

Hello City Council Members,

I would like to comment on the proposed Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Rate Increases. I do not think it is the correct time to raise rates. There is a record number of folks unemployed and there are folks who can not pay their mortgages or rents on their homes as well as small businesses are struggling to stay open. There are families and individuals that are going hungry because they do not have enough funds. Not to mention the myriad of problems caused by the unprecedented pandemic. In the midst of all of this, the Salem city council is recommending a rate increase when people can least afford it.

I strongly suggest the proposed rate increase be postponed until the economy improves. This would be the right thing to do. Think about the burden it would put on the families and seniors that are having a very hard time making ends meet. Again, I strongly recommend postpone the rate increase to allow time for the economic circumstances to improve for people. There is no immediate need to increase rates.

Best regards,

Fred Todd

To Whom It May Concern:

It seems inevitable that the City of Salem will increase rates and levy new fees at practically every turn. This in addition to miscellaneous levies and property taxes already in place. The process of funding the new police station seems exemplary. First a proposal was made that soundly was rejected by voters as being too expensive. Then a more reasonable proposal was passed, only to see increased costs taken from other tax revenue before the month was out. It seems high time to me that the City focused on its core services (firefighting, police, & infrastructure) and cut its expenses for less necessary expenditures (such as tax breaks for Amazon & supplemental funding for various local businesses). Until such reductions are evident, I can't support such rate increases as those proposed.

Sincerely,

Paul Richardson

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I live alone, I wash clothes once a week maybe two loads a week. I've only recently started watering my front yard a little bit. But my water bill has been \$73 per month. This feels like an enormous price. My address is 283 Delmar Drive N. My neighbor at 243 Delmar Drive N. lives alone as well. And he's never home. He works literally all the time. And his water bill is \$79 a month. So we already feel like that's astronomical. And to think about adding anything to it is severe. I would like to see it decreased by half. I would certainly like to see a decrease. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Barbara Sandberg