

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

At Your Service

From the Police Department's Submit-a-Compliment webpage: We had a person experiencing a mental health crisis stop in our driveway. Officer Moffit arrived and was very calm. He never raised his voice and handled the situation incredibly well. We would like to thank him for his kindness and professionalism.

The Water Distribution team went the extra mile to make a business customer (Chung Tuh) happy. There were delays (not caused by the City) with getting a water meter in place. The business (a Korean company) had a team from Korea coming in to inspect some of the processing equipment and needed the water flowing to complete the inspection. Doug Priest and Dwayne Barnes, the chlorination staff, and the Willow Lake lab team, were super responsive to the business while protecting the drinking water system.

Airport

The successful low bidder for the taxiway rehabilitation project was Riverbend Construction with a bid of approximately \$2.3M. The project is expected to begin in Spring 2022 and be completed by the end of summer 2022.

Work continues with PGE to map out the power requirements and underground feeds for electric aircraft and electric automobile charging stations north of the Flight Deck Restaurant. It is possible that this installation could occur in the next few months,

The community's air service development committee and Airport staff continue to have conversations with several airlines interested in serving the Salem market. Contact has been made with the Transportation Security Administration to help the Airport understand space needs for baggage and passenger screening equipment and office space needs. A letter of intent to serve the Salem market from at least one air carrier could come late in 2021 or early 2022. Any letter of intent will likely include a request from the airline for the City to waive fees for up to 24 months, the maximum period allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration. The next round of federal Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) grant applications are expected to be announced within the next few months. The City will be asked to apply, as was approved by City Council over a year ago.

COVID

The 162 Salem firefighters who are considered healthcare workers have been vaccinated or received a medical or religious exemption.

Finance

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to City. The Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government.

Library

The Library is serving between 200 to 500 people a day.

Management

The City has received a Homeland Security Grant through the State of Oregon's Office of Emergency Management. The grant is \$76,518 and will be used to purchase two additional radio dispatch consoles for the Willamette Valley Dispatch Center.

Parks

On October 21, the City, with considerable help from a Marion County AIC Crew (Inmate Labor) and a very large Service Master/Gliss Day contracted crew completed the primary cleaning of Cascades Gateway Park. While every piece of garbage is not yet removed from the park, and there might be a few random or hidden campsites remaining, the park is 99 percent clear of major garbage and debris from the 18 months of homeless camping. There is only one remaining active, occupied campsite in the park, and it is on the island in the middle of Wirth Lake. Parks will be using a boat that will allow us to remove the garbage and structures from the island. Since the park was closed to camping and the public 10 weeks ago, we have removed about 1800 cubic yards of garbage and debris (equal to 45 40-yard drop boxes or 150 heavy dump trucks lined-up nose to tail for 2/3rd of a mile). We have removed hundreds of shopping carts, most of which are being returned to Walmart and Lowes.

Partnerships

The Salem Parks Foundation decision to lead the fundraising effort for the restoration of the Eco-Earth is a great step toward protecting the art piece for future generations. As the City did for the Gerry Frank Salem Rotary Club Amphitheater, the City can address the costs associated with the peripheral facilities and the project management. A budget amendment will be needed.

Policing

The Police Department has made significant progress on recent shooting investigations, resulting in several arrests. The multipronged approach, led by the Police Department, toward prevention and intervention includes:

- Focused community engagement, including door-to-door contact to share safety information and hear from residents;
- Increased visible presence, including placement of the Police our mobile command vehicle, to prevent crime and initiate positive interactions;
- Increased communication with community leaders in impacted areas;
- Redirected resources from other investigative units to focus on shooting investigations;
- Regular coordination and information sharing with Marion County Sheriff's Office investigative teams;
- Intelligence sharing with Marion County Parole and Probation;
- New ballistic testing equipment and program in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tabaco and Firearms to link evidence between shooting cases;
- Crime analysis conducted in partnership with State Department of Justice to identity links between individuals and incidents.

Arrests have been made on several cases and we anticipate additional arrests and successful prosecutions related to ongoing disputes. We are working with our local district attorney's office and the United States Attorney's Office to coordinate high value prosecutions where appropriate.

Rotary Amphitheater

City has received from the Rotary Club of Salem the Gerry Frank | Salem Rotary Amphitheater. The amphitheater is now owned by the City.

Safe Community

The Oregon Department of Transportation has approved posting 25 mph on 17th St NE/SE, between Silverton Rd NE and Mission St SE. Earlier this year, Council made a motion for staff to request lowering the speed limit on that street from 30 mph to 25 mph. When ODOT originally reviewed our request, they denied it. Staff then asked to appeal ODOT's decision to the State Traffic Control Board. Since that time, the State Traffic Engineer re-evaluated the request and determined that he would approve the City's 25 mph speed zone request.

Sheltering and Assistance

A community group spearheaded by Hazel Patton, Ron Steiner, Emil Graziani, and Dino Venti have raised more than \$300,000 through 60 paid adoptions of shelter homes with 30 more pledges! The group also has six artists who have volunteered to paint the shelter pallet doors.

[Our complaint portal is active](#)

The one central source for receiving and logging complaints about camping or collection of garbage in Salem will:

- Increase efficiency in our response (reduce overlapping responses)
- Have better data about locations of concern
- Allow us to better communicate with people lodging about how it resolved.

Staff is using the information to coordinate responses and actions based on the properties of concern.

We also have a page with [weekly updates](#). Sign up to get [updates here](#).

Upcoming Issues

On the November 8 council agenda will be the grant agreements with the State of Oregon for the funding to assist the City, Salem Housing Authority, and Community Action Agency. The grants are for homeless sheltering and motel program, housing voucher support, and police body-worn cameras. The recommendation will include a supplemental budget to appropriate the funds and authorization to pass through funds to the SHA and CAA.

At the November 15 council work session, staff will be sharing progress on the 2021 Policy Agenda Priorities. Through its annual Policy Agenda, City Council makes its priorities clear to staff and the community. The 2021 Policy Agenda is part of an annual cycle of developing the budget, policy and program evaluation, financial forecasting, and reporting to the Council and community on progress. Priorities for 2021 included:

1. **Addressing homelessness** through crisis response, homelessness prevention, and affordable housing expansion;
2. **Creating community resilience** through business support, job creation, and emergency response;
3. **Increasing equitable delivery of City services** through community-engaged policing; diversity, equity and inclusion; service accessibility; and financial stability;
4. **Building great neighborhoods** through neighborhood development, parks and recreation facilities, and bike and pedestrian safety; and
5. **Acting on climate change** through greenhouse gas reduction; and resilience.

The City's Community Report, available this month, provides a detailed summary of progress on these priorities. In all, 32 activities were identified for the first year within 15 Strategic Plan objectives.

Urban Development

The City is surveying businesses citywide. The survey will provide the first comprehensive data about Salem business health since the pandemic began. Staff will share a summary of the results with Council later this year. The survey will be distributed to all business types and sizes with the help of many partners, including SEDCOR, the Salem Chamber, and the Latino Business Alliance. Staff hope to distribute a similar business survey annually.

Thanks for reading,
Steve