



4/4/24 WSNA monthly meeting minutes

- 6:30 begin.
- Agenda approved.
- Previous minutes approved.
- WSNA exec members addressed the group and gave brief descriptions of their roles, announced committee vacancies.
- Salem PD: Officers Salazar and Grosen
 - Community violence response initiative
 - Neighborhood Watch teams are helpful to officers.
 - Many police [volunteer opportunities](#)
 - Administrative assistant
 - Disabled parking enforcement
 - Domestic violence response team
 - Graffiti abatement.
 - Radar reader boards
 - Squad car maintenance.
 - Vacation home checks.
 - Have made an arrest in ongoing mail theft situation, looks like it will be a longer investigation to solve the whole problem.
- 7:00 Nikki from Capital Manor gave a presentation on the history of Capital Manor
- 7:15 City staff presented about the budget and [revenue task force](#)
 - Presentation focused on the general fund which is about \$180 million. It pays for police, fire, courts, city finance/HR, and more.
 - Three upcoming revenue task force town halls:
 - April 10, 6:30-8:30 pm in South Salem, Baxter Hill Community Hall, 1780 Baxter Road SE
 - April 16, Virtual Conversation, [Sign up to participate](#)
 - April 23, 6:30-8:30 pm in North Salem, Center 50+, 2615 Portland Road NE
 - The city budget will be discussed 4/17 City Council meeting, meeting can be streamed on YouTube.
- 7:35 Gretchen with City of Salem spoke about efforts to support our [homeless residents](#)
 - Efforts to plan for restoring the north part of Wallace Marine Park

- City of Salem staff are working to support people with resources and referrals.
 - The team removes 23 tons of garbage a month from parks and public areas.
- The City of Salem is part of the regional homeless solutions team. The team is working to have options in Dallas, so they don't send people who need help to Salem.
- City [website](#) about efforts
- About 70% of homeless people in Salem report experiencing homelessness as a youth- it's important to impact homelessness upstream while people are still housed
- 7:50 [City Councilor Varney and Stapleton](#)
 - City of Salem has 8 wards of about 25,000 people each, one councilor per ward
 - Councilor Varney
 - Recently the Council voted to end its ambulance contract with Falck. Beginning in July 2025 ambulance services will be provided by Salem Fire by city staff. Falck is having trouble meeting response times, resulting in city staff filling gaps and costing about \$3.3 million in overtime wages.
 - The Council is not voting to close the library. Closure is part of a package of options the revenue task force is looking at.
 - After 5 years soap box derby is coming back to Salem!
 - Councilor Stapleton
 - Discussed the desire to move forward with a plan to work with the State for compensation on the \$7.5 million the city loses on property tax revenue on state-owned buildings.
 - Stressed the importance of the homeless SOS team and the relationships the team has with residents. The team is comprised of four public works staff and two police officers.
 - Oregon has seen a 22% increase in homelessness, Marion and Polk counties have seen a decrease of 7%.
 - April is child abuse prevention month.
- 8:10 WSNA chair updates
 - Mike plans to attend Polk County Commissioners meeting to ask why they chose not to participate in Salem Traffic Plan
 - The expenditure of \$200 for posters to advertise WSNA was approved.
 - At the monthly chairs meeting city staff gave an update that streets with speed bumps can in fact be plowed for snow. This is a reversal of the previous policy.
- Meeting adjourned 8:30