

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—December 5, 2019

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

At Your Service

After the December 2 council meeting, one of the attendees posted on Facebook,

I feel compelled to thank our Salem Police for being so accessible to our community. Over the years of being involved with various volunteer positions I have first hand witnessed our police showing patience, respect to our unsheltered. When police have been called I always have found them to be respectful. Even when we have disagreed... the officers are always approachable and make themselves available for discussion. This is HUGE and goes a long way with building trust and collaboration.

Upcoming Issues

The Planning Commission is recommending code changes resulting from the Multifamily Housing Design project. The proposed code changes implement recommendations in the Salem Housing Needs Analysis (HNA). Among the commission's recommendations are reducing the parking requirement for multifamily housing near bus stops with frequent service or within Cherriot's Core Network, reducing parking requirements for affordable housing to households earning 80 percent of median family income or less, and changing parking requirements for small projects to one space per studio or one-bedroom unit and 1.5 spaces per two- or more bedroom unit. Planning Commission's recommendations will be coming to City Council next year for a public hearing and final decision. The proposed code changes update Salem's design and other standards for multifamily housing to remove development barriers and ensure that new development is compatible with neighborhoods. The proposed changes do not change where multifamily housing is allowed.

Welcoming and Livable Community

For consideration in the 2020 City Policy Agenda, councilors requested information on a mobile response unit. The Eugene area has CAHOOTS. CAHOOTS includes a mobile response unit. The Willamette Valley United Way and Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency are preparing a Salem-area CAHOOTS pilot program. Staff will have additional information for Council's consideration for the January 20 work session.

The City, through a media release and social media, will be asking residents to consider donating to non-profit organization instead of directly to individuals. The information will include how to donate to organizations that are assisting individuals

and families experiencing homelessness. No matter the size, donations go the furthest towards making a difference through established organizations instead of directly to our unsheltered neighbors on the street.

Center50+ hosted Art from the Heart on December 3. Art from the Heart is the eighth annual event by Art Among Friends. Artists are members of Among Friends Respite and Time with Friends programs. Respite is one of many services provided through Center50+.

Library

After surveying patrons online, discussing with the Library Advisory Board, and analyzing to ensure financial sustainability, the hours for the temporary location and West Salem branch:

Broadway		West Salem	
Monday	Closed	Monday	10-6
Tuesday	10-8	Tuesday	12-6
Wednesday	10-8	Wednesday	12-6
Thursday	10-8	Thursday	Closed
Friday	10-6	Friday	12-6
Saturday	10-6	Saturday	12-6
Sunday	1-6	Sunday	Closed

The hours provide consistency and value to busy patrons. These hours continue seven-day coverage across West Salem and the temporary Broadway location.

The retrofit project is on schedule. Noticeable construction on the library will begin in March. The project scope includes solar panels on the library roof.

Downtown

The developer of the Hollman Riverfront Hotel that will be at 195-197 Commercial St SE (the site of the demolished Marion Parkade) praised staff for their assistance. After the Historic Landmark Commission approved the design, the applicant said Kimberli Fitzgerald and Bryce Bishop were some of the best staff he has ever worked with and that he appreciated that they “held our feet to the fire” on the design because it resulted in a better building. He also thanked Sheri Wahrgren and Urban Development staff for all their hard work to get the project this far. The design was in an information report that City Council considered on December 2. The hotel is a big, exciting milestone for the downtown and the city.

Giving Back

The City employee charitable giving campaign raised \$20,238.50 for a variety of charitable organizations.

Thanks for reading,
Steve