

City Manager's Update — May 28, 2021

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

At Your Service

"In a year where police in the community have received a lot of scrutiny, I wanted to pass along a positive observation. An officer was at SECOR Park in south Salem about 3:45-4:00 pm this afternoon; I couldn't see her name. The officer interacted with a teen with whom it became apparent the two had a history with each other. During the conversation, she displayed a great deal of professionalism and empathy. I understand it could be written off as *doing her job*, but it was definitely a notable interaction that not everyone would have taken the time to have. In the backdrop of the previous year, I wanted to bring to all your attention a positive interaction and not let it go unnoticed."

COVID-19

The City is sharing through our social media and information distribution a Business Oregon grant program [Operational Cost Assistance Grant](#) for businesses with 100 or fewer employees that:

- Offer the consumption of food and/or drink on premise;
- Provide specified indoor physical exercise, recreational or family entertainment or
- Provide specified personal services; and that experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Oregon.

Applications opened May 26 and will close June 6. Awards will be selected after a random lottery process of all complete and eligible applications received.

For additional details on eligibility and program details, visit [Business Oregon's website](#). Please pass this information on to those who can benefit from this grant program.

Housing

We are making progress on Sequoia Crossings. Sequoia Crossings will be 60 units of NEW very affordable, supportive housing. There will be 54 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom apartments. The Salem Housing Authority's application for state funding is being recommended by the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to the state Housing Stability Council for approval. The Housing Stability Council is meeting June 4, 2021. Nicole Utz and Chris Hoy will be attending. The recommendation is \$3,518,550 in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Capital Funds, \$2,481,150 in Federal Housing Trust Fund, 60 slots of PSH Services funding, and 30 slots of PSH operational funding. This funding is essential to making Sequoia Crossing a reality.

Library

I have approved two change orders. The first is for the purchase of specialty furniture important to completing the public spaces' look and feel and to better serve the public

at a cost of \$56,707. The second is for a security gate at the main stair to provide for a more user friendly, safe, and maintenance-free gate than the what is in place prior to the renovation at a cost of \$15,750.

Permits

The City is resuming the issuance of permits. Event organizers, including for Make Music Day, are submitting permit applications. Public event organizers are required to submit a COVID safety plan with the application.

Policing

According to the best practices in New York University School of Law's [Policing Project](#), Salem is well aligned in tactics and communications. The Police Department continues to improve crowd-related policy/training, communications/social media, use/show of force, advance planning/preparation, event management, and post-event follow-up. The City will continue to regularly communicate our approach and priorities related to assemblies, protests, and demonstrations.

Sheltering

Staff are preparing a recommendation for City Council consideration in July regarding the UGM property. Details are under development. Per the terms of the purchase agreement, the City does not close on the property until the UGM vacates. The recommendation will include an interim use and redevelopment for the site.

The June 14 city council meeting will include a recommendation for funding for sheltering, including extension of Community Action Agency's hotel program for medically fragile and vulnerable unsheltered persons and helping CAA purchase a hotel. The hotel program is currently scheduled to end mid-June. Funding source will be ARPA.

Regarding locations, staff are looking for sites across the city. We begin with a feasibility analysis, including property owner willingness, zoning, land suitability, and adjacencies. Once we have located a site that is feasible, we discuss options and ideas with area neighbors and the neighborhood association. Currently, the City is evaluating several City and privately-owned properties across Salem that could be used as managed rest and shelter sites for the unhoused. These properties include vacant lots, unrented buildings, and land parcels. Ideally, the property would be able to accommodate onsite shelter management staff and up to 40 individuals experiencing homelessness.

The City has received funding to establish and operate a navigation center. Implementation work is underway. Council will be updated on this important addition to the continuum of services. The grant is for \$5,000,000. Navigation Centers assist individuals and families with access to health services, permanent housing, and public benefits.

Staff are working with Church at the Park to continue a cash for trash program.

The most recent City clean-up was clearing and cleaning at Wallace Marine Park. The clean-up team collected 45 cubic yards of garbage and about seven cubic yards of metal for recycling.

State

In addition to the City request for state assistance with housing vouchers that was made by the mayor to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, we have requested help with purchasing pallet shelters, operating managed shelter sites, cooperation regarding use of state lands, funding for police body cameras, sobering center operations support, and funding for a mobile crisis response team.

Upcoming Issues

As the City would do with any significant development, the City Attorney, Public Works and Community Development are reviewing land use, water, wastewater, transportation, and land use impacts of and requirements for the casino proposed by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Under federal law, the site is considered tribal trust land, and the Siletz has the protections of sovereign immunity for that land, including development and land use laws not applying to the casino. However, the Siletz are conferring with staff to understand City standards and requirements.

Upcoming work sessions include on June 21 1) Solid Waste Collection and Recycling and 2) House Bill 2001 Preview of Upcoming Code Amendment and Incentives for Middle Housing. On July 19 Sheltering Status, Implementation and Planning. The August work session date is open. September 20 will be the climate action plan. October 18 will be a joint work session with the Planning Commission on Our Salem. The November 15 work session will be to begin forming the 2022 City Council Policy Agenda.

Thanks for reading,
Steve