

Amy Johnson

From: Cara Kaser
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 10:35 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Fwd: Feb 11th council meeting items

Cara Kaser
Salem City Councilor, Ward 1
ckaser@cityofsalem.net

From: Alex Bauman <alexpbauman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 10:02:55 AM
To: Cara Kaser
Subject: Feb 11th council meeting items

Dear Councilor Kaser,

I'm writing as your constituent to offer my thoughts on two important items that will be presented at the council meeting on February 11th:

Item 3.3c There are a couple bills that I strongly disagree with the recommendations of the Legislative Committee on:

HB2001 should have the support of everyone who is concerned with healthy cities and affordable housing. There is simply no legitimate policy interest in the regulation of the number of locked doors within a detached residential structure. If you are concerned about density, regulate the number of residents. If you are concerned about parking, regulate the number of parking spaces. Limiting the number of units within a structure limits the amount of houses available and the amount of options a property owner has, which drives up the cost of housing. The City of Salem has an interest in increasing housing options and decreasing housing prices, so it should support this bill.

HB2306 is a common-sense measure to increase the speed with which new housing is permitted in Oregon. It is already a tool that is in operation in many states and has not caused significant problems. The City of Salem should be concerned with the provision of new housing, given that the state of Oregon is in a housing crisis caused by insufficient supply of new housing.

Item 5.a Salem is probably the worst city in Oregon to walk in, which probably puts it in the lower third of US cities for walking conditions. The reason for this is primarily the level of regional traffic that is funnelled through the city due to the lack of provision for crossings of the Willamette River. Because the conditions for biking and walking in Salem are so unfavorable compared to driving conditions, and because biking and walking are considerably better for the environment than driving is, every transportation decision the City Council makes should be made with an eye toward improving biking and walking conditions. While the Salem River Crossing is primarily a project for motor vehicles, it will significantly benefit people biking and walking by removing regional car traffic from city streets. Unfortunately, ODOT's design has major impacts on the neighborhoods on the eastern bridgehead and west of Marine Park. However, the benefits of this project to the city as a whole outweigh these impacts, so the project should be approved by the Council while continuing to press ODOT for changes to the bridgehead designs.

Thank you for your time in considering my opinion on these issues, and for your service as city councilor.
Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do to put my opinion into the public record on these issues.
I have only recently moved to Salem and every city treats public record a little differently.

Thanks,

Alex Bauman
295 1/2 15th St NE