

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Carole Smith <carole@smithkittle.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Johnson  
**Subject:** Testimony for tonight on water/sewer increase

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

Did you wake up from your naps and decide to be more mean to the citizens you have sworn to represent? You raise their water/sewer bills during a pandemic? How cruel can you be?

So many Salem citizens have lost their jobs, are laid off, collecting unemployment, businesses are closed or struggling, people are foregoing rent to provide food, people are living on dwindling savings and you raise the water/sewer rates on people? Are you totally unaware of what is happening in America right now? How people, businesses, non-profits and others are suffering?

Well, your past actions show us that you are ONLY interested in projects or policy that city staff want, nothing for what citizens want. You conned us into supporting a \$61 million Police Station that is 10% larger than our entire city hall and then you raid our downtown Urban Renewal funds for another \$7.5 million in 2017-19 for "other" improvement around the police palace. You think we don't notice, but we do. You are stealing from our future to insure city staff get their dreams fulfilled.

The one project Salem citizens supported - the citizen designed Downtown Streetscape project - you killed by turning it over to city staff who dumbed it down, cheapened it up, and copied other smaller towns so we don't have anything cool or innovative. Now we are fighting against a ruined Streetscape plan we didn't have input into and we don't want. Thanks. Great job. But in the meantime, you funded, designed and built an entire police palace. I guess it's not too difficult to see where YOUR priorities are. They are NOT our priorities.

Instead of raising this issue before the May primary, when you are elected, you do it after you are all secure in your elected positions. Cowards. If citizens supported this action you wouldn't be doing it now, you would have done it BEFORE we voted, not after. Again, you think you are outsmarting citizens but you are just cowards doing something you know we don't want. But as long as city staff are taken care of, you don't care about us. That's been made abundantly clear.

Another problem you have foisted on downtown is the Salem Lane Street Association. They are useless and harmful to downtown and you should stop supporting them unless the majority of downtown business/property owners agree they want them. Chuck Bennett put these idiots in power so he could control them. We don't want them or their dumb ideas. They spent hundreds of thousands of our Urban Renewal funds to "decorate" and name an alley. It looks awful and has done NOTHING to help downtown. Then you add insult to injury by saving restaurants at the expense of all the other businesses downtown. You let restaurants block off parking spaces paid for by all businesses, restrict customer parking for retail/office/service/etc so restaurants can survive-but no one else. Why don't you care equally about ALL businesses downtown? Then you send out Parking Tax invoices. Telling businesses that they owe parking tax for the whole year even though they were forced to be closed several months. If you are going to force us to accept your crumbs at least you can send out a survey asking downtown business/property owners IF THEY SUPPORT Lane Street. Staff are obviously lying to you if you think we support them and their old, worn out, dumb ideas. Why do you suppress all the creativity downtown?

Well, have fun tonight sticking it to the citizens you swore to represent. Don't give an inch since you are already elected. Just once in awhile do something WE WANT done - and let us determine what that is and how it done, not city staff. Represent us.

Carole Smith

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Michael Sedlock <msedlo0210@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:48 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Proposed water rate increase

This is a terrible time to increase water, storm water and sewer rates. Due to the pandemic many people are unemployed and struggling to pay mortgages, rent, buy food or pay utility bills. The city council represents the citizens of Salem and should realize people are struggling to survive. Many businesses are closed or barely getting by and additional expenses will continue to hurt recovery. Please delay this increase for another year and look for alternative ways to cover this rate increase.

Sent from my iPad

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Robert@htipllc.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 3:34 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Utility Rate Hearing Comments  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Robert Hornaday
Your Email	Robert@htipllc.com
Your Phone	503-949-6219
Street	1240 Columbia St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	<p>Dear City Counsel, I find it hard to believe my water bill should be so high. The comments on the Proposed Rate Increase page of the website indicate 3%, 3% and 5% increases for the next two years (so more than double those amounts). My water bill for the month of October (not the highest use month) has steadily risen apx. 15% in 2018 and 2019 and right at 20% this year. Where does it end and why should I believe these estimates? My bill this month is just 12 cents shy of \$100. There is just the 2 of us and we don't water the lawn or wash our cars. We use a drip system for watering our small garden space. It appears in the past the water fund has been used as a cash cow for non-water related projects. If that is the case please make it stop and pass an ordinance that guarantees it will not happen in the future. We are not in favor of the proposed rate increases. Thank you, Robert Hornaday</p>

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## Amy Johnson

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**From:** Terry Williams <williams4676@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Ciry Council meeting 10/12/2020

I would like to submit my comments to the City Council tonight concerning the rate increase proposal on the agenda. My name is Terry Williams and I have lived at 4676 32nd Ave SE for 42 years. My property is inside the city limits by approx 500 yards. I live on a street that has no city services that affect my property except the stormwater bill I am receiving.

I only started receiving a bill as a graduated payment schedule until we reached the regular payment 5 years ago (10 years total). I do believe I should have never been put on this payment plan at the time the City Council decided to bill everyone in the city limits even if the services were not available. I talked with a man named Eric and he said I would have to approach the city council for any change of this status, I'm sorry to say I never did. The payment seemed minimal at the time.

Since November of 2015 the payment has doubled, and is scheduled for another 5% increase. I still have no services. I have NO sewer, NO water, and NO stormwater drains. I was in the underground stormwater manufacturing business for 30 years. I have a ditch along the street which I have to keep cleaned out and mowed and it drains "no where". We don't even have a culvert under our driveway. We are also paying for street lights which again, we do not have. The side of property is along Litchfield St and I and the neighbor also clean and maintain that ditch.

Since all this has begun we have retired and are on Social Security. This is an expense I can not justify, because I do not get the service I am supposedly paying for,

We ask the council to "Grandfather" our property from the necessity of paying the fee.

Please gracefully accept this request, looking forward to hearing from you.

Terry Williams  
503.370.7105

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** VICKIE WRIGHT <vickiewright@netscape.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Utility rate hike

10-12-2020

Dear Members of the City of Salem Council,

I propose the the Council table this utility rate hike and address a potential rate hike in the fall of 2021.

Here are the reasons why:

1. We just had an \$8.00 rate hike earlier this year on all homes and duplexes. I would think that apartment complexes and businesses were includes with a rate hike that would be passed down to consumers. How much money did that generate for the city of Salem? That rate hike is every month and according to Courtney Knox Bush, will continue every year. What is that money used for?
2. Just because you had 3% rate hikes every year since 2012, doesn't mean they should continue on that bases. The more you raise the more you will spend rather than use the budget you have.
3. You should not base our rates on what other cities rates are. Our city should be based on the needs of our community.
4. 2020 has been a horrible year for everyone. Many people, including me, have been laid off or lost their job due to Covid. Many people are losing their homes. This is not the time to raise taxes.

Again, this is not a normal year with business as usual. Please reconsider and do not burden the citizens of Salem with higher taxes.

Thank you,

Vickie Wright

## Amy Johnson

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of wallylantz@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Contact City Recorder  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Wallace D. Lantz
Your Email	wallylantz@hotmail.com
Your Phone	5039323375
Street	565 Welcome Way SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	Regarding the Proposed Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Increases. It is hard for me that City Council has no heart as to what is going on with the citizens of Salem due to the Covid 19, the council wants to make it harder for people to pay their water bills. There are so many people unemployed and have run out of their unemployment, yet the Council does not care! This is not the time to be raising any City of Salem rates! Have a heart!!

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