



NEN General Meeting Minutes
11/14/23

Call to order: 6:30PM via Zoom

Board attendance: Lynn Takata, Ken Houghton, Cindy Kimball, Joan Lloyd, Leslie Polson, Nick Cantonwine, Delana Beaton, Jacqueline Schindele, Lalainya Kruger, Erin Grimm, Jenna Otto

Guest speakers:

Virginia Stapleton, City Councilor Ward 1
Keith Stahley, Salem City Manager
Sargent Dowd, Salem Police Department
Suzanne Reynolds, Salem Code Compliance Officer
Eddie Salazar, Salem Public Arts Commission member and artist,

Total in attendance: 30

Action:

Delana Beaton made a motion to approve the October minutes. Cindy Kimball seconded the motion. October 2023 minutes unanimously approved.

Sargent Dowd's report:

1. A man with an ax has been spotted attempting to break into homes in the Englewood neighborhood. He successfully broke into a home on Nebraska Street near 21st Street but homeowners were able to scare him away. Currently, there are no leads to his whereabouts. Thanks to neighborhood doorbell cameras and eyewitnesses, the police have identified him and there is a warrant for his arrest. He has family in the Englewood area.
Sargent Dowd approved Lynn's request to circulate the suspects' photo in the neighborhood. If anyone has further information, please call the **non-emergency** number: 503-588-6123. Sargent Vega is the primary office and the case number is: 23063386. If there's immediate danger, call 911.
2. Salem PD Traffic Control placed an electronic speed camera on Market Street near 15th street for 7 days, recording eastbound traffic. It captured over 38,000 vehicles. The average speed overall was 31 mph. 98% of traffic traveled at 40mph or less. 1.78% traveled at 41-45mph. Only one vehicle traveled over 65. Sargent Dowd said he would ask traffic control to place a camera on Market Street closer to 21st street.

Code Compliance Officer, Suzanne Reynold's presentation:

1. House located at 1296 16th street, (corner of 16th and Market streets) is uninhabitable. Code Enforcement is working with the property owners to try to abate some of the issues: remove the

nuisance vehicles, boat, RV, trash. The city is hoping to have it mitigated by mid-December. They are waiting for probate to be completed. Code compliance cannot legally get onto property, that would be trespassing. They must have permission from the owners to access the property. Leslie Polson offered to speak to the daughter.

Salem City Manager, Keith Stahley's presentation:

1. Since the payroll tax did not pass, the city needs to increase revenue and/or cut expenses to keep the city fiscally solvent while still delivering services. At the November 27th city council meeting, options for moving forward will be presented to the council, including the possibility of creating a Revenue Task Force. In January, the city council will be presented with an updated budget forecast for both the 2024 and 2025 budgets. If a Revenue Task Force is created discussions about a levy for the fire department and for libraries are a possibility. It would also include community feedback and education. You can watch the city council meeting on Capitol Community Media's website: <https://www.capitalcommunitymedia.org/>
If a task force is created, Mr. Stahley expects the council to have an application process for citizen involvement.
2. The state has not identified any additional funds after June 2024 for Salem's micro shelters nor are their funds for the Navigation Center beyond June 2025. The city of Salem does not plan to fund either of these services with general fund dollars. The city needs the partnerships of the state and county to help with these services.
3. Currently, the police department has 20-25 unfilled positions. This becomes a revenue that is rolled over into next year's budget.
4. Payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) is a program that is used in other state capitals across the country, where the state compensates the capital city for some, or all the property tax revenue lost due to tax exempt ownership by the state. This is potentially something that Salem could do and would be implemented by the legislature. This would generate approximately 7 million dollars in revenue for the city of Salem.

Salem City Councilor Virginia Stapleton's presentation on sidewalk repair:

Sidewalk report from the city council meeting on October 23: Currently, Ward 1 has 663 outstanding hazardous sidewalk repair requests. These are mostly located in the NEN and Grant neighborhoods.

There are also some located in NESCA, west Salem and CANDO.

The city budgets 2 million dollars a year for sidewalk repair. This is not nearly enough funding. Ward 2 has the second largest number of hazardous sidewalks, 319 requests, half the number that Ward 1 has. Ward 1 has 5-6 times more hazardous sidewalks than any of the remaining wards. (Ward 3 has 138, Ward 4 has 133, Ward 5 has 116, Ward 6 has 91, Ward 7 has 228 and Ward 8 has 92.) Sidewalk repair crews were in Ward 1 this year and next year they will move to another ward. So, Ward 1 will not see any more sidewalk repairs for 2-3 years.

City staff prefer their crews to do the sidewalk repair as opposed to a subcontractor. There are too many potential issues, including tree roots.

Salem-Keizer CTEC was suggested as a potential solution which would also provide students with experience.

In 2007, the city council adopted an ordinance that gave the responsibility of sidewalk repair to property owners whose sidewalks were built after 1992. The remainder of the repairs to sidewalks built before 1992 would be the responsibility of the city.

Property owners may repair their own sidewalks or have a contractor do the work. However, you must get a repair permit and a sidewalk closure permit. These permits can be obtained at no cost to the property owner or contractor. The permits ensure the repair work is inspected by the city and they meet the city standards. <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/neighborhoods/report-concerns/repair-or-report-damaged-sidewalks>

Salem Public Arts Commission member and artist, Eddie Salazar:

Edie is a lead coordinator for a mural that is currently being painted in the alleyway between 1380-1390 Madison St. NE. Between Baker and 15th streets. The project was started prior to taking the proper steps to have it approved by the city, so it is currently on hold until approval from the city.

Citizens can submit public testimony to the city manager Keith Stahley in support of the mural project until December 13th: manager@cityofsalem.net. Or anyone can attend the public arts commission meeting on December 13th at 3:30 via zoom.

Here is a link to the public arts commission hearing notice with information about how you can submit testimony or participate in the meeting.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/home/showpublisheddocument/21197/638354626127870000>

Lynn suggested that NEN write a letter in support of the project.

Action: Board elections

Both Delana Beaton and Jacqueline Schindele's terms are about to expire. Cindy Kimball made the motion for the board to re-elect both board members. Lynn Takata seconded the motion. Both members were unanimously reelected by the board for another term of two years. Congratulations!

Announcements:

Ken Houghton is moving out of Salem. He has made a huge contribution to our community, working tirelessly with our unsheltered population, our homeless Vets, our Warming Shelters, Arches Program, CERT and more. He has given his time quietly and tirelessly. He has been an asset to our community, and he will be missed.

Our next NEN meeting is Tuesday, Dec 12th. It was undecided whether to hold the meeting in person or via zoom.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kimball 12/4/23