VIA FAX: 503-588-6354

1. Please explain your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Planning Commission.

The Salem Planning Commission acts as an advisory commission to the Salem City Council as established in Salem Revised Code Chapter 6, The Planning Commission advises City Council on issues ranging from traffic congestion relief and sidewalks, to housing and zoning regulations, and more. The Planning Commission has outlined the projects, plans, and studies that will be the bulk of its work for the next two years. The Planning Commission has a broad scope of concern in promoting the orderly development and growth of the City of Salem. The Planning Commission has adopted a work plan to outline its goals for the next year. The Planning Commission plays an integral role in the long-range planning projects that are underway or will begin within the timeframe of the Work Plan.

2. What skills, knowledge and perspectives do you possess that will enable you to be an effective member of the Commission?

I have over 25 years of business and service experience. I have served as a Vice President of Engineering, Chief Technical Officer and Chief Operating Officer at the corporate level with operating and financial/budgeting responsibility. I am a former member of the research faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a former principal investigator for the National Science Foundation. I am also a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Home Builders. I previously served on the City of Napa Civil Service Commission as a elected member and co-chairman.

I believe that my leadership, planning, budgeting and communications skills are assets that I can contribute if selected to fill a position on the Salem Planning Commission. I believe in building strong collaborative business and personal relationships and giving back to the community.

I have 25+ years of experience in management and technology services. My experience with Georgia Tech, the National Science Foundation NSFnet, Advanced Network &

Services/AOL, FAME Information Services, ClickRadio, Luna Imaging, Spare Backup, PeoplePoint Systems and Future Income Payments provide me with a unique background and set of skills that I believe would be an excellent match for the Salem Planning Commission.

3. One of the most common application types you will hear at the Planning Commission is a Comprehensive Plan Change and Zone Change, where an applicant wants to change their zoning to facilitate a development proposal. What is your perspective regarding responding to the current market versus maintaining a long term vision?

I believe that there is a balance that must be observed when reviewing applications for a Comprehensive Plan Change and Zone Change. The City of Salem Comprehensive Plan and Zoning provide both a plan and framework for the management of long term development and orderly growth for the city and our residents and a vision of Salem into the future. Although all plans are subject to the impact of changes to the environment and business climate, it is important that applications are reviewed and approved or denied within the context of the Comprehensive Plan and hearing/review process.

4. What are some examples of how you believe Salem has done a good job of land use and transportation planning? What are some areas for improvement?

State Street Corridor Plan including the adoption of new zoning and a new street design for the State Street corridor should provide a much-needed revitalization of State Street between 12th and 25th streets with the aim of developing a vibrant, pedestrian/bicycle friendly, mixed-use corridor. The State Street Corridor Plan also introduces more consistent the MU-I and MU-II mixed use zones to replace the patchwork of zones within the area. The new street design incorporates wider sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and a reconfiguration of the western portion of State Street roadway into two travel lanes with a center-turn lane, bike lanes, and much needed on-street parking.

As for areas for possible improvement, I personally believe that the downtown business area bordered between State and Marion and Front and Church seems to need a plan for revitalization and consistent use to draw residents and visitors alike to the area. Also the city needs to address the issue of the homeless living on the streets as a part of the City Planning process as this is a long term issue.