



# FOCUS

Webpage: <http://LWVmarionpolk.org> or [www.leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org](http://www.leaguewomenvotersmarionpolk.org)

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

## May 2023 Calendar of LWV Events

### Wed., May 3, 1:30 p.m. – Book Club – *The Personal Librarian*

by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray

Home of Roz Shirack

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

See the Book Club’s summer schedule on Page 3.

### Mon., May 8, 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.

### Wed., May 17, 7 p.m. – *Perseverance: Early African Americans of Marion County*

Virtual meeting; link will be emailed.

Speaker: **Mariah Rocker**, Public Programs and Exhibits Manager

at Oregon Black Pioneers

Details on Page 2.

### Sat., May 20, 2:30 p.m. – Great Decisions – *Climate change, environmental degradation and Migration*

*Note change of time for this month only.*

Salem Public Library, Plaza Room (lower level) + Virtual meeting, link to be emailed.

Discussion leader: Barbara Sellers-Young

### Sat., June 3, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. – Annual Meeting

**Westminster Church, 3737 Liberty Rd. S**

This is an all-member meeting to celebrate, elect a new board, vote on Bylaws changes, vote on a dues increase, and approve program topics for next year. See Page 4.

Annual Meeting Workbook will be emailed/mailed in mid May.

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## Perseverance: Early African Americans of Marion County

**Mariah Rocker**, Public Programs and Exhibits Manager at Oregon Black Pioneers, will present *Perseverance: Early African Americans of Marion County* May 17, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The link will be emailed.

Oregon Black Pioneers is Oregon's only historical society dedicated to preserving and presenting the experiences of African Americans statewide. Since 1993, the organization has illuminated the tenacity of Black Oregonians who faced discrimination and hardship to make a life for themselves.

Mariah' Rocker's passion for uncovering and sharing the stories of marginalized communities is evident in both her professional and personal pursuits. Her professional background includes serving as a Digital Organizer for Our Oregon and as a Safe Space Coordinator at Central Washington University. In her free time, Mariah channels the strength and resilience of historical icons by dressing up as "Badass Black Women" and enjoys crafting handmade miniatures.



Mariah Rocker

NOTE: All League meetings are open to the public. *Reply to Focus* editor Sally Hollemon for the link.

## Black Leaders Past and Present

*Barbara Sellers-Young & Sally Hollemon*

As we look forward to learning about the history of African Americans in Marion County on May 17, let's honor those that fought for equal and fair voting rights for everyone. It is partly because of the courageous activism of Black leaders throughout U.S. history that all Americans have the right to vote.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was landmark legislation that outlawed the discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the Civil War, where voter suppression methods— such as grandfather clauses, literacy tests, poll taxes, and other obstacles—had virtually eliminated the Black vote and held Black voter registrations and voter turnout at a staggeringly low level.

We honor the many Black activist leaders that made the Voting Rights Act possible. **Amelia Boynton Robinson**, called the matriarch of the voting rights movement, was a civil rights activist, educator, political leader, and catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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### **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.

## Black Leaders Past and Present (Continued from previous page)

Other women whose work led to passage of the Voting Rights Act were **Ella Baker**, co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) headed by Martin Luther King, Jr. and an inspiring voice behind the creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Council (SNCC); **Diane Nash**, one of the founders of the SNCC and an organizer of a series of campaigns against segregation and discrimination; and **Fannie Lou Hamer**, who helped organize the 1964 Freedom Summer, which brought hundreds of college students, Black and white, to help with African American voter registration in the segregated South.

Black leaders helped make voting possible for everyone. To honor these leaders, we must ensure that these rights are protected.



## Book Club's Summer Schedule

**June 7**— *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides

**July 5**— *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz

## Sources of Information for May 16 Local Elections

*Deanie Anderson, Voter Service Co-Chair*

May elections held in odd-numbered years select representatives for local districts. In the Willamette Valley, ballots will include candidates for Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Woodburn School District, Chemeketa Community College, Keizer Fire District and more.



What's on your ballot? Look at [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org) to see.

Five candidates for Salem-Keizer School Board recorded interviews with LWVMPC interviewers. They will be shown on CCM Channel 21 at various times up to May 16. The interviews may also be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78XZ7meHufCstRp7xkwmVwWM> and on [VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

CMM's radio station KMWV 98.3 FM is also airing the school board interviews:

Monday, May 1st—**Zone 2**—Cynthia Richardson

Tuesday, May 2nd—**Zone 2**—Casity Troutt

Wednesday, May 3rd—**Zone 4**—Satya Chandragiri

Thursday, May 4th—**Zone 4**—Kelley Strawn

Friday, May 5th—**Zone 6**—Larry Scruggs

All the school-board interviews will air at 7 a.m. during that week; the following week they will air Monday - Friday in reverse order. CCM is also going to try getting the special districts show on their radio once or twice before the election. (More information on Page 4)

An informational **Your Vote Counts** program “What are Special Service Districts and Why are They Important?” is on CCM’s Channel 21 and on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/sPFbon1IE\\_Q](https://youtu.be/sPFbon1IE_Q).

If you have moved, you can check your registration status any time at [Oregonvotes.gov/MyVote](https://Oregonvotes.gov/MyVote) . For general information you can check the website of your county’s election office.

- Marion County: [co.marion.or.us/CO/elections](https://co.marion.or.us/CO/elections)
- Polk County: [co.polk.or.us/clerk/may-16-2023-special-district-election](https://co.polk.or.us/clerk/may-16-2023-special-district-election)

## Looking Forward to Annual Meeting on June 3

*Barbara Sellers-Young, President*

The June 3rd Annual Meeting will be an opportunity for LWVMPC members to celebrate the accomplishments of this year and to plan for the future.

The League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties has much to celebrate in its contribution to the expansion of knowledge and community understanding that is embedded in its core programs from Voter Education to monthly meetings, Observer Corps, Great Decisions and the Book Group.



### Celebrating Accomplishments

This year LWVMPC continued its commitment to voter education through events at the Salem Art Fair, Public Library and Chemeketa Community College. The fall of 2022 was filled with **Celebrating Accomplishments** (Continued from Page 3)

candidate interviews and ballot measure forums for the November election. Members visited local legislators in February to gather their views and share LWV perspectives on upcoming legislation. April was filled with candidate interviews for the school board elections. Monthly meetings provided an opportunity for members and the general public to consider Salem’s new environmental plan, the contributions of Capital Community Media and *Salem Reporter* to a changing news landscape, the potential impact of open primaries on the future of voting in Oregon and in May the history of African Americans in Marion County.

The Observer Corps provided consistent information on the discussions and decisions of Marion and Polk County Commissioners, Salem Area Mass Transit Board, Salem Public Library Board, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Salem City Council, Salem Keizer School Board, and Woodburn City Council. Alice LaViolette posts them on the LWVMPC website.

LWVMPC members of Great Decisions expanded their knowledge of global issues and engaged in lively discussions with readings including United States industrial policy, the geopolitics of energy, global famine and migration and the positional histories of Myanmar and Iran.

The Book Group read an eclectic set of twelve fiction and non-fiction books that included the collaboration of Louise Penny and Hillary Clinton in a political thriller *State of Terror* to the short stories of Jhumpa Lahiri in *The Interpreter of Maladies*, Trevor Noah’s deeply moving autobiography *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* and Jon Meacham’s history of the

United States *The Soul of America*. The combination of the above and the other selected books provided insight into styles of writing and the unique stories of individuals and communities.

## Creating the Future

In January LWVMPC held a dynamic discussion of the issues of local and global import through four primary areas that will become the focus of the program in 2023 - 2024:

Communication: mis-information and civics education

Social Policy: homelessness and mental health, homelessness as related to economics

Climate Change: clean water/plastics, climate justice

Voter Education and Youth Engagement



This proposed program will be voted on at Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting will also be an opportunity to thank the current LWVMPC Board and elect the 2023-24 Board, which will be responsible for developing programs on the topics approved at Annual Meeting.

The other primary topic of the Annual meeting will be an initiative to become a 501(c)(3) organization to give LWVMPC a stronger non-profit status with the IRS. This designation would allow LWVMPC to accept donations (dues are considered donations) that would be tax deductible for the contributor. Accomplishing this status will have an impact on LWVMPC's ability to find financial support for the services it provides for voter education and the costs associated with renting venues for public educational events and continued outreach to young voters through a potential internship program.

I look forward to celebrating our accomplishments and creating the future at Annual Meeting.

**Please put June 3 on your calendar** and plan to attend. The Annual Meeting Workbook will be sent to LWVMPC members in mid-May. It will contain the Board nominees, program topics, a budget for 2023-24 with a proposed dues increase, and changes to the Bylaws to reflect current practices as well as the proposed 501(c)(3) status. Because of the proposed dues increase, we urge you to plan to renew your membership at Annual Meeting.

## Learn More About Climate Change

*Some fascinating information from the New York Times*

- If you struggle to understand the science behind climate change, [let us walk you through the basics](#).
- What's causing global warming? How can we fix it? [Our F.A.Q. will tackle your climate questions, big and small](#).
- Half the world could soon face dangerous heat. We measured the daily toll [it is already taking](#).
- New data reveals stark disparities in how different U.S. households contribute to climate change. [See your neighborhood's climate impact](#).
- Wildlife is disappearing around the world as humans take over too much of the planet. [Meet some of the animals that are running out of places to live](#).
- *Times* photographers have come back from global travels with [an encyclopedia's worth of images](#) that hint at the scope and devastation of a climate in crisis.
- Given the drumbeat of troubling environmental news, it's easy to fall into a state of doom paralysis. These six podcasts [can help tackle your climate anxiety](#).



## League of Women Voters Climate Change Resources:

The LWV Climate Change [website](#) is chock full of information and resources, even including [how to communicate about climate change](#). Each of our 10 issue teams has its own [webpage](#) displaying our wonderful work. If you haven't seen it, I encourage you to check it out. You can also find information about the [climate change presentations](#) made at the 2022 convention, as well as the resolution that was passed.



**Climate Emergency Resolution passed:** *"We, as delegates of local Leagues assembled at the 2022 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board and state and local Leagues to urge state and local governments to adopt and publicize Declarations of Climate Emergency appropriate to local conditions and take appropriate action to implement the Declarations of Climate Emergency."*

## Plastic: An Environmental Health Disaster

At every stage in the lifecycle — when plastics are made, used, and disposed of — they cause substantial harm to the climate, air, ecosystems, and human health.

Here's a link to everything you wanted to know about plastics pollution:  
[https://oeconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/oec\\_plastics\\_info\\_sheet.pdf](https://oeconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/oec_plastics_info_sheet.pdf)

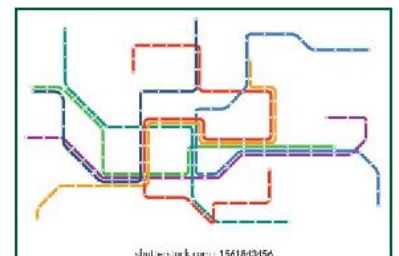
## Observer Reports

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

Janet Adkins

#### Items Discussed:

Very positive customer and community survey results. Examples: 95% of customers (419 surveys) on fixed route were satisfied with the service (the highest the consultant has seen - 81% being their "industry sampled average"). And 84% (based on 391 responses) community members (few were system users) feel Cherriots is valuable to 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: 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 (80% the year before). Saturday and Sunday service at 100% pre-pandemic (Sunday service began Sept. 2021). → → →

## **Cherriots Board—02/23/2023** (Continued)

Number of rides given increased about 35% over the same quarter the previous year for fixed-route weekdays and Saturdays and increased 68% on Sundays. Total rides in second quarter FY 23 for regular, regional, and Lift service were nearly 1.3 million. Further breakdowns were given by type of service, fare category, weekend/weekday service, and route. Routes with highest ridership were #11 Lancaster, #21 South Commercial, #19 Broadway/River Rd, and #2 Market to Chemeketa CC.

Board submitted testimony in support of state legislation (HB 2662) to study extension of Westside Express Service to Salem; this is rush-hour commuter service that operates on freight rail track between Wilsonville and Beaverton.

### **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 reports: 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, as early operator and passenger reports of inappropriate/dangerous behavior are declining.
2. Teen ridership a hopeful sign that kids will get used to using the bus and continue - many teens had never taken the bus before the free pass program started in September.
3. Expect May ridership will return to 100% pre-pandemic service levels for weekday, regular routes. (Already at 100% for regular route weekends and regional service)
4. Board and customer enthusiasm for upcoming electronic fare system.
5. Board member Navarro and General Manager Pollock attended the D.C. meeting of the American Public Transit Association. They 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 regarding 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 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 State and Federal funds, such as the American Rescue 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. The Commissioners will hold a hearing about changing the ordinance in 2 weeks 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 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 alternative competitive bidding process for the North Santiam Canyon Sewer project for Mill City, Gates, Idanha and Detroit that is part of the \$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:

- (1) Approved OLCC licenses for J's.Teriyaki, renewed 94 licenses and denied one OLCC renewal.
- (2) Approved a 7.2 acre amendment to Sublimity's UGB that was discussed at the previous meeting.
- (3) Approved an order by the Treasurer to distribute \$89,704.39 of Oregon State Forestry Timber revenue.
- 4) Approved addition funding \$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. He is one of the five members of the Foundation Board overseen by Pioneer Trust Bank. He reported on their biyearly distribution.

### Actions Taken:

Commissioners established the Emergent Economic Opportunity Program as a new grant program to help fund businesses and non-profits with organizational 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 funds are part of the American Recovery Plan (ARPA). All the work will be completed by 2026.

Commissioners gave final approval to the change in Sublimity's UGB.

## 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 a 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 Marion County Ambulance Service area. They also approved receiving \$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 and the rise in property taxes with rebuilt homes.

### Actions Taken:

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

## Marion County Board of Commissioners — 03/15/2023 (Continued)

The Commissioners approved a 5-year contract for the Clerk's office with Helion Software to update the 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 and will also be used for the construction phase.

## 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
  - 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. The 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 his internship in late summer.

### Actions Taken:

- The Board passed a motion to adopt the Cost-of-Living Policy. The vote was Aye-4 (Olson, Koch, Hart, and Budeau) and Opposed-1 (Walker)
- The Board authorized the District Manager and Staff to plan and present the Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held February 1, 2024
- CLEAR Grant of for \$3814.20 was approved for North Salem High School for field biology field trips.
- Claudia the Salmon, stored in Polk Country, was considered for a make-over by the District but were unable to find future 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 September-December Treasurer's Reports 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 priority concerns will follow. USDA has Climate Smart from the Inflation Reduction funding which relates to carbon capture farming. Pheasants Forever agreement is for 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.

Education: Salmon Watch Project – 386 children attended and \$4600 was spent (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 will 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 agriculture community. Part of the technical assistance is knowing when to connect a landowner with another partner when the need is beyond the scope of Marion Soil and Water.



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 for the District insurance premium for the coming year; it 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. Approved 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.

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 were present.
- 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.
- 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 homeless 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.

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## Polk County Board of Commissioners - 03/08/2023 (Continued)

### 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 were present.

Citizen Comment: Mandy Strauss appeared before the Board further explaining that 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 issues have doubled – among them more traffic crashes. He discussed community events and that the Citizen Advisory Committee is working on a new mission statement. Sheriff Garton stated that the current staffing 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' improvements, 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 were present.

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

More reports →→→

## 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 acknowledge that, for the first time in history, there are a majority of women councilors serving City Council.

Andy Zimmerman, of the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission, gave a presentation on their 2022 accomplishments and plans for 2023.

Downtown parking: 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, affecting the parking tax.

Revenue 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 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 the 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’s compensation claim.
- 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.
- Several residents spoke, during Public Comment, 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, → → →

## Salem City Council – 03/13/2023 (Continued)

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 enhancement 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 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 said we need to diversify our public safety officials to include mental health professionals and that mental illness is not a crime. → → →





## **Salem City Council — 03/27/2023** (Continued)

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: Vacation of 1st St. 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 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 Budget Committee**

Chairperson Director Ashley Carson asked each of 4 Community Budget member candidates to state how they would advocate for all students as part of the budget committee. Their answers were all impressive. There is a new Oregon law requiring district Budget Committees to include a member of District Equity Advisory Committee (DEAC).

There were two stages for the appointments: First between 2 candidates who are currently DEAC members and then between the three remaining candidates. Candidates are: Phillip Gerstner, Gabe Maestas (DEAC), Oscar Porrus (DEAC), 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 First Place Finalist As Superintendent of Salem-Keizer Public Schools** → → →

## Salem-Keizer School Board — 03/07/2023 (Continued)

2nd Vice Chair Guzmán Ortiz moved and Director Ávila seconded to approve the hiring of Andrea Castañeda as our next District Superintendent. She will replace Christy Perry, who is retiring at the end of this academic year. All school board directors are enthusiastic about this hire.

Castañeda 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. She 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 that 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.



Andrea Castañeda

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 who 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. More on next page →

## 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.



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