



## **NESCA MEETING MINUTES**

November 21, 2023

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

Incoming Chair Stacey Veyra-Braendle opened the ZOOM meeting at 7 PM, introducing all those attending. A motion was made and seconded to approve the October meeting minutes as provided via email. Motion carried.

### **2. Salem Police Officer Report: No report**

### **3. City Councilors' Report: Virginia Stapleton**

Council discussions:

- Ballot Measure “Safe Salem” was brutally defeated at the ballot box. It was not a defeat on funding our government but rather a defeat on how to fund our government so now begins the difficult task of determining how the city is going to move forward with restricted funding.
  - There will not be a supplemental budget in December.
  - A new Revenue Task Force will be formed to discuss needed cuts. It will take some time to get this team together, going through applications, etc. so it will be a several months long process. The ideas previously put forward prior to the election for possible cuts really have not changed that much.
  - The first cuts will come in February.
  - The first budget meeting will be held in January. The updated 5-Year forecast will be presented at that time which will let council know more about how deeps the cuts will need to be.
- Upcoming work session
  - Gun violence in our community which is on the rise.
  - Strategic Plan
    - Shifting goals must be realistic due to budget issues. The reality is that some of our unhoused/homeless community is going to suffer due to these changes.
- Rules committee has finished and will send their report to Council in December. It has been a long time since the rules have been updated and will now include rules regarding social media and other areas not previously mentioned or which need updating.
- Garbage rates

### **3. City Councilors' Report: Linda Nishioka**

- Council has been busy and rather interesting!
- Garbage rates
  - There is now a 20-gallon alternative available. There is also an option to collect the twenty gallon every other week to help lower costs.
  - There is an “on demand” rate if a household does not need every week pickup.

- Working with the haulers to eliminate the extra charge when customers need to change plans. Asking that the customers can change plans for free every two or three years.
- Airport Advisory Board
  - The new commercial air is going quite well. The planes are almost always full. Additional flight days will be added with the upcoming holidays.
  - No new destinations as yet, but possibly in the spring.
  - There will be some discussion about the second runway which will be sent to Council, but with limited funding she is not sure what may be possible to be done.
  - As an alternate on the Legislative Committee, she has asked the lobbyist to look at ways for additional funding to help the existing runway for emergency preparedness. Linda is very interested in looking at our airport as an emergency preparedness center as it will be very critical.

Questions/Comments:

Ian Johnson mentioned the “sharp container” (for diabetic needles). Currently there is a \$20 charge for dropping off the container plus having to drive it to them. He believes that these needles are no doubt going into the garbage. Councilor Nishioka said she calls her hauler, and they will pick it up every few months for \$15.00.

- Councilor Stapleton mentioned that meetings will begin in the spring to discuss medical waste.

Ian mentioned another issue regarding a problem of vehicles parking in the bus stop areas. No one seems to want to be responsible for helping to correct the situation: city code compliance says it is a Cherriots issue; Cherriots says it should be taken care of by Code Compliance. Councilor Stapleton asked Ian for the bus stop ID, and she will contact Code Compliance to see if they can get this fixed.

**4. Guest Speaker: Joe Hutchinson, Emergency Manager, City of Salem**

Joe has been in Salem for 4 ½ months now. Due to budgets, he is basically a “one-man-band” right now. He oversees the entire city for emergency preparedness. He is also one of the PIOs (Public Information Officer) for Salem Fire Department, so he speaks to the media when needed, works with the social media, and the public alert system. He was in law enforcement for 34 years (corrections and road), the last 15 years of his career he also handled emergency management as part of his official duties. After he retired, he worked with private enterprises with Samaritan Health Services in Corvallis as Chief Security Officer. Also had a consulting company for threat assessments.

- Joe reported that the city graduated 23 from their first CERT program post pandemic.
- Regarding the Emergency Cache sites, Joe has visited a few of them recently and what he is asking is that each Neighborhood Association send him an email on what it is we need. If we would like him to come out, he will be happy to do so. There is some money available for replacements (gloves, gowns, etc.). Some of the caches have been broken into so the locking systems have been changed. Mike let Jim know that our cache has been raided a couple of times by other Neighborhood Associations to replenish theirs. Mike thinks ours has been restocked but would like to get together with Jim to make sure that has happened.
- His position deals with all emergency and disaster hazards including natural disasters and active shooter situations. He would be working with Salem PD in an active shooter situation and do have plans in place for situations of that type. However, he would defer to Chief Womack when necessary.
  - Joe mentioned a good YouTube video for situational awareness called “Run, Hide, Fight.” There are two versions, put together by the Department of Homeland Security and are very well done. One is for an office setting; the other is how to be aware of your surroundings.
- Virginia asked what the plans are for times when Salem is the victim or when others are the victims, and we (Salem) are the helpers. Joe said there are plans are in place for both of those situations, working closely with Salem-Keizer School District, Cherriots, and others.
- Jim will share all of the links to his PowerPoint and other Emergency Management information to Irma which she can share with NESCA.

## 5. Committee Reports:

### a. Land Use

*Ian Johnson*

- Ian will check with DAS to see if there is anything new at North Campus.

### b. Transportation:

*Mai Vang*

- Requested speed radar boards for 23<sup>rd</sup> and Park Avenue NE. It may take a few months, but we are in the queue for that.
  - Mai will contact city engineers about the possibility of permanent speed radar signs.
- In response to questions about traffic signs regarding children, etc. Mai reported signs of that nature cannot be put in public spaces as they do not meet the guidelines of the Municipal Code for traffic signs. As this is done in other cities, we need to open a dialog to find out why we cannot in Salem.
- Virginia mentioned her confusion about not being able to do things such as paint school crosswalks a different color and hearing it can't be done because of the "Municipal Code" when Dallas has school crosswalks that are yellow and white. Mai is wondering if we might be able to open the dialog with the city again on this issue when we know that other cities are doing it. Mai will follow up on this issue.
  - Ian suggested we should determine if this is written in the City Code or did the city adopt a code book by reference. If adopting a code book, there needs to be something about exemptions. If it is in the City Code, then it is the City Council's problem in how to deal with it. Whatever the current process is to make changes, is where we need to start.
  - Linda said she believes we are using the ODOT book for traffic. However, the city has implemented new codes for signs, and she would be concerned about everyone putting up various signs, especially in the wrong places as it could result in a citation to remove it. Asked what the timeline might be for this plan. Linda said that it will probably take about two years to complete. Currently working on the regional plan and will then be looking at the Salem plan.
  - Linda and Virginia will be working on the Transportation Plan that will take some time, approximately two years. The Regional plan is the first focus of the plan and when that is completed, they will then look at local Salem considerations.
- The city has already approved the "20 is Plenty" program and has a grant application for the Safe Streets program. Included in that grant are items that could help with these concerns plus more trailers for speeding and also the Vision Zero planning, We should know if we get the grant in December. Council is trying real hard to get this taken through to make the neighborhoods safer.
- Gary Pullman suggested that narrower streets are safer streets.
- Teri Lupoli asked if signage "No Through Trucks" or "Local Deliveries Only" could be added to Park Avenue. 18-wheel semis have no business using Park Avenue as a short cut to avoid Hawthorne.

### c. Parks

*[Mike Beringer]*

- Wood is now available for benches and signs.
  - Need to begin thinking about a potential name for our new park and providing that information to our councilors.

### d. Hoover School

*[Teri Lupoli]* (no report)

### e. Watershed

*[Gary Pullman]*

- The City spiffed up around and weeded in the rain gardens.
- 400 new plants in Englewood Park.
- Reworking the rose beds at Bush Park.

### f. North Campus

- It is no longer needed to have a separate category for North Campus as Ian includes it with his Land Use report. It was suggested to change the title to Land Use/North Campus on the Agenda template.

## 6. Other Business: Old Business

- Annual Sock Drive:

- 206 pairs of socks were delivered to HOME Youth & Resource Center at their new location on Broadway Ave. N, across from Broadway Commons.

## 6. Other Business: New Business

### Pod Mailboxes:

- There have been a larger number of thefts from pod mailboxes as someone has managed to get a master key for ALL the boxes around the city. Linda said that apparently that style of mailbox has a drop for outgoing mail that is not key protected, and people have been stealing mail from there as well. Often that mail includes outgoing checks and one of the CANDO neighbors had a bunch of checks stolen from there that turned up in Arizona where they had been washed. Councilor Nishioka also suggested signing up for the USPS “Informed Delivery” that provides information on what mail is expected for that day’s delivery.
- NESCA will not have a meeting in December.
- 2024 NESCA Meetings
  - We will be exploring the possibility of beginning Hybrid meetings (in-person with ZOOM for those who prefer to be online). Stacey will be contacting Yaquina Hall to determine if we can use their community room for the in-person portion of the meetings. Meetings will still be recorded to assist with providing minutes. Ian volunteered to oversee equipment pick up/set up/ and return. He will talk to Irma about procedures.
- Children’s Holiday Party: Stacey works with an organization that will be providing their second holiday party for kids pm December 9. It’s a free event with cooking decorating, gift bags, toys, from 9 AM to 12 PM in North Salem. They will begin the program with a live band and a special guest, Ceasar the No Drama Llama!

## 7. Discussion/Questions/Comments

There being no further business, Stacey thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM. **The next scheduled NESCA meeting will be held via ZOOM on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. (If a physical location for in-person meeting is available, it will be announced in the January Agenda. *The ZOOM meeting link will be provided to those on the NESCA email distribution list prior to the meeting.*** The link will also be available on the city website. Next month’s Guest Speaker will be Tim Lawler of Greenlight Development regarding the development of the Salem Health property between 23<sup>rd</sup> St. NE and Medical Center Drive.

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli  
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

### Attending:

Stacey Vieyra-Braendle\*, Marilyn Moritz\*, Teri Lupoli\*, Lynn Cardiff\*, Gary Pullman\*, Mai Vang\*, Ian Johnson, Mike Beringer, Jim Lupoli, Virginia Stapleton Salem City Council, Linda Nishioka Salem City Council, Jim Hutchinson City of Salem Emergency Manager

\*NESCA Board Members

- **Other Website Information:**
  - To report homeless camping: <https://form.cityofsalem.net/s3/homeless-camping-complaint>
  - To Contact the SOS Team: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Home/Components/News/News/399/>
  - To report homeless concerns: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/housing-shelter/help-with-problem-properties/report/concerns-about-homelessness>
  - To sign up for weekly updates regarding homeless: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/tracking-progress-on-homelessness-efforts.aspx>
  - To report graffiti: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx>
    - [503-371-4262 Graffiti Response team](https://www.cityofsalem.net/pages/report-graffiti.aspx)
  - The link for the crime statistics: [www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats](http://www.cityofsalem.net/crime-stats)