

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—JUNE 5, 2019

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

Job Well Done!

From a grateful water customer,

Good afternoon, three months ago, our water bill spiked. Your excellent staff helped us troubleshoot the problem to help us determine we had a leak in our supply line. They let us know that leak detection companies can identify where. They also let us know if we fixed the problem, we could receive a credit. After repairing the problem, you were prompt to send out a technician to check our meter and certify no more leak. I just confirmed the credit today. Your excellent staff made this scary and expensive problem one we could approach with knowledge. By and large one of the best customer service experiences I have had in a long time! Thanks to all who helped get this resolved.

And a grateful resident,

Sometime Sunday a large chunk of one of the City's street trees broke off and fell into the street. It was partly blocking the street. I tried to pull it off the street, but it was too heavy. I called PW Dispatch. Within an hour two City employees with a chip truck and chipper drove up by the tree. They shortly had the blockage cleared and were on their way. I thanked the guys, but would also like you to know how impressed I was with the City's response. This is a residential cul-de-sac, not a busy street, but at night it's possible that someone could have driven into the foliage on the street.

Neighborhoods

The second interactive neighborhood association workshop of 2019 was Thursday, May 23. The topic was Salem's Building & Safety Division. Attendees learned about permits, how to get a permit, permitting timelines, and had the opportunity to talk with Rebai Tamerhoulet, Salem's building official.

Federal

I Attended Senator Merkley's town hall and requested a letter of support for the McGilchrist Street project.

State Transportation

ODOT will be presenting engineering results of the Center Street Bridge seismic retrofit to the Mid-Willamette Area Commission for Transportation (MWACT) on June 6, 2019 in the Senator Room at the Courthouse Square. ODOT has offered to

do a presentation for City Council. In April 2019, ODOT and the consultant engineer firm (HDR Inc.) completed the estimate for a seismic retrofit of the Oregon Highway 22 Center Street Bridge to provide seismic resiliency against a Magnitude 8+ Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. Funding for retrofit of this bridge is included in HB2017 (Keep Oregon Moving) for \$60 million, with design work in 2021-2023 and construction in 2024-2026. The estimate of the full cost – including all phases, contingencies, and inflation (3% per year) – is \$100 million.

Drinking Water

The Portland District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oregon Water Resources Department are jointly sponsoring a feasibility study to determine if and how water storage space in the reservoirs can be reallocated during the spring and summer to provide stored water for municipal and industrial water supply, irrigation, and fish and wildlife uses. The Willamette River Basin Review Feasibility Study includes current and projected uses of stored water. Salem has rights to the free flow of the Santiam River, not the stored water behind Detroit Dam. Staff are monitoring the Study process for potential future opportunities for Salem.

I spoke to the East Salem Rotary Club about the City's drinking water and preparations for this algae season.

Volunteers

The City is implementing a volunteer management system. The City has thousands of volunteers who serve the community. The ability to mobilize the City's volunteers in an emergency and to more fully acknowledge our volunteers are among the goals of the project. Once fully implemented, it will provide a consistent experience for the volunteer and streamline the volunteer process. In addition, it will provide the City with more accurate information on available volunteers, volunteer hours, years/terms of service, and volunteer contact information. The system will provide a platform for emailing newsletters, surveys and notification when volunteers may be needed for a particular assignment. The service allows volunteers to sign up for volunteer activities, update their contact information and report their volunteer hours from home, and/or on a laptop or notepad at a department or in the field. Police is using the system, and the process of transferring Emergency Management/CERT, Center 50+, Library, Parks and Recreation is underway.

Homelessness

Union Gospel Mission and ARCHES are successfully incorporating many of the outdoor feeding organizations into their own properties and programs. The goal is to have homeless persons go to shelter sites for food and services. ARCHES worked closely with the City and Marion County to create a structured approach to benevolent meals. ARCHES is collecting copies of food permits and having

organizations agree to ARCHES policies and procedures for consistent meal times, garbage clean-up, and site impacts. ARCHES' goal is to have providers move indoors when the day room and kitchen are complete. Some meals are being provided indoors. An example is Be Bold Ministries monthly "We See You" breakfast. Utilizing a rotation system they served 240 persons in 90 minutes. The indoor distribution has made a notable impact on reducing outdoor garbage. The City has provided a hand-sanitation station and bench to ARCHES. Staff will continue to monitor whether there is a need for a benevolent food permit in the parks through the end of the summer. The ARCHES kitchen installation and day room remodel is scheduled to be completed in August.

Panhandling

There are state laws that prohibit vehicles from impeding traffic (ORS chapter 811) and pedestrians interfering with traffic (814.070). Under the Oregon Constitution, cities cannot impose a higher sanction on conduct, or criminalize conduct, that State law permits. ACLU has sent letters to Albany and other Oregon cities regarding their anti-panhandling ordinances violating the U.S. and Oregon constitution protections of free speech.

Natural Environment Stewardship

I have signed a letter of interest to PGE for the City to participate in PGE's Green Future Impact program. The letter reserves the City's place in line for purchasing power produced by wind or solar. If PGE is able to launch the Green Future Impact program, there will be an agreement between the City and PGE. The letter is necessary because there is a limited availability for the program and participation will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The program includes a budget neutral option that shifts the City's current spend on green energy to the new program, while also improving the City's carbon footprint. This program only applies to City operations and not the Salem community as a whole. The Green Future Impact cost is half the cost (\$1.50/MWh) than the Clean Wind program the City is currently subscribed to (\$3.00/MWh). The Letter of Interest does not obligate the City to sign the Subscriber Agreement, nor does it obligate the City's level of participation in the program. Preliminary analysis shows the highest level of participation would result in an increased electricity cost of approximately \$43,000/year. Final analysis will be provided to City Council if PGE launches the program.

Council Follow-up

The bike share service is scheduled to launch in June. It is being run by [Ride Salem](#). The website contains information about how the service works, the system map, and popular attractions to explore. There is also a space to contact the

operators if a company or organization is interested in exploring a partnership with Ride Salem.

5G (Fifth Generation) wireless facilities are not being installed in Salem in the foreseeable future. All current wireless facilities installations in Salem's right-of-way are an expansion of the existing 4G network. Wireless installations go through a permitting and approval process. As long as the facilities meet FCC standards, the City cannot deny an application based on radio frequency health concerns.

Urban Development

A business inventory is updated each year for parking tax purposes. The current inventory:

- 58 Businesses left downtown between November 2017 and May 2019. Of the 58, the majority were businesses that provided services or health/ wellness professionals that typically are located in upper floors of buildings.
- 137 new businesses between November 2017 and May 2019. Of the 137, the majority (44) were businesses that provide services and (33) health and wellness. 15 new retail businesses and 12 food/beverage are worth noting also since they typically take ground floor space.

Upcoming Issues

We have a tentative contract with the 911 operators. The collective bargaining agreement will be brought to City Council after employees ratify.

Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure

Upcoming bicycle and pedestrian projects include multi-modal crossing improvements at Scotsman Lane NE and Sunnyview Road. NE; Pine Street NE at Maple; Fairgrounds Road NE at Norway; Jones Road SE at Judson Middle School; and Pringle Road SE at Centennial. The Union Street Family Friendly Bikeway will continue with bicycle supportive improvements from Commercial Street west to the intersection of Marion at 12th. Commercial Street SE, Oxford to Winding Way will have buffered bike lanes, street lighting, a pedestrian crossing median island at Triangle Drive SE, and a bike signal at Commercial/Liberty split. Marion Street NE will have a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) crossing at 13th Street NE. Broadway Street NE (Pine to Tryon) will be reconfigured to add bike lanes.

Thanks for reading,
Steve