

AGENDA ITEM

#1 Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS:	PRESENT - <i>P</i>	ABSENT - <i>A</i>	EXCUSED - <i>E</i>		
CHRISTOPHER BECHTEL	<i>P</i>	CHRISTOPHER HACKETT	<i>P</i>	SAM SKILLERN	<i>A</i>
JEANNE BOATWRIGHT	<i>P</i>	LOLA HACKETT	<i>P</i>	AARON TERPENING	<i>A</i>
ERIC BRADFIELD	<i>P</i>	TINA HANSEN	<i>P</i>	PAUL TIGAN	<i>P</i>
SADIE CARNEY	<i>E</i>	CYNTHIA KAVANAGH	<i>P</i>		
TIM FRANCE	<i>P</i>	RAY QUISENBERRY	<i>P</i>		

Others present: Tracy Schwartz, Carol DeCoursey, Mark DeCoursey, Carrie Slater, Helen Vandenberg, Del Gossert, Jerry Moore, Mike Wolfe, Kristin Retherford, Cara Kaser, SPD Officer.

Christopher H. moved that ***“We approve the minutes for October and November as submitted.”*** Paul seconded the motion. Vote was 10 in favor, 0-opposed.

#2 Great Story from Grant Neighborhood

The City’s Preservation Plan meeting at the Willamette Heritage Center Dye House last night, was well attended by Grant neighbors who participated in the discussions and brainstorming sessions. The Salem Public Library will be moved into the Grant Neighborhood in February and will remain for about 1½ years as seismic upgrades are made to the downtown structure.

#3 Neighbor Concerns

A neighbor brought forth a suggestion that Grant Neighborhood write up a presentation to City Council with ideas to address the situation, including: using Church parking lots and providing portable toilets and trash cans to help the homeless, and neighbors, by assisting with sanitation needs. Without proper sewer and garbage management, the homeless population also suffers from rats. Salem Alliance Church has had a bad experience trying to provide and supervise a portable toilet for the homeless and is not interested in participating again. The topic of public sidewalk toilets being available in France was brought up. A neighbor commented that there are plumbed into the city’s sewer system; making them cleaner and easier to maintain.

Neighbors commented on the number of “non-stops” at stop signs in the neighborhood. A neighbor expressed a concern for the lack of street lighting in some areas. Eric will check in with Kevin Hottmann, PE, at the City of Salem Public Works.

#4 Officer’s Report

The attending Salem Police Officer reported that the homeless that are being moved out of downtown areas are trying to find shelter wherever they can. Neighbors should keep watch on sheds, garages and vacant homes. The City Attorney had given the police the authority to remove the tents in place along the street at the ARCHES facility on Commercial Street. Later that authority was revoked. Currently, bicyclists have to stop at stop signs, signal turns, and have lights on at night. A new law is coming which will allow them to go through stop signs if there are no approaching vehicles. If there are vehicles, they will have to yield. If a bicycle is travelling on the roadway it is a vehicle and must follow pertinent laws. If it is travelling on the sidewalk, it is considered a “pedestrian”, but must yield to actual pedestrians. Riders must get off and walk for safety purposes where congestion dictates such action.

#5 Cara Kaser: Questions & Answers

City Council is trying to deal with the homeless camping and storage of personal property dilemma. They passed a measure to prohibit camping on public property, including in the right-of-way. It also prohibits leaving personal property on sidewalks for 2 hours, or more, at which time it becomes subject

to seizure. They are considering possible locations to allow limited camping. They are also trying to increase contact with the individuals and offering services, though some choose not to participate. Others are waiting to get placed and receive services. About 70 additional living units are in the pipeline to become available to homeless individuals who are willing to participate in the offered programs to get off the street. Many landlords are reluctant to rent units to homeless individuals. Neighbors thanked Cara for moving this issue along.

The payroll tax measure will go to the voters in May. If passed, it will supply income that has been outpaced by City needs. The plight of the un-housed and the increased need of emergency services have really strained the City's budget. State statutes that came into effect in the 1990's limit the City's ability to increase income to fund services through property taxes. The payroll tax will apply to everyone employed within the City, not just residents.

#6 City Finances

Jerry Moore, acting interim Chief of Police, addressed the methods the City is approaching to improve its financial situation. The operating fee, attached to the utility bill for City services, was approved by City Council and will take effect in January 2020. The payroll tax will go to voters in May. The city is spending more than it takes in and the General Fund, which supports parks, library, police, etc., cannot keep up. There are now fewer city employees per population than the City had 10 years ago. For example, Moore said he has three less police officers than he had in 2009, even though the city population has grown. Current property taxes bring in \$71 million while the police and fire departments, alone, cost \$83 million to operate.

Public Works does not receive dollars from the General Fund. It is supported by permit construction fees, transportation funds, such as gas taxes and State and Federal funds and grants. These different sources are specifically earmarked for public works projects.

A City task force reviewed 13 different options that could potentially increase income; three were forwarded to City Council. The operating will, hopefully, will maintain current services by bringing in \$7 million, more or less. The monthly fees will be \$8.00 for single family residences, \$6.40 for multiple family units, and \$39.00 for commercial users. A utility rate relief qualification is built in for low income families.

The payroll tax will be for all workers within the Salem City Limits. It will be a rate of 0.39% of income and is expected to collect \$9 million per year. It will be designated for public safety services: police, fire, code enforcement, and park rangers. Minimum wage workers will not be taxed. Those earning \$50,000 and up will pay \$195 per year (\$16.25/month). For those who make less than \$50,000, there will be a declining rate. Retirement and disability monies will not be taxed. The collection will be processed through the Oregon Department of Revenue. This is not an uncommon tax; Eugene currently has one.

#7 Salem – Keizer Schools Bond Update

Mike Wolfe spoke first about the bond work that will commence this next summer at Grant Community School. Children with special needs may live in a boundary area where their neighborhood school does not offer the appropriate program for them. Each high school will graduate the kids within their feeder system, but special services may have to be combined into one school at the elementary level. A Disabled Learning Center (DLC) will be added at Grant. Parking will be removed along Cottage Street to provide a pull-in drop-off. An area in the northwest sector of the building will be converted to two DLC classrooms. Other work will include: an additional restroom; heating and ventilation system improvements; intercom system upgrades; kitchen improvements; ADA access improvements; and, music room work. Expenditures will also be made for safety issues. These include: security doors at the courtyard entrances; new cameras; and, upgrades to the electronic badge access security system. The 2020 construction will complete the entire project. The project budget, funded by bonds and grants is \$2.9 million.

North Salem High School is receiving \$74 million of construction, which is already under way. When finished, there will be no portable classrooms at North. The improvements include additional classrooms and new gyms. There will be an entrance directly to the gyms off of the west parking lot and another entrance, and courtyard, on the south side from the football field area. The parking lot will gain 40 spaces. The tennis courts will move to the field on the north side of D Street, across from Parish Middle school.

#8 Annual Goals – Progress Reports

Alley Project Task Force – Sam & Paul. Sam was not present. Paul reported that they have not begun to work on this, yet.

Summer Street Traffic Task Force – Cynthia & Randy. Randy was not present. Cynthia reported that, with the onset of winter weather, traffic has calmed some. They will be contacting Jennifer to be pur on the roster for a speed radar placement on Summer St. They will also contact the motorcycle officers who can do patrols. They will check to see if there is a possibility of reducing the posted speed from 30 mph down to 25 mph.

#9 Land Use Updates

Paul reported that the variances for 990 Broadway, which is on our boundary, but within the Can-Do Neighborhood, were approved by the City.

The multi-family code rewrite is currently working on regulations dealing with next-door single family areas.

#10 Board Member Reports

Cherriots ADA/bus-stop issues - Paul reported that Cherriots is not responding to his outreach. The City is deferring to the Cherriots to organize the discussion. Paul will continue to attempt contact and a response.

CERT – Lola wanted to remind all that Greg Walsh is willing to arrange a Preparedness Presentation for any group that is interested. There is a new CERT class beginning in February that will last 3 weeks. Classes will be on Monday and Thursday at the south Salem Senior Center off of South Commercial on Fairway Avenue. A CERT class will also be held on Wednesday nights in March and April at the West Salem Roth’s Store Community Center.

#11 Other Business

Tim reported that Salem Alliance Church will be filing for a Partition Plat approval from the City of Salem to divide out 3 lots on Church Street. There are currently 3 homes on two lots and they want to place them on individual lots so they can be sold to home buyers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne Boatwright