

## CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—November 26, 2019

Prepared for Mayor and Councilors. Please contact Steve Powers, City Manager, for additional information.

### ***At Your Service!***

Salem Fire Department Captain Willy Giddings is the 2019 recipient of the prestigious Gerry Frank Meritorious Achievement Award. The Award is named after Honorary Fire Chief Gerry Frank. The award exemplifies the highest standard of excellence in community service above and beyond normal duties. Captain Giddings has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the community by teaching, leading and coordinating the CPR in schools and installing automated external defibrillators (AED) in public spaces throughout Salem. Captain Giddings takes it upon himself to provide exceptional support and customer service to the Salem-Keizer area schools and businesses through the CPR/AED program. He has dedicated his time to work with the Salem Fire Foundation to create a successful model for delivering a valuable community risk reduction program. Captain Giddings leads the program with dedication, integrity and professionalism.

### ***Upcoming Issues***

House Bill 2509 passed in 2019 prohibiting retail stores and restaurants from providing single-use checkout bags to their customers. The state-wide ban goes into effect on January 1, 2020. The December 2 council agenda will have first reading of deleting the City's plastic bag ban. The City's ordinance is redundant with state law.

On the December 2 council agenda will be an information report with an update on the peace mosaic and carousel. The Salem Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has approved the design for the carousel addition and endorsed the location for the peace mosaic on the building addition's west wall. The Salem Public Art Commission has also endorsed the peace mosaic location and placement.

### ***Council Follow-up***

Staff continue to meet with neighborhood associations and community organizations regarding the revenue initiatives and other topics. For example, at the Grant Neighborhood Association general meeting, an update from me on drinking water was followed by Lisa Anderson-Ogilvie on Our Salem, who was followed by Greg Walsh on emergency preparedness.

## ***Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure***

Earlier this year, the City applied for a federal 2019 BUILD grant for McGilchrist Street SE. The U.S. Department of Transportation announced this week the BUILD awards for 2019 and McGilchrist was not awarded a grant. The project would rebuild McGilchrist Street from the current two-lane road into one with additional travel lanes, turn lanes, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, planting areas, and green stormwater infrastructure. Salem and SKATS MPO have invested more than \$10.8 million in the design. The \$900 million in federal funding went to 55 projects in 35 states. Oregon received one grant for a roadway widening project in Medford.

The algae\toxin season has ended. The slow sand filters, powdered activated carbon, and chlorine worked to keep our drinking water safe to drink! This year was worse than last year for harmful algae blooms (HAB). The 2019 HAB season started around June and was elevated and prolonged compared to 2018, with toxins and algal blooms well into October. This can be attributed to the relatively mild temperatures this fall. The ozone treatment project is on schedule for completion in the spring of 2021. Council will receive a staff report on the 2019 algae season and drinking water.

## ***Safe Community***

At this year's Halloween Dress Rehearsal, hosted by the Police Department, more than 1,500 children and adults had fun and learned safety tips.

## ***Good Governance***

Rob Rennert, Facilities, came up with a cost-saving idea and it was implemented at the Civic Center. The previous bulky air filter system took 64 labor hours a year to change filters. The new system takes eight hours a year to change filters. Also, the cost of new filters are more than four times less expensive than what was being used. Installation costs were \$4,046 installed. Total ongoing annualized savings for this little project will be \$6,128. A small example of the organization being efficient with the resources entrusted to us by City Council.

## ***Welcoming and Livable Community***

Salem is one of 506 cities that are evaluated and scored by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation on inclusivity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. Salem scored 90 out of 100 points. The scorecard includes non-discrimination laws, the City as an employer, City services, law enforcement, and leadership.

SEDCOR and Huggins Insurance hosted the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Valley Association of Realtors, and the Home Builders Association of Marion and

Polk Counties for an event to participate in the Our Salem project. Feedback was very positive.

The City, through the Human Rights Commission, participated in the international transgender Remembrance Day on November 20. Salem’s event was at Center 50+ There were 45 attendees, up from 30 a year ago.

***Downtown***

Holiday banners have been installed. There will be signage regarding free parking. Security services will be increased in the parkades. Electrical service, infrastructure, and funding limitations combine to prevent robust holiday lighting in the downtown. Fixing the electrical issues is part of the scope of the streetscape project. For the last couple of years, the City has had lights available for downtown businesses to borrow to put up in their windows. Participation has not been high.

***Safety***

Through work by all departments, led by Risk Management, the City has a five-year decline in workplace safety incidents. As a result, this year the City received the best workers compensation experience rating we have on record – going back to 1996! Work will continue maintaining and improving these results.

***Natural Environment Stewardship***

The climate actions audit is underway. The audit will review and document the City’s (organization) actions – projects, practices, programs, and plans – from the past decade aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change. The review will include a comparison of the City’s actions to actions in other adopted city climate action plans. The audit will lay the foundation for drafting a Salem-specific climate action plan. The final report on the audit is scheduled to be completed by the end of January.

The City is assisting PGE install six electric vehicle charging stations on the 900 block of State Street adjacent to the Capitol.

The energy cogeneration project at the Willow Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility will be on line in March.

***Partnerships***

Eligible non-profits and for-profit developers in Salem and Keizer have been invited to submit proposals for approximately \$1,400,000 in City Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership programs funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Applications will also be accepted for approximately \$400,000 from the City’s General Fund designated

for supportive services. All applications must be submitted by Monday, January 6, 2020 at 5 p.m. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The City Manager serves in an ex-officio capacity on the State Fair Council. The 2019 Fair Attendance was 306,006, down 3.84 percent vs. 2018 and up 6.22 percent vs. an average for the past four years.

Thanks for reading,  
Steve