

# ADDITIONS A G E N D A



Joint Meeting of the City of Salem Budget Committee and  
the Salem Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee

DATE: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

CHAIRPERSON: Virginia Stapleton

PLACE: Virtual Online Meeting

STAFF LIAISON:

Josh Eggleston, Budget Officer

503•588•6130

[jeggleston@cityofsalem.net](mailto:jeggleston@cityofsalem.net)

Kali Leinenbach, Senior Fiscal Analyst

503•588•6231

[kleinenbach@cityofsalem.net](mailto:kleinenbach@cityofsalem.net)

---

\*\*\*ADDITIONS AGENDA\*\*\*

2. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- a. Correspondence from Northeast Neighbors Neighborhood Association regarding the Urban Forestry Program.

The City of Salem budget information can be accessed on the internet at: [www.cityofsalem.net/departments/budget](http://www.cityofsalem.net/departments/budget)

NOTE: Disability-related accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in this meeting, are available upon request. Sign language and interpreters for languages other than English are also available upon request. To request such an accommodation or interpretation, contact Kali Leinenbach, (503) 588-6231 or [kleinenbach@cityofsalem.net](mailto:kleinenbach@cityofsalem.net) at least 2 business days before this meeting. TTD/TTY telephone (503) 588-6439 is also available 24/7.

The City of Salem values all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, domestic partnership, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and source of income.

**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [buhll@yahoo.com](mailto:buhll@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [budgetoffice](mailto:budgetoffice)  
**Subject:** NEN Testimony for Budget Committee Meeting of April 20, 2022  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2022 2:40:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Laura Buhl
Your Email	buhll@yahoo.com
Message	<p>Dear Budget Committee Members, This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Northeast Neighbors Neighborhood Association in support of an increased budget for Salem's Urban Forestry Program. Salem's urban forestry program has long been underfunded. This has resulted in an aging and unmaintained urban forest that isn't renovated to make up for losses, and is also more vulnerable to the stresses of severe weather events such as ice storms and heat waves. The current funding levels are not enough to enforce the city's tree code for trees on public land. But now that Salem can proudly say that it has a code that protects trees on private land, it must increase staffing even more in order to ensure that new law is implemented. Regulations are meaningless if they are not enforced. The importance of trees to Salem's livability is undeniable. In the coming years, as we face greater risks from flooding, extreme heat, and other climate change impacts, trees must be seen as essential infrastructure that will lower dangerous temperatures, control stormwater, and protect the quality of life in Salem. Trees are not merely an attractive amenity, they are vital to City operations and the well being of all Salemites. NEN hopes that Salem's next budget will include funds for the City's Urban Forestry Program to accomplish the following: - Hire more certified arborists to ensure that there is enough staff to carry out inspections and implement the City's tree regulations. - Institute a well-staffed pruning and maintenance program. Inadequate pruning and deferred maintenance of Salem's tree canopy caused the impact of the 2021 ice storm to be more severe than it otherwise would have been. This caused risk to human life and safety, damage to property, and the removal of some trees that would not have needed to be removed had they been maintained. Salem's Urban Forestry Program is currently reactive because it is underfunded. With proper funding, our Urban Forestry Program can be proactive, which will lead to having a safer, healthier, and longer-lived tree canopy. - Expand tree planting to replace the tree canopy lost in the ice storm and to meet city tree canopy goals in all neighborhoods. - Update the City's Community Forestry Plan in a manner that coordinates with, and helps implement, the Climate Action Plan. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The NEN Board hopes that the City's budget will reflect the vast economic, environmental, and social benefits that trees have the potential to bring to our city if there are enough of them. Sincerely, Laura Buhl NEN Co-Land Use Chair</p>

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 4/20/2022.