

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

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

A recent example of heroism,

Police Officer McNichols observed a woman lying on the railroad tracks near Marion and 12th Street NE. He walked toward the woman, who was lying perpendicular on the tracks with her arms crossed under her chin on the steel rail. As he provided an update over the radio, the audible warning of the railroad crossing could be heard, and he informed dispatch a train was approaching. He then called out to the female who refused to move and said she wanted to die. Officer McNichols quickly moved and forcibly removed the woman from the path of the on-coming train. The woman then jumped up and attempted to run away but was held and transported to Salem Hospital for evaluation.

And of customer service,

Sidewalk crew leader Jack Crawley and his team bent over backwards to accommodate our schedules and did it with compassion and professionalism. Jack communicated with me frequently, answering all my questions and assuring me they would be as efficient and accommodating as possible. He was true to his word. He even knew there would be a crew working in our area on Saturday so made sure that crew stopped by to create a walk space for us to get up the driveway and into our house. In these times of staffing shortages, frayed nerves, and uncertain resources, Jack Crawley and his team showed us what excellence is and that it's not in short supply in his world. We couldn't be more grateful and just wanted you to know.

### ***Something Cool***

On November 4, the Union Street Pedestrian Bridge (Railroad Bridge) will join more than 300 landmarks around the world in being lighted in teal to shine a spotlight on Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer Foundation is sponsoring the international awareness event.

### ***Airport***

The City has received \$59,000 in federal ARPA funds. The funds will reimburse the City for the expense of installing a surveillance system at the airport terminal. Any remaining Airport ARPA funds will be used to reimburse operational expenses. Congress allocated ARPA funding specifically for airports.

### ***Finance***

Council's Finance Committee is reviewing the City's investment policy, including considerations of companies' environmental, social, and governance practices. *Oregon Revised Statutes* limit how much of a local government's portfolio can be invested in corporate indebtedness 35%. Local governments can only have five percent of this category invested into any one company. As of September 30, 2021, the City has 11.8

percent of its portfolio invested in short and medium-term corporate notes spread over 12 companies. Any changes to the investment policy would be brought to City Council.

### ***Housing***

The Salem Housing Authority has been hustling to make a November 18 closing date for the Yaquina Hall and Southfair projects. Property adjustments needed for the Southfair piece will likely push the closing to December 16, 2021. The later date still allows the projects to retain Oregon Health Authority funding and current tax credit pricing from US Bank and stay on the overall schedule for completion.

### ***Library***

Sarah Strahl has resigned as the City Librarian. During her time with the City, Sarah oversaw some tremendous improvements in our Library service. She was the driving force behind many enhancements that include the renovations to our Main Library building, the creation of our curbside service, and the delivery of free parking policy. This has been a pivotal chapter in the Library's story and Sarah leaves things better for her service. Sarah will be with the City until November 5; well wishes can be sent to her or to Norm Wright who will relay information on your behalf. Our Deputy City Librarian Kimberley Carroll will act in the City Librarian's capacity.

The Main Library will be open on Tuesdays effective November 8.

### ***Management***

We are monitoring employee turnover. While City services have not been significantly impacted by resignations, full staffing has become increasing difficult.

### ***Natural Environment Stewardship***

The City's construction site runoff control program continues to successfully meet state and federal permit requirements. Public Works, contractors, developers, and engineers develop and implement measures that minimize sediment and pollutants from entering Salem streams. This collaboration happens from plan review through construction. This last fiscal year the program successfully completed/issued:

- 165 CIP and Development Plan Reviews (not including the 484 single family residential over-the-counter reviews).
- 6,379 Site Inspections on 929 projects.
- 434 Enforcement Actions. All deficiencies noted in the enforcement actions have been corrected.

### ***Partnerships***

State of Oregon properties at Front Street, Center Street and Marion Street Bridges are being cleaned-up by ODOT. ODOT works closely with the City on outreach.

### ***Policing***

Salem Police will be part of the FBI's Safe Street Task Force. The Safe Street Task Force identifies and targets for prosecution criminal enterprise groups responsible for drug trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking, and crimes such as murder, aggravated assault, and robbery.

## ***Police Station***

I have authorized improvements to the ventilation system at the Salem Police Station to better protect against COVID and other pathogens. As the COVID pandemic impacted City operations, the project team requested an assessment of measures that could improve the building's ability to respond to airborne health hazards. The resulting recommendation was to implement bipolar ionization technology for each of the building's air handler units along with supporting changes in the building system controls. The Owner's Representative reviewed and recommended the item for approval. This change adds needle-point bipolar ionization devices to the ducting for each of the building's air handler units. The devices use an electric current to create positively and negatively charged ions to attract particles and promote their settling out of the building air flow. The change revises the building ventilation system controls to increase the amount of outside air used and provide more frequent "flushing" of air from the building. The cost of the change is \$100,621. These modifications to the building ventilation system will help protect the health of the occupants and enhance the resiliency of this critical facility. Bipolar ionization is effective for many types of airborne particles including pathogens, bacteria, and volatile organic compounds. The technology has begun to be widely accepted in health care and school settings and, while still relatively new, has a good track record of success. Of the current guaranteed maximum price of \$60,419,561 for the Police Station, the current remaining owner contingency is \$722,759. A few pending items remain before the final close out of the contingency.

## ***Sheltering and Assistance***

The City, Polk and Marion Counties, Pacific Source, and Kaiser Permanente are restarting the effort to open a sobering center in Salem. The group confirmed the sobering center remains an important endeavor and that we all have a shared interest in its success. The group determined a request for proposal is the most effective way to ensure a financially sustainable operations model that will provide a safe place to become sober in our community, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The target date for releasing the RFP is January 2022 with a selection of a provider in April/May 2022. The center will be in the existing ARCHES space.

I have signed the agreement with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) to provide \$150,000 in General Funds for a warming center network. MWVCAA intends to provide a duration, rather than a temperature activated, shelter at a minimum of two sites this winter. An estimated 300 Salem residents will be served.

## ***Upcoming Issues***

On the November 8 City Council Agenda will be an information report on next steps for the infrastructure bond, council committee, and community engagement. The strategy is to seek voter approval of up to \$300 million in General Obligation bonds to make an impact on the City's approximately \$2 billion of infrastructure assets that need routine maintenance, improvements and expansion. Due to several previous bond issues' debt service expiring over the next several years, the City is in a unique position to seek this bond measure ***without*** increasing the estimated FY 2022 bonded tax levy rate of \$1.28 per \$1,000 of property assessed value, over the next ten years.

## ***Web***

We are in a great place to share visual progress on the new website. The draft layout is at this link: <https://visioninternet.invisionapp.com/console/share/5Q35HPX0T2>

Thanks for reading,  
Steve