

Revenue Task Force Meeting Minutes

Location	Salem City Council Chambers		
Date	April 25, 2024		
Time	6:30 pm - 9:00 pm		
Attendees	Ariel Loveall Becky Beaman Bill Riecke David Rheinholdt Kaitlin Strathdee Kathy Knock Katie Ciancetta	Keith Norris Ken Collins Leola McKenzie Levi Herrera-Lopez Nathan Rafn (alternate) Raquel Moore-Green Ray Quisenberry	Russ Beaton Scott Cantonwine Sean Nikas Stephen Jenkins TJ Sullivan William (Bill) Smaldone Zak Ostertag (ex-officio)

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Public Comment
- Approval of March 18, 2024 meeting minutes
- Community Survey Results
- Townhall Results
- Review of High-Interest Revenue Option Analysis
- Discussion of Mid-Interest Revenue Options
- Next Steps
- Adjourn

Decision Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Sean Nikas called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call

Chair Sean Nikas performed a verbal roll call of Task Force members.

Public Comment

Lynn Takata shared public comment related to graffiti in Ward 1.

Jim Scheppke shared public comment related to library services.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Sean Nikas made a motion to approve the March 18, 2024 meeting minutes.

Member Kathy Knock made a motion to amend the minutes with the actual motions that were taken at the

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March 18, 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by Member Ken Collins.

The Task Force members unanimously voted to amend the minutes taken at the March 18, 2024 meeting.

Community Survey Results

John Horvick, Senior Vice President at DHM Research, presented the results of the community survey. The Revenue Task Force was provided a copy of [City of Salem Funding Survey - Final](#). The purpose of the survey was to assess the community's current understanding of Salem's revenue standing, service priorities, and preferences for various funding mechanisms and scenarios. The Task Force Members generated the following questions:

- Do the respondents know what a specific service one would pay for from the City?
- Does this [respondents favoring taxes levied on businesses] tie us back to the idea that people don't know what they're talking about?
- Do you think that people understood that things like police, fire, parks, library; there's no way to charge a user fee?
- Are you comfortable with the sample size for the survey for the population size of the City of Salem?
- Would you have preferred the sample size would have been larger to encompass more of the population of Salem?
- With 3% of the surveys being in Spanish, how does that compare to the percentage of Spanish speakers within the Latino population that we have; do you feel that's representative?
- For communities like Salem around the country during the last two years do you know if these [satisfaction with policing and code enforcement] trend lines have continued?

Townhall Results

Results of community feedback from the April Townhall sessions were shared with the Revenue Task Force. The Moss Adams team responded to the following questions from Task Force members.

- What was the purpose of not giving them information or context [of how user fees work]?
- Would that [ambulance/emergency medical response] be a user fee that the City of Salem would then start charging when it takes over the ambulance service?
- Are we limiting ourselves to general fund or are we able to make recommendations for a levy or a special district that just focuses on specific services or programs that are not part of the general fund?
- Can you clarify what the deficit in the transportation fund means?

Review of Revenue Options

Moss Adams began presenting an analysis of the high-interest revenue options. Options presented included the Local Option Property Tax Levy, Business License Fees, and Personal Income Tax.

Member Russ Beaton shared a forecast of total income taxes and rates that could potentially be raised as a revenue source based on 2021 data from the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Adjourn

Chair Sean Nikas adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Action Items

April High Interest Deep Dives

- Task Force Members to review the [April High-Interest Deep Dives](#)

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- Task Force Members to prepare any additional questions ahead of the May 21 Task Force Meeting

Mid-Interest Revenue Options Survey

- Moss Adams will distribute a survey between May 2-May 8, to all Task Force Members to gain input on the remaining revenue options under consideration.

Meeting Materials

- [Revenue Task Force Meeting 4 Presentation](#)
- [City of Salem Funding Survey - Final](#)
- [Salem Task Force Revenue Options](#)
- [April Deep Dives](#)

Group Norms

- Stay focused on the purpose of the task force.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Be gracious, understanding, and curious.
- Help one another develop ideas.
- Provide opportunities for all opinions.
- Be open to other's ideas.
- Ask questions.
- Act neighborly.
- Assume positive intent.
- Behave professionally and formally.
- Recall that we are in a public forum and should set the standards for behavior.
- Be respectful. Listen actively, and avoid interrupting, swearing, or side conversations.

Upcoming Revenue Task Force Activities

- Revenue Task Force Meeting 5 - May 21, Tuesday at 6:30 pm at Salem City Council Chambers