

Your Name	steve reed
Your Email	<a href="mailto:skylarson@yahoo.com">skylarson@yahoo.com</a>
Your Phone	503 5855282
Street	330 rural ave s.
City	salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Please do not raise water rates. I am a senior living on fixed income, thanks.

Your Name	Wayne klug
Your Email	<a href="mailto:wayne_klug@yahoo.com">wayne_klug@yahoo.com</a>
Your Phone	5033997585
Street	1420 PARKWAY DR NW
City	SALEM
State	OR
Zip	97304
Message	<p>I live alone in my household. I use between 1 and 1,5 units of water a month. When I purchased my house in the city limits my utility bill was \$35 bi-monthly. It is now my largest monthly utility bill and I have no choice for services. I can't live here without water. Seems odd that gas, electric, and internet cost less than city services. I feel like the city of Salem is pricing me out of living in Salem. Seems like more productivity with the resources at hand might help reduce costs. I guess that's what happens when unions control the government..</p>

Your Name	Lois J Devine
Your Email	<a href="mailto:theoregondevines@outlook.com">theoregondevines@outlook.com</a>
Message	<p>In only a few years our water bill has gone from less than \$100. every other month to 170. monthly. We have a good income and are able to pay our bill. Covid 19 and these awful fires have not harmed our household the way many others have suffered. It is the wrong time to once again increase the water. I would rather continue to give to the food bank regularly than pay more for water!</p>

I am against the proposed rate increases. My home is a small, 1256 square foot home and I already pay \$73.99 or more a month. I would hope that people pay roughly the same rate throughout Salem, of course considering the quantity of water used. This does not seem to be the case. Why do people in NE Salem pay less than those of us residing in South Salem?

Furthermore, people are already dealing with enough financial stress due to Covid 19 and the horrible fires/smoke we have been dealing with. It is NOT the right time for another increase in bills.

Honestly, I just feel that the rates you charge are already too high!!

Thank You,

**Scott Evers**

**971-563-2885**

[socksymbol@earthlink.net](mailto:socksymbol@earthlink.net)

Hello. My name is Ben Reed and I live in south Salem.

I am categorically opposed to the rate increase as the city is already gouging it's residents with the water bill.

For example, I have a streetlight fee on my bill, despite the fact that I have no streetlights on my street. Why am I paying a streetlight fee for lights that I do not have? I am actually double billed for that by the very fact that, since there are no street lights, most residents, including myself, have their outdoor lights on to provide the illumination that the streetlights that we are paying for should be providing.

Another example is the backflow maintenance fee. Salem charged a monthly maintenance fee for something that the city requires the residents to check (and pay for) annually. If there is a problem we are told that we will have to pay for the repairs. So what exactly is the backflow maintenance fee for considering the city has passed that expense onto the resident?

If the city wishes to repair and replace aging infrastructure it can use the money it has already been collecting for services that it does not provide.

Respectfully,  
Ben Reed

While I recognize that additional funds may be needed to maintain & increase the city water, sewer & wastewater system, I believe that this is not the right time to increase customer rates.

Of course, there is an element that objects any time new fees, rates or taxes are mentioned, and no one likes to pay out more money. While my pocketbook may say "Ouch!," I don't typically raise an objection because Salem is a growing city with an aging infrastructure that requires updating.

2020, however, has impacted nearly everyone in a negative way financially. Some are in dire straits and are likely to continue there for at least 6 months to a year based on economists predictions. Others have had to tighten the budget in one way or another and are hoping for some relief, again in 6 to 12 months. I don't know anyone who has not been impacted at least by increased costs for groceries & other necessities.

For these reasons, I urge you to delay enacting rate increases on the basic necessities of water, sewer & wastewater disposal. Our community needs time to recover economically & to feel somewhat whole again after the ongoing problems 2020 has delivered.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Wolfe

Date: 09/17/2020 3:07 PM

Subject: Proposed Water, Wastewater and Stormwater

I am requesting a review of this taxation on our property. We receive NO city services at all. All run off water goes into our own property or into Marion County property. We live on a small private road with 3 homes. We do not have street lights, street sweepers, sidewalks, sewers, water or drains of any kind on or near our property. Our services are maintained by Hiland Water Co. Our water and sewer are under there jurisdiction. The water comes from private wells.

I am wondering how the city can justify taxing (taxation without representation or any services) our property.

I spoke with Mayor Bennett and it seemed he could see that asking to be removed from this tax was a valid request.

Every year this tax increases and adds more frustration plus a drain on finances. Adding this tax to our already high city taxes is absolutely annoying and without any foundation. According to the information on the notification the basis for this tax is determined by the "amount of impervious area on the property and amount of water used." The city has no record of the water used because we do not use city water therefore water used and waste water are completely an unknown to you the city. As far as storm water runoff, it has no bearing on the city as it only goes into county property after it has passed completely through our property.

This tax is very similar to taxing me at the grocery store for buying feed for the horses in someone else's pasture.

E want this tax removed from our property.

Sue Rende

3315 Augusta National Drive S

Salem Oregon 97302

[suerende@comcast.net](mailto:suerende@comcast.net)

9/15/2020

1. Why are you going up 3% in an economy where everyone has lost their jobs, businesses haven't even come close to their previous numbers or margins? My business is running about 65%, which means I'm below profit or losing each month. I can't imagine what all of the other businesses in town are doing, some are closing their doors. People are working modified hours, so they are taking in less income. I also coach baseball at South Salem HS, we just gave all our donors a break for 2021, pushing their funds to from 2020 to 2021, it's our community working together, helping each other out! I can see a 2% increase across the board, not 3%, 3%, and 5%, who increases charges by 5% these days? It doesn't make sense!

2. We just had our street torn up for new water lines, it was a patch work job. I asked the guy today if they are going to re-pave our street, he said the city is cheap and doesn't want to spend any more money on the project! What! It is embarrassing what it looks like now! You should finish the job completely, the real value of our city goes down by the way our streets look. We pay a water tax, gas tax, and property tax to support keeping our roads looking good! Don't short change our community....we are the ones paying the bills for the city.

Dan Farrington  
2615 Sunrise Ave. S  
Salem, OR 97302  
503-930-5974 cell

FYI- I will supply pictures in another email.









larry fricano

[larryfricano@live.com](mailto:larryfricano@live.com)

503-930-6927

1045 cottagestreet ne

saalem

OR

97301

I just received a City of Salem proposed water, waste water and storm water rate increase. I will be brief but REALLY? At a time when 45 million people are unemployed due to the pandemic. I'm sure I'm one of many Salem residents who are struggling to get by and are utterly appalled to receive this proposed rate increase notice at this time. I oppose this increase.

Your Name	Terri Collins
Your Email	<a href="mailto:tsc740@msn.com">tsc740@msn.com</a>
Your Phone	503-884-6725
Street	158 Rolling Hills Ave SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	Hi Jackie, Hope this isn't a duplicate, couldn't tell if first one went through 🙏 I understand there is a proposed water increase, please vote NO! Currently with so much affecting our daily lives, pandemic, wildfires, worst air quality in the world, we don't need a water increase. I am a senior citizen on a fixed income, immune compromised. Every week groceries cost more. We just don't need an increase for basic necessities right now. If you can do anything on garbage rates, have at it! Terri Collins

Karl Jorgenson

[kmajorgenson@comcast.net](mailto:kmajorgenson@comcast.net)

City of Salem Mailer announcing the public hearing Oct 12, 2020: Please consider Salem Utility Customers are affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Some have lost their jobs, some have had the earning hours reduced and many are staying home turning on facets, flushing toilets, and washing surfaces and clothes more often. All of us are paying more as the result of recent months and many are having difficulties making ends meet. Please be prepared to discuss how rate increases would not be more burden on folks needing to pay 3% plus 3% plus another 5% when there is not a strategy or plan for ending and recovering from this pandemic.

Marilyn Radmacher

[mariclell@comcast.net](mailto:mariclell@comcast.net)

9712183025

3471 Lake Vanessa Circle NW

Salem

OR

97304

Please accept this as my written testimony as NOT IN FAVOR of the proposed water increase. Although \$2.15 to \$3.15 per month may not seem like a significant increase, it is an increase on top of many others concerns. Please consider that many people are still dealing with reduced income and other income issues as a result of the COVID shut down are are still trying to find ways to make ends meet. And now with the fires, many people have been displaced, lost their home and for some even their lives ... and for those with lost or damaged homes, they will have to deal with significant out of pocket expenses while they rebuild and cover individually those things that insurance does not cover. In addition, property taxes have gone up significantly over the last few years and there are more bond measure that are trying to get pushed through as well. Bonds make up almost half of our property tax bill! More and more people in Salem are moving to more affordable areas. I ask that the City of Salem City Counsel "pause" on this proposal and revisit it when the COVID shut down is over and people are back to working and rebuilding -- with their incomes and lives being stabilized. An increase at this time feels like adding "insult to injury" under the current circumstances. I implore the members of our City Counsel to take the above concerns into account and NOT move forward with a water rate increase at this time. Marilyn Radmacher

City of Salem,

I am writing this testimony to express my concern about the proposed rate increases. We are a low class family, parents and three children. Our budget is very tight, we hardly make it with our pay check to pay mortgage, utilities and groceries. We need these public services and increases make it harder to keep up with monthly payments. There are many families like ours that live tight with their pay check. Please consider not increasing this utilities rates.

Salem Utility Customer  
746 Madal Ct NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**From:** [danka8@juno.com](mailto:danka8@juno.com)

**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 11:33 AM

**To:** [citycouncil](#)

**Subject:** Water Rate

Right on schedule, Salem wants another water rate (tax) increase. This scenario has played out for the last twenty years. Sometimes there have been two increases in a year. This time Salem wants two years of increase. What's next? Two years of twice a year increases? Be it a water rate increase or a garbage rate increase the City can be counted on for approval. Property taxes increase. Backflow rate requests are summarily approved. If that's not enough, the City finds a new way to tax (Streetscape). Does greed know no bounds? People on a fixed income have been squeezed enough. Interest rates are near zero percent; social security increases have been 2% or less for four of the last five years and the projected rate increase for next year is 1.3%. But Salem has no shame in wanting rate increases of 3% and 5%. Many residents can no longer afford housing. The more tax and utility rates are increased, the fewer who can afford rent and mortgage payments. Then the City allocates revenue to house these displaced folks. The City is creating the problem it is trying to fix. Revenue in general will be reduced as a result of businesses closing and people losing jobs. This is not the time to require more of people who have less. Rate increases can await better times. Dan Reid Ward 3



Please consider not raising the water, wastewater, and storm water rates. Times are hard enough with Covid taking jobs and making certain items in stores more expensive. My family and I do what we can do conserve water, but our water bill still seems high. Please consider this request and do not raise the rates. Or maybe there could be a credit or incentive system in place for families that try to use less water.

Thanks for your consideration.

Denise De Groot

Here we are again, asking the same old question. The question is why public works needs another increase in rates considering the latest additional charges to our bills for sidewalks and streetlights (for which nothing has been done so far), the \$9 fee to prop up city government, and the debacle at Detroit supposedly over algae last year. Peter Fernandez continues to hold the citizens of this city hostage (even though he should have been fired after the Detroit debacle), with the council's consent, to incessantly raise rates supposedly for certain projects, but somehow the money just never seems to get to these projects. Why is that? I'll tell you. Because Peter is only concerned about lining his own pocket with pay raises for himself and that of his staff. Oh, and don't forget paying for bennies, too. You, the city council, can take all the credit and blame for this state of affairs as you continue, every biennium, to give this man carte blanche and approve his requests. So my question to you all is when are you going to finally stand up to this man and say NO? Considering the debacle over the algae issue (nonexistent), a less than stellar filtration system (also not true), and storage barrels unattended and useless at the time, it is pretty obvious that Mr. Fernandez is deserving of no more funding in the near future. To be blunt, the public works department doesn't do what we pay it for in any capacity, not one. In my neighborhood, the sidewalks have gone from bad when we moved in 20 years ago to deplorable now; very dangerous to walk on so most people have to walk on the streets (not safe) for fear of falling and breaking bones. I, and many others, are sick to death of excuses for this and that from city government and we want you to start standing up for the taxpaying citizens, not Mr. Fernandez and his endless quests for our money, not the multitude of vagrants down at Vagrantville on Market Street, just us. We pay you people good money for absolutely nothing. All we get are excuses and more fees and taxes. In fact, our water/sewer bill has so many additional fees and taxes on it, you can't even find what you actually owe for your water and sewer. So grow a spine, council, stand up and take responsibility for all of this and do what is right for once. No water/sewer increases this biennium. None. Mr. Fernandez needs to learn to live within his means as we all do. Good advice for the city, too.

Cheryl A. Eby  
1960 Garfield Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Your Name	D. Edwards
Your Email	<a href="mailto:lane.salemor@gmail.com">lane.salemor@gmail.com</a>
Your Phone	5035808913
Street	5680 Commercial St SE #130
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	<p>Regarding city of Salem water, wastewater, and stormwater rate increases: Dear Madam and Sirs, I just wanted to give my opinion regarding these increases. In light of circumstances during 2020, ie: covid-19, forest fires, unemployment rates, etc. etc., I think it is the worst time possible to be increasing rates of any kind. Frankly it absolutely floors me that the city would be considering rate increases of any kind, including upcoming property taxes, (although that is not the topic at this moment), especially given the inexcusable inefficiency regarding getting unemployment payments to Oregonians. It seems unfathomable that the budget cannot somehow handle skipping a rate increase this time around in light of what all Oregonians have dealt with this past year. The fact that the unemployment department has sat on roughly \$85 million for the past 10 years instead of using the money to upgrade a system that is so obviously in need is disgusting and inexcusable. I fully realize that all of these agencies operate independently, but I'm sure you can understand the frustration that the average Oregonian has regarding these issues. I also find it difficult to understand why increases of these percentages are necessary given the fact that Salem has had a huge increase in population the last several years, resulting in mass revenue from new property taxes, etc. Please forgo any and all increases for this year, at least. I believe if it keeps up, many Oregonians will choose to leave a state we all love and let the newcomers deal with the exuberant cost of living here. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>