



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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Meeting Minutes February 9, 2023
SOUTH GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SGNA met via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Board Members

Present Absent

Dynee Medlock Chair
Jackie Leung Vice chair
Dave McKenna Secretary
Jerry Sachtjen Treasurer
Mike Hughes
John Ledger
Kathleen Lempka
Glenn Baly

Community members:

Deb Cozzie
John Miller
JanS
Lori Murphey Cole
Jake Krishnan
Harper
Lori Festa
Jordan Miller

Guests

Officer Burke, Salem Police
Drew Cohn, Ward 4 Budget

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dynee Medlock. Attendance taken, quorum declared present. Approved minutes for January meeting.

2. City Councilor Report

No City Councilor report. Deanna Gwyn had a conflicting council meeting and Vanessa was out of town.

3. City Budget Update

Drew Cohn provided a Powerpoint presentation on the state of the city budget. The City Council has produced a forecast of budget expenditures versus revenues. It consists of 14 funds that the city operates. The budget update will only look at the General Fund (GF). The intended outcome is to align Salem's expenditures with its revenues and stabilize the fund balance. The company Moss Adams audited the budget forecast. Expenditures exceed revenues for the forecast. They do have a "rainy day fund" from revenue. The general fund for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$176.9M. Total General Fund revenue is \$160.6M. There is a \$16.9M gap between expenditures and revenues. The gap will continue to grow if there are no changes to revenue or expenditure growth. Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) began with a balance of \$40M. FY27 beginning fund balance will near fully expended. By FY25 fund balance will not be in compliance with City Council policy.

The Moss Adams concluded that expenditures exceed revenues. That deficit will grow larger every year. They surmise that the city will be unable to a budget due to insufficient GF balance. City staff is currently understaffed by 25 to 50 full time employees. Their audit found that Internal services are underfunded by \$25M. All services are underfunded \$49M.

The budget realities and options per the forecast are that the City Council would be unable to adopt a GF budget as presenting in FY26 unless the following options occur:

- Option 1) reduce expenditures
 - Staff layoffs
 - Close down facilities
 - Roll back services
- Option 2) increase revenue
 - Increase current taxes
 - Establish a new tax(s)

Resources and Questions:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/budget-finance/annual-budget>

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/budget-finance/five-year-financial-forecast>

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/budget-finance/annual-budget/get-involved-in-the-budget-process>

<https://perform.cityofsalem.net/#/screen/?capsulePath=Community%20Portal.bcps&screenId=84bb5330-2c54-48d9-ba44-9d5d4e181451>

<https://salembudget.abalancingact.com/fiscal-year-2024-forecast>

4. Officer Report

Police Officer Mark Burke gave report.

Answered question from previous meeting on unmanaged camp in triangle where Commercial Street and I-5 intersect. Is located on private property so they cannot relocate the camp. It is the responsibility of the property owner and the property owner is allowing homeless to camp there. ODOT will be cleaning up

their portion of the area and need to be pressured to ensure this is done in a timely manner. It was suggested that SGNA write a letter to ODOT on this issue, or have them address at a future meeting.

The **988** Crisis Hotline has been initiated.

Police are currently understaffed by 22 positions and are recruiting to fill these positions.

On February 13th Salem Police will begin wearing body cameras.

5. Out-reach Committee update

Looking at various venues to have meetings and events including Battle Creek School and Senior Center. Would like to meet at Battle Creek School for SGNA meetings in near future. Dynee would like to make meetings hybrid as a Zoom and public meeting. Neighbors said that could not use school's Wifi and computers based upon past experience. Recommend getting some type of overhead projector.

Dynee asked for volunteers for the Outreach Committee and Jerry volunteered.

Some ideas for outreach included a painting party and a neighborhood garage sale with a map of locations.

6. New Business

Neighbor recommended that something be done about the homelessness by intersection of I-5 and Commercial since we are the "Salem Gateway." Says we should get the ODOT property to address.

The Treasurer brought up that we have about \$1270.70 in the Treasury and that Jake will need to submit his \$90 expenses for the Zoom meetings. There has been some income from SGNA involvement in meetings with the City.

7. Adjournment.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9th at 6:45 PM.