



FOCUS

Webpage: <http://LWVmarionpolk.org> or www.leaguwomenvotersmarionpolk.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVMarionPolk/>

April 2023 Calendar of LWV Events

There is no April all-member meeting. Prepare for local elections in May; see Page 2.

Wed., April 5, 1:30 p.m.—Book Club—*State of Terror* by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny

Host: Deanie Anderson

If you are interested in joining Book Club contact Roz Shirack.

Mon., April 10, 3 p.m.—Board meeting—via Zoom

All members are invited to attend board meetings.

Ask a board member for the link.

Minutes are on the LWVMPC webpage under Board Minutes.

Sat., April 22, 1 p.m.—Great Decisions: Iran at a Crossroads

Plaza Room in Salem Public Library + Zoom link to be emailed.

Discussion leader: Sally Hollemon

Sources of Info for May Local Elections

VOTE411.org, our award-winning one-stop-shop for election information, allows you to enter your home address to find all the candidates and measures that will be on your ballot.

“Your Vote Counts” — Interviews with candidates for Salem-Keizer School Board in Zones 2, 4, and 6 will be posted on vote411.org, YouTube, CCM Channel 21, and KMUZ as well as being shared with Capital Manor.

“What are Special Service Districts and How Can the Public Be Involved?” — This program will be available on CCM Channel 21 and posted on YouTube.

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Voter Service Activities

“**Your Vote Counts**” for the May 2023 local elections, produced by CCM, will be interviews with school board candidates from Zones 2,4,6. Cindy Condon, Tomika Dew and Deanie Anderson will moderate the Zoom interviews.



LWV members are invited to help develop questions for the candidates in a half-hour Zoom meeting. Date, time and the link will be sent out to those indicating an interest in helping to brainstorm questions. Contact Deanie Anderson if you would like to participate.

The recording of “Your Vote Counts” will be posted on [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org), YouTube, KMUZ and shared with Capital Manor.

Special Service Districts: LWVMPC’s second election program will feature special service districts: “What are Special Service Districts and How Can the Public Be Involved?” It will be produced by CCM and will feature Frank Stratton, Executive Director for the Association of Special Service Districts, along with representatives from the Cemetery District of Polk County and the Keizer Fire District.

Ballot measure issues for this May election are primarily local funding measures.

Ranked Choice Voting and Open Primaries—The March *Focus* included articles on Ranked Choice Voting and Open Primaries, and on the next page three websites with articles are listed.

Summer Art Fair—We will need volunteers for membership and voter education tables for local events such as the summer Art Fair. Contact Kathleen West or Amy Vandegrift to participate.

Thanks to Janet Adkins for her work in entering the vast amount of candidate data for Marion Polk Special Service Districts onto Vote411.

Information on Ranked-Choice Voting and Open Primaries

The Short-Term Impact of Ranked-Choice Voting on Candidates for Mayor & City Council:
<http://newamerica.org/political-reform/reports/rcv-impact-on-candidate-entry-and-representation/>

Sightline Institute lists the advantages of ranked choice voting at: <https://www.sightline.org/2023/03/14/ranked-choice-voting-would-help-oregonians-vote-for-their-true-favorite/>

Explanation of Oregon Initiative Petition on Open Primaries:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mo26zsgbJBk>

FOCUS

Focus is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Marion and Polk Counties. Members subscribe through their dues, and membership is open to anyone 16 years of age and older.

Technology: Friend or Foe of Free, Fair & Accessible Elections?

Connie Sensor, Chief UN Observer for the League of Women Voters

Here is your opportunity to view our webinar *Technology: Friend or Foe of Free, Fair and Accessible Elections?* This webinar was organized by the UN Observer team of the League of Women Voters of the United States and was presented on March 15, 2023, on the margins of the United Nations 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The presentation was outstanding and we received much positive feedback in response to a post-conference survey.

Link to the recording of the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SSnYfP7Xjk>

How to Become an Active Member of LWVMPC

Amy Vandegrift, Membership

The other day I heard a League member say she did not join LWV until she retired because she was too busy to be involved. I thought: How sad that she missed out on so much. League can be a part of your life, your education, your advocacy, even when you are busy with duties and responsibilities in your life.

Over the years my participation as a League member has shifted and changed as my life responsibilities changed: new mother, move to new city, full-time job, and myriad of other things. Sometimes I was very active and sometimes a dues paying supporter. I even kept my membership in LWV when I served two years in the Peace Corps. League keeps me informed about my community in a way no other organization does.

So I ask you: How can you to be involved? Here are some suggestions:

Pay your dues and be one of the many who support our mission.

Read your monthly *Focus* newsletter, educate yourself so that you are informed and can inform others, too.

Read LWV resource materials like the LWVOR **Privacy and Cybersecurity Today** study.

Check out LWVUS, LWVOR or LWVMPC web pages to see all the information available.

Sign up for LWVOR **action alerts**.

Attend an LWV meeting and then attend more meetings. (Zoom has made it easier),

Participate in the discussion at a meeting.

Help at an all-member meeting, such as by taking notes on the discussion and giving your notes to the program chairperson.

Some other suggestions:

Learn what you are passionate about: education, voting, recycling, health....

Discover how your interests match other members' interests and you can work together

Join an LWV study committee and enjoy researching, and educating others

Observe a local government committee or board and report on it to educate others

Serve on the local LWV board to use and develop your leadership skills

How can you get involved? How can you be the change you want to see happen? Mark the item(s) that you know you can do this year. We need you! Together we educate ourselves and keep our community responsive to the issues that make this a great place to live. Don't miss this opportunity. Call and talk with me or any other board members if you need additional ideas or suggestions.

Put the following dates on your calendar:

Our Annual meeting will be Saturday, June 3; details in the May *Focus*.
The Fall Membership gathering will be Saturday, September 23;
details in the September *Focus*.



Invitation to students to join LWV: On March 9 our Membership Committee—Marta White, Nancy Thompson and I—staffed a table at Chemeketa Community College to inform students about the League of Women Voters and encourage them to become members. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please invite them to our meeting. We offer a student discount on membership. [The membership form is on Page 19.]

Rail Feasibility Study Proposals

Janet Adkins

Two proposed feasibility studies directly affecting Salem are under consideration at the state Legislature.

House Bill **(HB) 3224**, sponsored by Representative Tom Andersen and Senator Deb Patterson, would fund a feasibility study of a rail streetcar system for Salem. An amendment submitted by Anderson specifies a \$250,000 state General Fund appropriation and gives the responsibility for conducting or contracting the study to Cherriots. The Joint Transportation Committee held a public hearing on the bill February 28 with nearly all testimony in support, citing connectivity, downtown vitality, and reduced auto use and need for parking. The bill directs study of an in-street track from the Edgewater District in West Salem across the river and into downtown, looping to the Capitol, Willamette University, Salem Hospital, and back. Of course, costs of the track infrastructure would be substantial and no funding has been identified. There was no committee discussion or expression of opinion at the hearing. If the bill passes out of committee, it will have a subsequent referral to the Joint Ways and Means Committee where all funding bills must go.



The other bill, **HB 2662**, sponsored by Representatives Courtney Neron and Kevin Mannix, would require a feasibility study of extending Westside Express Service (WES) from Wilsonville to Keizer and Salem. WES is an existing TriMet rail (not light rail) passenger service that operates during commute times on Portland and Western Railroad freight rail track between Beaverton and Wilsonville. The track already extends to Salem and passes near Donald, Woodburn, and Keizer.

Support for HB 2662 was expressed at the Joint Transportation Committee hearing February 21 by mayors along the corridor and others. Issues include cost of stations, rail cars, and operations as well as the difficulties of operating passenger service on a single-track, active freight rail corridor and determining an operating entity (it would be outside TriMet's operating area). Attracting ridership for a line that does not go directly to Portland is an open question. The current WES system connects with Portland light rail at Beaverton and the current southern terminus →→→→



at Wilsonville is now served by Cherriots regional bus service from downtown Salem and the Keizer Transit Center during morning and afternoon commute times. The bill includes a \$500,000 state General Fund appropriation for the study and would require a referral to the Ways and Means Committee.

Neither bill had a work session scheduled as of March 26.

Other rail related bills include the following:

HB 2692, directing Oregon to work with Washington and British Columbia transportation agencies to develop and fund rail transportation

SB 14 directs ODOT to study options for expanding passenger rail in the state

SB 16 directs ODOT to study funding options to support transportation by rail

Prepare for Possible Action on Rail Travel

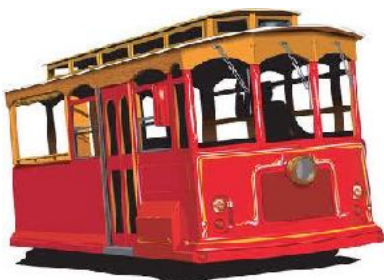
If you would like to follow the progress of these transportation bills, or any others, it is very easy to sign up for email notices. GovDelivery is the system the Oregon Legislature uses to help citizens stay informed on legislative action.

Here is the direct link to GovDelivery: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORLEG/subscriber/new>.

You will first have to register for the service by entering your email address in the sign-up form and then click on the “submit” button.

On the next page a list of topics will appear: Senate, House and Joint Committees; a list of Task Forces; a list of Senators; a list of Representatives; a list of House Bills and a list of Senate Bills. Check the box next to any and all of your interests and then click the “Submit” link at the bottom of the page.

You are now signed up to receive email updates on these topics. Each email will have a link at the bottom for “Subscriber Service Options”. These options allow you to change the topics you are following or to delete your profile and cancel your alerts.



All-Aboard! Trolley Coming to Monmouth-Independence

Three new bright red replica trolleys have arrived in Monmouth, purchased with \$3 million in American Rescue Plan grant funds via the state budget. They will begin operating perhaps as early as next month as a two-year pilot connecting Monmouth and Independence, linking the two downtowns, Central High School, and the Western Oregon

University campus. The new trolleys are gas-electric hybrids and will be managed and operated by Cherriots. The plan is to operate Monday through Saturday until 9 p.m. with about three trips an hour and on Sunday until 6. Ten fixed stops about a quarter mile apart are anticipated. The Cherriots’ Route 45 now covers these stops but at less frequency. The trolleys are ADA accessible and equipped with bike racks. They are rubber tired (do not operate on tracks).

Spring Cleaning? Information from Marion County Master Recycling



Assistance League of Salem-Keizer has a secondhand clothing, housewares, and furniture shop + consignment program to put second hand products to good use and supplement income for community members

Sparrow Furniture accepts donations of used hardwood furniture to recondition and turn into functional, usable reclaimed wood furniture products.

Garten Services accepts donations of technology and has an online reuse store

Habitat ReStore accepts donations of building materials and home goods and has an online store

NW Hub accepts used bicycles that they recondition to get back to community members in need at low/no cost

Donate used tools to **Santiam Canyon Tool Library**. Fire-affected communities in the canyon use this tool library to borrow items helpful in the rebuilding process

Dig into spring cleaning your house, apartment, garbage, or closet, and separate the usable stuff from what you no longer need or want. There are others out there waiting for it!

Observer Corps Reports

Cherriots (Salem Area Mass Transit District) Board—02/23/2023

Janet Adkins

Items Discussed:

- Participants in customer and community surveys gave very positive reports. Examples: 95% of 419 customers on fixed routes were satisfied with the service (the highest the consultant has seen, 81% being their "industry sampled average"). And 84% of 391 community members (few of whom were system users) felt that Cherriots is valuable to the community with the most value reported being access to jobs and providing options for people with special mobility needs. Asked what it would take to become bus users, respondents said more frequent service, more routes where they want to go, covered bus shelters.

- Purchase of smaller (16 passenger) buses for routes that do not justify full sized buses. No alternative fuel buses of this size currently available.

- Quarterly service, ridership and revenue statistics: During Fiscal Year 2023 Quarter 2 (last 3 months of calendar 2022) weekday service levels were at 93% of pre-pandemic levels (at 80% the year before). Saturday and Sunday service were at 100% pre-pandemic (Sunday service began in Sept. 2021). Number of rides given increased about 35% over the same quarter of the



previous year for fixed route on weekdays and Saturdays and 68% on Sundays. Total rides second quarter FY '23 over regular, regional, and Lift service totaled nearly 1.3 million. Further breakdowns were given by type of service, fare category, weekend/weekday service, and route. Routes with the highest ridership were #11 Lancaster, #21 South Commercial, #19 Broadway/River Rd, and #2 Market to Chemeketa Community College.

- The Board submitted testimony in support of state legislation (HB 2662) to study extension of Westside Express Service to Salem—rush-hour commuter service that operates on freight rail track between Wilsonville and Beaverton. [More detail on HB 2662 on Page 5]

Actions Taken:

- Approved contract amendment (to reflect increased costs) for purchase of four 16-passenger buses for up to \$729 K using state Transportation Improvement Fund discretionary funds and local match
- Appointed Fred Evander to State Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee
- Accepted consultant reports on recent customer and community surveys and new TransDash data interface system
- Accepted staff Quarterly: Performance Report, Financial Report, Strategic Plan Update

Cherriots (Salem Area Mass Transit District) Board – 03/23/2023

Janet Adkins

Items Discussed:

1. Youth Zero Pass program—Cherriots marketing team, S-K Schools public information, and school peer efforts are making a difference; early operator and passenger reports of inappropriate/dangerous behavior are declining.

2. Teen ridership is a hopeful sign that kids will get used to using the bus and continue to do so. Many teens had never taken the bus before the free-pass program started in September.

3. It is expected that by May Cherriots will return to 100% pre-pandemic service levels for weekday, regular routes. Cherriots is already at 100% for regular routes on weekends and for regional service.

4. There is Board and customer enthusiasm for the upcoming electronic fare system.

5. Board member Navarro and General Manager Pollock attended at the D.C. meeting of the American Public Transit Association and met with Oregon's congressional delegation regarding transit funding portions of the Inflation Reduction and Infrastructure Investment Acts.



Actions Taken:

1. Accepted reports on:
 - a. Youth Zero Pass program—ridership and marketing/education efforts
 - b. Route service changes
2. Postponed adoption of staff and board member Travel and Reimbursement Policy.
3. Appointed Marie Greene to Budget Committee.

Marion County Board of Commissioners - 02/22/2023

Amy Vandegrift

Items Discussed:

The Public Defenders of Marion County (PDMC) trustee chair spoke about the county's public defenders program. Marion County is the first in the state to implement a "holistic model" approach. It hired Shannon Wilson as manager. She secured funding to hire two bilingual case managers to assist with social services, payment for law students who are hired as law clerks and set up training for new Public Defender attorneys that would prepare them for their job and more likely help to retain them. PDMC is also working to institute "ethical workloads" that will better serve the clients as well as the Public Defenders.



As a restructuring of the County Treasurer's office, Marion County now uses Government Portfolio Advisors for the County's investment funds. (As well as County tax monies, these also include funds from State and Federal such as the American Rescues Plan.) Commissioners approved a \$450,000, 5-year contract with Government Portfolio Advisors for their services. Every five years, the County reassesses the Ambulance Service Area (ABA) and redraws ambulance zones.

The County Ordinance needs to be amended. In two weeks the Commissioners will hold a hearing about changing the Ordinance and the ABA zones. Oregon DOT provided \$186,161.63 for the County to create a county Transportation Safety Action Plan. Public works will review accidents and safety issues that should be addressed. The Plan will be used to apply for federal funding grants to improve the safety of those areas.

A public hearing was set for March 15, 2023, to consider an exemption to the Marion County Public Contracting Rules to allow an alternative competitive bidding process for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer project for Mill City, Gates, Idanha and Detroit that will be used to allocate \$50 million funds from the American Rescue Plan.

Actions Taken:

- Commissioners made appointments to the Marion County Justice Reinvestment Council and Marion County Compensation Board.
- Commissioners approved:
 - (1) OLCC licenses for J's.Teriyaki, renewed 94 licenses and denied one OLCC renewal.
 - (2) A 7.2 acre amendment to Sublimity's UGB that was discussed at the previous meeting.
 - (3) An order by the Treasurer to distribute \$89,704.39 of Oregon State Forestry Timber revenue.
 - (4) Additional \$155,700 for the upgrade of Connecticut Ave., Macleay Rd. to Rickey St.

Marion County Board of Commissioners – 03/01/2023

Amy Vandegrift

Items Discussed:

Terry Hancock was appointed to the Salem Foundation Distribution Committee by The Marion County Commissioners. He is one of the five members of the Foundation Board overseen by Pioneer Trust Bank. He reported on their bi yearly distribution.

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Actions Taken:

The Commissioners established the Emergent Economic Opportunity Program as a new grant program to help fund businesses' and non-profit organizations' projects. Commissioners approved adding \$85,777 for a new contract total of \$185,443 with Maul Foster and Alongi (MFA) for work on the Detroit Marinas Excavation and Resiliency Project. These are part of the American Recovery Plan (ARPA). All the work will be completed by 2026. The final approval of the change in Sublimity's UGB was approved by Commissioners.

Marion County Board of Commissioners – 03/08/2023

Amy Vandegrift

Items Discussed:

There was an interesting discussion about the Justice of the Peace, who handles many traffic cases. Jarrod Howard was appointed Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore to fill in for Justin Kidd while he has a holiday.

Actions Taken:

The Commissioners, on the consent calendar, approved receiving \$12,000,000 in funds from Oregon Housing and Community Dept. for North Santiam Canyon housing recovery and approved a 5-year plan for the Marion County Ambulance Service Area. They also approved receipt of \$2,000,000 from the American Recovery Plan (ARPA) for COVID's impact on individuals, businesses and unhoused seniors.

**Marion County Board of Commissioners – 03/15/2023**

Amy Vandegrift

Items Discussed:

Commissioners made the annual proclamation designating March as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The commissioners talked about the difficulties of procuring funding to help people impacted by the fires in the North Santiam Canyon including the rise in property taxes with rebuilt homes.

Actions Taken:

The Commissioners approved an at-large member to the Marion Water Quality Advisory Committee and an OLCC application to Awesome Indoor Playground, as well as funding for the Finance Department and Health department to use temp services until they can find and hire qualified staff.

The Commissioners approved a 5-year contract for the Clerk's office with Helion Software to provide systems for Land Records Management System. At the public hearing Commissioners approved an order granting exemptions to the Marion County Public Contracting Rules for Keller and Assoc. for the \$50 million North Santiam Sewer project. The company is currently hired for the design and permit phase for the project; they will also be used for the construction.



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Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board – 01/11/2023

Kathy Patterson

Items Discussed:

- Board positions approved: Darin Olson – Chair, Rochelle Koch – Vice-Chair, Dave Budeau – Secretary-Treasurer.
- The District will have 3 committees: Administrative and Operations (Building Committee), Education and Outreach, and Natural Resources Committee (formerly Program Committee). Each committee is comprised of 2 directors, 2 staff, and 1 associate director. The Board Chair appoints Directors and associate directors and the district manager assigns the staff members.
- Heath Keirstead – Launches District's new website
- New Staff: Chelsea Blank – District's Natural Areas Conservation Planner.
Kassi Roosth – Urban Conservationist
- Currently 10 staff with one position to hire.
- Jason Marshall – SkillsBridge intern completes his term. This internship is for retiring or transitioning military personnel to gain experience and training for entering the workforce outside of the military. Marine Mead will start in late summer.



Actions Taken:

- The Board passed a motion to adopt the Cost-of-Living policy. Voting Aye—4 (Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau), Opposed—1 (Walker).
- The Board authorized the District Manager and staff to plan and present the Annual Meeting held February 1, 2023.
- CLEAR Grant approved for North Salem High School for field biology field trips for \$3814.20.
- Claudia the Salmon, stored in Polk County, was considered for a make-over by the District but they were unable to find storage and will not be able to complete the make-over.
- Board approved the Conservation Assistance Grant (CAG) extension for Cook and the cancellation request from Silver Falls and Manor Acres.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board - 02/08/2023

Kathy Patterson

Items Discussed:

- The Treasurer's Report will be moved to the next Board Meeting in March and the reports for September – December Treasurer's Report will be available for review. The Executive Summary has undergone formatting changes to better display the actual vs budget.
- Les Bachelor from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) identified the priority concerns of water quality, water quantity and soil erosion in the Local Work Group (LWG). Wildlife and energy follow. USDA has Climate Smart from the Inflation Reduction funding which relates to carbon capture farming. Pheasants Forever agreement contracting shelter belts and windbreaks to increase pheasant habitat.
- The Board will wait to approve the minutes until the March Board meeting so that the Cost-of-Living Adjustment policy can be corrected per Scott Walker.
- The Personnel Policy Handbook is under legal review so that all the language is current with the new laws.

(Continued on next page)

- Education: Salmon Watch Report – 386 children attended and \$4600 was spent, which was under budget. Heath Keirstead (staff) is considering an Adult Salmon Watch program and is looking for volunteers.

Actions Taken:

- The Board passed a motion to apply for the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) grant from the Oregon Department of Agriculture to be spent in the Pudding River watershed. The funds can be used for outreach and technical assistance related to pesticide use, wages, and materials.
- The Board approved the Conservation Planner-Soils and Croplands position and can start recruitment. This planner would work with the other AG planner to co-lead the Strategic Implementation Area, agriculture water quality program and the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP). The planner will take on irrigation projects and work to build relationships within the ag community. Part of the technical assistance is knowing when to connect a landowner with another partner when the need is beyond Marion Soil and Water capabilities.
- The Board approved six out of seven applicants (except the Sander’s project) for Conservation Assistance Grants (CAG). Budget concerns were raised for the Sander’s applicant because it was difficult to find a contractor to submit a bid after the fires and ice storm. So much work was needed that contractors specializing in this work were hard to schedule so that only a verbal bid was submitted.
- The Board authorized Brenda Sanchez to pay \$22,876 to cover District insurance premium for the coming year that covers the building, vehicles, and liability. Sanchez will shop around for a better price for next year.

Polk County Board of Commissioners – 02/15/2023

Jean Sherbeck

Actions Taken:

All commissioners were present.
 Unanimous approval of Agenda, Minutes of February 15, 2023, Board Meeting, Consent Calendar, and Reclassification of an Employee

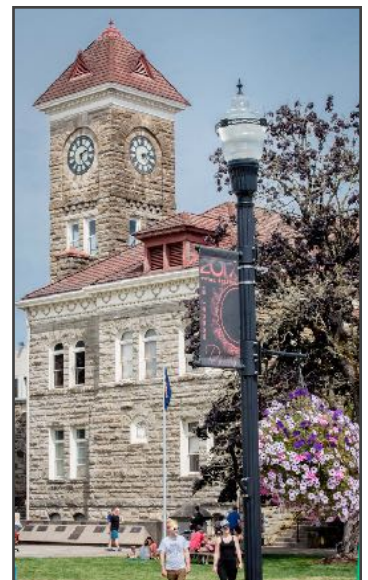
Polk County Board of Commissioners – 02/21/2023

(Work Session)

Jean Sherbeck

Item Discussed:

All commissioners present.
 Approval of February 7, 2023, Minutes



Aid and Assist process for people arrested who need mental evaluation, treatment and community restoration (ie. not in an institution at the end of treatment.) New timelines have been instituted. The length of treatment is now 12 months, with the goal for a person to be considered “able” to stand trial. If a person is not considered capable of going to trial, it needs to be determined if the person is a risk in the community or could be released to residential care in the community. Facilities are scarce, and the person needs to be cooperative. A person could be remanded back to jail, which is not the desired outcome of this process.

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Kerry Hammerschmith, Health Services Manager, and DA Aaron Felton described the difficulties when people are released at the end of 12 months and decisions need to be made on the next steps, if a person is not considered “able”.

Polk County Board of Commissioners - 02/22/2023

Jean Sherbeck

Actions Taken:

All commissioners present.

- Motions to approve the agenda, the minutes from February 15, 2023, and the consent calendar were approved unanimously.

- Public Safety Operating Levy- Reauthorization & Resolution 23-03

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, recommended to the Board that they approve Resolution 23-03, which is as follows:

- To place an operating levy measure on the May 16, 2023 ballot to reauthorize the 2019 public safety levy in Polk County.
- A local option tax in the amount not to exceed \$0.495/\$1,000 assessed value for the duration of 5 years.
- As part of the measure the County would eliminate the final year of the 2019 approved public safety operating levy

A motion to approve passed unanimously.



Polk County Board of Commissioners – 02/28/2023 (Work Session)

Jean Sherbeck

All commissioners were present. The minutes of February 21, 2023 were approved.

Items Discussed:

- SEDCOR Update

- Alex Paraskevas and Erik Anderson presented an extensive update of their participation in many events with Polk County Family and Community Outreach, Dallas schools, and many other organizations in Polk County.

- Their work with the agricultural community focused on technology; they also work with food-related businesses such as food processors, brewers, and wineries.

Polk County Board of Commissioners – 03/01/2023

Jean Sherbeck

Actions taken:

All commissioners were present.

The agenda, minutes of the February 22, 2023 meeting, and the consent calendar were approved unanimously.

Polk County Board of Commissioners – 03/07/2023 (Work Session)

Jean Sherbeck

Actions taken:

- Commissioner Pope was absent.

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- Commissioners Gordon and Mordhorst approved the minutes of February 28, 2023.
- A Star Recognition Award was presented to Michelle Holland.
- Commissioners Gordon and Mordhorst agreed to consider, along with Commissioner Pope, a request to reduce a zoning application fee for a project that had to be withdrawn and to respond in two weeks.
- Commissioners Mordhorst and Gordon agreed to sign a letter previously written by Commissioner Pope to the Oregon Department of Forestry, regarding the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Polk County Board of Commissioners – 03/08/2023

Jean Sherbeck

Items discussed:

- Rural Polk County Point in Time Unsheltered Homeless Count.
- Brent DeMoe, Family and Community Outreach Director, and Amber Kramer, Family Community and Outreach Service Integration Coordinator, reported on the count for rural Polk County, the questions asked of folks, and new organizations to check in with for information they might have. A big problem is the cost of housing. Most people in the count had ties to Polk County, rather than coming here from other areas.



Actions Taken:

Commissioner Pope was absent.

The agenda, minutes of the March 1, 2023, meeting, and the consent calendar were approved unanimously by the quorum.

Polk County Board of Commissioners – 03/14/2023 (Work Session)

Jean Sherbeck

Items Discussed:

All commissioners present.

Citizen Comment: Mandy Strauss appeared before the Board and further explained an issue; she felt the Sheriff's Dept. and the DA's office were not appropriately responding to an assault on her daughter.

Sheriff Garton updated the Board by providing a year-end review for 2022. Some cases have doubled – among them more traffic crashes. He discussed community events and explained that the Citizen Advisory Committee is working on a new mission statement. Sheriff Garton stated that the current staffing level is down 5 positions.

Proclamation NO. 23-02: The Polk County Commissioners proclaimed the month of April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Action taken: Minutes of March 7, 2023 were approved unanimously.

Polk County Board of Commissioners - 03/15/2023

Jean Sherbeck

Items discussed:

- Noelle Carroll, Health Services Director, presented a Memorandum of Understanding for Marion and Polk Counties to coordinate health services and improvements and collaborations and responsibilities. One goal is to avoid duplication of efforts/plans.
- Commissioner Pope said that he is not ready to sign the memorandum because he would like to know why Marion County is reluctant to sign it.

Actions Taken:

All commissioners present.

Agenda, Minutes of March 8, 2023, and Consent Calendar approved unanimously.

Salem City Council – 02/27/2023

Alice LaViolette

Items Discussed:

- Councilor Nishioka was absent. Evan Manvel served as guest councilor in her place.
- Mayor Hoy read a proclamation for Women’s History Month and acknowledged that, for the first time in history, there are a majority of women councilors serving on the City Council.
- Andy Zimmerman, of the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission, gave a presentation on their 2022 accomplishments and plans for 2023.
 - There was much discussion on Mayor Hoy’s motion to request staff to study changes to the downtown free parking district. Mayor Hoy stated there are more downtown residents that park on the street for free, making it harder for customers to find parking. Businesses have moved out, reducing the parking tax. Revenue from the tax could be used for hanging baskets, holiday decorations and cleaning. Councilor Gonzales would like information from owners of private downtown parking lots that go unused. Councilor Nordyke requested information be gathered from citizens before staff start planning to implement a parking program. Kristen Retherford, Urban Development, stated that it takes at least 20 months to order and install parking equipment. Councilor Varney stated that some people are afraid to park in the city parking structures.



Actions Taken:

- A presentation by Polk Co. Sheriff Mark Garton was removed from the agenda and moved to the March 27 City Council meeting.
- Council started the process to dedicate 3 property parcels located in Wards 3 & 4 as a public right-of-way.
- Council started process to vacate the right-of-way in an area of NW 1st in West Salem so the land can be developed.
- Council approved providing a grant of \$630,000 to Salem Housing Authority to provide homeless rental assistance.
- Council authorized the City Manager to use insurance funds in the amount of \$120,000 to settle a city employee’s worker compensation claim.

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- Mayor Hoy made a motion to “to direct staff to return to City Council with a plan to implement paid on-street parking in the downtown parking district and phase out the parking district tax.” Motion passed with Councilors Nordyke and Gwyn voting nay. Mayor Hoy stated this motion was to initiate a process for study of the parking issue and have a public hearing at a later date.

Salem City Council – 03/13/2023

Alice LaViolette

Items Discussed:

- Mayor Hoy read proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention Month and Arbor Month.
- During Public Comment several residents spoke in opposition to a motion by Councilor Hoy to instruct city staff to prepare a study on placing term limits on board members of Salem neighborhood associations. Councilor Hoy stated that term limits might have the effect of introducing a more diverse and equitable representation of board involvement. Others pointed out that neighborhood boards operate independently of city government and that annual elections allow the opportunity for new members to participate. An historical view was offered by resident Susanne Kaltwasser who noted that in 1989 there were 18 neighborhood associations and 7 city staff members that worked with them. Today there are 17 groups and only 1 staff member.



Actions Taken:

City Council passed 7 items via Consent Calendar:

- intent to negotiate for right-of-way easement along 27th St SE
- initiate elimination of 5 overlay zones in Ward 2
- acquire easements along Crestview water line project
- agreed with recommendation of Legislative Committee to support HB 2001A and HB 5019; both bills provide funding to prevent homelessness and rehouse those experiencing homelessness
- ratified a City agreement to provide easement on 2nd St. NW to Union Pacific Railroad for improvements
- accepted a grant from the State of Oregon in the amount of \$1,344,661 for a Navigation Center
 - Council voted to advance an ordinance that, if approved, will designate the Salem Civic Center as a local history resource. Councilor Nordyke asked whether this designation could impact future energy efficiency enhancements to the structure and was told that it won't.
 - Councilor Hoy made a motion to instruct city staff to investigate whether City Council should impose term limits on Neighborhood Association Board Members. The motion failed with Councilors Hoy, Gonzalez and Gwyn voting aye and all others voting nay.
- Councilors approved first reading of a City Code amendment to eliminate minimum parking requirements citywide. The amendment is in response to an Oregon Administrative Rule that requires the City to eliminate all minimum off-street parking requirements for all uses citywide by June 30, 2023. Council will conduct a public hearing on this amendment in the future.



Salem City Council – 03/27/2023

Alice LaViolette

Items Discussed:

Councilor Gonzales was absent.

City Manager Stahley asked Police Chief Womack to respond to a recent article in the *Statesman Journal* that stated, “Salem Police have killed people at a higher rate than in similarly sized Oregon cities” (SJ 03/24/23). Chief Womack stated these were all tragic incidents but each one must be reviewed separately. He said each county has its own process for investigation and Marion County uses an outside agency. There has been a rise in assaults on police officers; three of the last incidents involved individuals shooting at officers. Councilor Nordyke also commented, stating she feels we need to diversify our public safety officials to include mental health professionals and that mental illness is not a crime.



Mayor Hoy stated that he had attended the groundbreaking for Mahonia Crossing Project in South Salem, an affordable housing project. He introduced a student from Willamette University who is an intern in his office, working on homelessness issues.

Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton made a presentation on the upcoming Polk County Levy renewal that will be on the ballot in May 2023. This is a levy that must be renewed every 5 years. If renewed, it will continue to fund half of the Sheriff’s staff and restore 24/7 patrols.

Action Items:

The Consent Calendar included approval of the draft minutes of 03/13/2023; approval of a grant application to improve Greer Park; approval of the appointment of Heather Villegas to the Salem Housing Authority Board; approval to purchase a mini electric street sweeper; approval of revisions of policy statements guiding Salem’s responses to proposed State Legislation.

Public Hearing on the vacation of 1st Street NW in West Salem with the condition that utility easements be provided. Vacating this area will not impede connectivity and will spur development of the area. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Salem-Keizer School Board 03/07/2023

Kathleen McGaraghan West

Items Discussed:

- The meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. All School Board directors were present virtually.
- The meeting was called specifically to elect 2 Budget Committee members and approve our new District Superintendent. There was no time allowed for public comment, which was unusual. All members were satisfied with their cooperative collaboration during the selection of the new District Superintendent.



Actions Taken:

- A. Appoint two Community Members to the Budget Committee

(Continued on next page)

Chairperson Ashley Carson asked each of the four community candidates for the Budget Committee to state how they would advocate for all students as part of that committee. Their answers were all impressive. There is a new Oregon law requiring district budget committees to include a member of the District Equity Advisory Committee (DEAC). There were two stages in the appointment process: First between the two candidates who are currently DEAC members and then between the two remaining candidates. Candidates were: Gabe Maestas (DEAC), Oscar Porrus (DEAC), Phillip Gerstner and Patrick Schwab. Seat 1: Oscar Porrus appointed. Seat 2: Patrick Schwab appointed. All candidates were thanked for applying and encouraged to stay engaged with the Salem Keizer School District.

B: Approve Hiring of the first place finalist as Superintendent of Salem-Keizer Public Schools
2nd Vice Chair Guzmán Ortiz moved and Director Ávila seconded to approve the hiring of Andrea Castañeda as our next District Superintendent. She who will replace Christy Perry, who is retiring at the end of this academic year. All school board directors are enthusiastic about this hire. Ms. Ortiz comes to Salem from Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she has served as Chief Innovation Officer for Tulsa Public Schools since 2017. She has a stellar resume and previously lived a few years in Oregon. She joined the virtual meeting at the end of the School Board meeting to express her overwhelming gratitude and excitement to be joining the Salem-Keizer team. She referred to the importance of our past generations, and said she considers it a privilege to work closely with students, the community and the Board. The top priority of the new Superintendent is to meet and get to know the Salem-Keizer family and work for the improvement of outcomes and higher success for all students. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Salem Public Library Advisory Board – 03/08/2023

Alice LaViolette

Items Discussed:

- Teen Advisory Board will be making a presentation at the Oregon Library Association Conference in April.
- Chromebooks and Wi-Fi Hotspots can now be checked out from the library.
- Usage statistics are rising and nearing their pre-pandemic level.
- LAB members Lois Stark, Francine Boullosa and David Levy met with Mayor Hoy to ask if LAB would be able to give input on the siting/planning for new library branches. It was a very productive meeting. They were told that LAB will be included in the process. Mayor Hoy will appoint a City Councilor to be a liaison to LAB.
- Francine Boullosa, as Chair of LAB, was also asked to be a member of the community group that will participate in the hiring of the new Salem Community Services Manager.
- LAB will also be asked to make an informational presentation to City Council at a future date.



Actions Taken:

- Denise Duren made a motion to fund a Teen Summer Internship position in the amount of \$3500. Motion passed.
- David Levy presented guidelines to be added to the form used for funding requests. The guidelines would require that the project have prior approval from the City Librarian or Library Staff. Motion passed. The form, with updated guidelines, will be posted to the LAB website.

Woodburn City Council – 03/13/2023

Rebecca Coleman Lerback

Items Discussed:

The Woodburn City Council authorized the City Administrator to execute agreements with Marion County for the Marion County Health Tobacco Prevention Project (\$50,000) and Tobacco Prevention Community Readiness Assessment (\$25,000) grant awards. The assessment grant will fund the survey of community stakeholders and community members to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing tobacco use in our community. The prevention grant will fund workshops, youth community programs, and media outreach to promote tobacco prevention skills and healthy lifestyle choices in Woodburn.



The City Council also approved the award of a contract for preliminary design services for the second phase of the Storm Drainage Master Plan in the amount of \$309,950 to Consor, Inc. Council authorized the City Administrator to sign the agreement. The updated master plan will address the physical and regulatory changes that have occurred in Woodburn over the past twenty years. Further, it will provide an integrated storm water management strategy that considers solutions for deficiencies in the current system and plans for future growth.

The City Council authorized the City Administrator to include an appropriation in the proposed FY23/24 City budget to pay off a water bond that was approved in 2018. This action will save the city between \$45,000-\$55,000 in interest expense on the debt service.

Martin J. Pitcher, Chief of Police, asked the Council to authorize the City Administrator to sign an agreement with Woodburn School District for School Resource Officer services. This intergovernmental agreement would provide the services of one School Resource Officer at Woodburn High School and one School Resource Officer at the District's two middle schools, maintaining the City's partnership with the school district. The City Council authorized the signing of this inter-governmental agreement.

Actions Taken:

- The City Council approved all action items.
- Council had a two-day planning retreat 3/24 through 3/25/23. (Minutes currently not available.)
- The 3/27/23 City Council meeting was canceled.

AAUW invitation to Earth Day Tree Planting

Friday, April 21

9 AM to 2 PM

at

Stephens/Yoshikai School Park

4962 Hayesville Dr. NE

**Park entrance is located at the end of
Will Post Drive NE in Salem.**

**Meet in SE corner of the park
near the white refreshments canopy.**

**Salem City Counselors Jose Gonzales,
Micki Varney and Vanessa Nordyke will speak.**

**Dress to help plant trees. Tools & gloves
provided or bring your own.**

League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties Membership through September 30, 2023

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all women and men 16 years of age and older. Membership includes subscriptions to local, state, and national League publications, many of which are sent by e-mail and all of which are supported by your local dues.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Renewing members, please add below any information that is different from what's in the newest directory. If you've mislaid your directory, contact Elsa Struble at gstruble@willamette.edu, 364-3929.

New members, please complete the following contact information.

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Yes, I want to join the League: _____ as a *new* member. _____ as a renewing member

I am enclosing:

___ \$ 65 for Individual Membership

___ \$ 30 for each additional Household Member, Student or Limited Income Member

(Those with limited income may also contact Amy Vandegrift or Elsa Struble about scholarships)

___ \$ 90 for a single Supporting Member

___ **\$15 extra to receive printed newsletters through the mail**

\$ _____ Contribution to LWVMPC budget (not tax deductible)

\$ _____ **TOTAL to LWVMPC** (not tax deductible)

\$ _____ Contributions to LWV of Oregon are now tax deductible. Write a separate check payable to LWVOR and *send it to* Treasurer Elsa Struble; she will forward it to the state League and the amount will be held for us to use for our educational projects or per-member payments owed the state League. (Checks sent to the LWVOR office will not benefit our local League but directly benefit the state League, another good cause.)

Mail check(s) & form to LWVMPC, P.O. Box 421, Salem, OR 97308

For further member information, contact Amy Vandegrift at 503-364-0492, vandebloom@gmail.com

Join online [HERE](#).



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
of Marion and Polk Counties**

P.O. Box 421
Salem, OR 97308

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