



NESCA MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2023

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes:

NESCA Chair Mike Beringer welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 7 PM. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 15, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed.

2. Salem Police Officer Report: No report

3. City Councilors' Report:

No councilors were able to attend this evening, but highlights of a report on upcoming council activities and 2023 plans from Virginia Stapleton was read. Highlights include:

- Returning to in-person City Council meetings, effective 1/16/23.
- Commercial Air Service: Staff reports were reviewed and council supported to move forward.
- Bond implementation: Council can now sell bonds which allows them to move forward with the various projects. Fire Chief Niblock has the first equipment order ready which will go as soon as the bonds are sold, hopefully before the end of February. Mayor Hoy is setting up an advisory committee for the bonds which Virginia hopes to serve on.
- Budget Committee: Work begins Wednesday with a 5-year forecast presentation. Staff have been asked to revisit the revenue recommendations from a few years ago so the Finance Committee can make recommendations to the Council in the coming months.
- City Manager: Keith Stahley will be hiring a second Deputy City Manager and a Public Works Director.
- The Transportation System Plan is set to kick off this year.
- Charter Review: This has not been looked at since the 70s, which suggests it might be time to make some adjustments.
- Boards and Commissions Review: A comprehensive review of all the boards and commissions needs to be done to determine what is working and what may need to be adjusted.
- Vision Zero: Virginia will be bringing forward a motion to adopt Vision Zero for Salem, a program working to end all traffic-related deaths. 17 traffic-related deaths happened in Salem in 2022 which Virginia feels is unacceptable and that we can do better.
- Housing PowerPoint presentation: Working with Salem Housing Authority to develop a presentation to help educate the public on the complex subject of housing.
- 20 is Plenty and Capitol Street bike lanes: Staff have communicated that Virginia should have these reports early this year.

4. Guest Speaker: Milan Davis, Urban Forester, City of Salem

Milan provided a nice PowerPoint presentation showing the tree canopy in Salem with the current number of trees inventoried to date: 37,253 trees have been inventoried. The presentation showed various colors indicating which trees are healthy, which trees need to be removed, etc. This presentation will become a part of the City of Salem Urban Forestry website in the future. The date of that information being added has not been determined.