

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE— April 1, 2020

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

At Your Service

Pioneer Cemetery received a boost from Patricia Farrell, Rob Romanek, and Don Gunther from Public Works. They helped the cemetery volunteers complete a comprehensive tree inventory, including a map and spread sheet identifying the type, species, and condition of the cemetery's 229 trees.

Upcoming Issues

For the April 27 council meeting there will be a public hearing on using an alternate project delivery method for the water aquifer project at Woodmansee Park. Salem stores drinking water for backup use in a natural underground aquifer in Woodmansee Park. The project will improve and expand the aquifer system. Signs are up in the park, and we have sent out mailers. Before the 27th, project information will be shared with SPRAB and Faye Wright NA.

Community

Staff are collecting and storing abandoned shopping carts. Staff will then move on to carts that are creating public hazards.

Policy Agenda

On April 8, from 11:00 a.m.—noon, the City will be holding an Our Salem webinar. Anyone can participate by phone, computer, or smart device. The webinar will share the four scenarios for growth and how the scenarios compare to each other. The webinar will be interactive, giving participants the opportunity to ask questions. The project website has information on how to [join the webinar](#).

Planning and Development

Development activity continues. Volume is down this week compared to past weeks. All active projects remain underway. City inspectors, reviewers, and planners are working at regular capacity either through telework or by adhering to social distancing requirements.

On April 7, the Planning Commission will be meeting virtually to consider the Jory Apartment Tax Increment Finance District's compatibility with the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The review is required by state law.

A public dashboard and map showing all active land use applications and recently decided land use decisions is at this [link](#).

Budget and Fiscal Health

I have compressed the Budget Committee meetings to two in May, May 6 and May 13, down from the scheduled five meetings in April and May. Budget staff have followed up with Budget Committee members and will continue to offer electronic and virtual opportunities to review information and answer questions. The City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget will be distributed before the end of April.

Partnerships

The Salem Police Foundation's Breakfast with the Chief raised \$100,000 toward purchase of a training simulator.

Projects

Over the past several months, the Library Improvement Project team and Howard S. Wright (HSW), design-builder for the project, have worked to assemble the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the work. One of the benefits of the Design-Build process is that we can work collaboratively to manage the impacts from COVID-19. The entire project team is already doing just that. Design has been completed, subcontractor bids have been received, and the resulting GMP is within the overall project budget. In fact, bid results were good enough that the project team was able to add roof and HVAC system repairs that will reduce ongoing operations and maintenance costs. The City has accepted the GMP. HSW will have an action plan specific to the Library project that involves remote work for all non-essential personnel and social distancing requirements for all onsite activities. The COVID-19 pandemic will very likely affect material and labor availability for the project. The contract with HSW does allow for equitable recovery of time and costs due to events out of their control. The sooner HSW and their subs are under contract, the sooner they can order long-lead materials and begin to manage any impacts to supply.

The Library project includes public address system and audio-visual technology improvements for Loucks Auditorium.

Thanks for reading,
Steve