



**AGENDA**  
**STAYTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**Monday, March 21, 2022**  
Stayton Community Center  
400 W. Virginia Street  
Stayton, Oregon 97383

**HYBRID MEETING**

The Stayton City Council will be holding a hybrid meeting utilizing Zoom video conferencing software. The meeting will be in-person but can also be live streamed on the City of Stayton's YouTube account. Please use the following option to view the meeting:

- 7:00 p.m. – City Council Regular Session – <https://youtu.be/449KNy1Nk70>

**Public Comment and Public Hearing Testimony:** Meetings allow for in-person, virtual, or written public comment. If a community member has a barrier which prevents them from participating via one of the methods below, they should contact City staff at [citygovernment@staytonoregon.gov](mailto:citygovernment@staytonoregon.gov) **no less than three hours prior to the meeting start time** to make arrangements to participate.

Comment and testimony are limited to three minutes. All parties interested in providing public comment or testifying as part of a public hearing shall participate using one of the following methods:

- **In-Person Comment:** Parties interested in providing in-person verbal public comment shall fill out a "Request for Recognition" form available at the meeting. Forms must be filled out and submitted to the Administrative Services Manager prior to the meeting start time.
- **Video or Audio Conference Call:** Parties interested in providing virtual public comment shall contact City staff at [citygovernment@staytonoregon.gov](mailto:citygovernment@staytonoregon.gov) **at least three hours prior to the meeting start time** with their request. Staff will collect their contact information and provide them with information on how to access the meeting to provide comment.
- **Written Comment:** Written comment submitted to [citygovernment@staytonoregon.gov](mailto:citygovernment@staytonoregon.gov) **at least three hours prior to the meeting start time** will be provided to the public body in advance of the meeting and added to the City Council's webpage where agenda packets are posted.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**7:00 PM**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Additions to the agenda
- b. Declaration of Ex Parte Contacts, Conflict of Interest, Bias, etc.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. March 7, 2022 City Council Regular Session Minutes

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Fiscal Year 2021-22 – Quarter 2 Financial Report as of December 31, 2021**

**INFORMATIONAL**

- a. Presentation – Susannah Sbragia
- b. Public Comment
- c. Council Discussion

**Resolution No. 1033, Oregon Water Resources Department Water Project Grant Application**

**ACTION**

- a. Staff Report – Lance Ludwick
- b. Public Comment
- c. Council Discussion
- d. Council Decision

**Letter of Support in Support of the North Santiam School District**

**ACTION**

- a. Staff Report
- b. Public Comment
- c. Council Discussion
- d. Council Decision

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY STAFF**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**ADJOURN**

*The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you require special accommodations contact City Hall at (503) 769-3425.*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH 2022

Monday	March 21	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/449KNy1Nk70">https://youtu.be/449KNy1Nk70</a>
Monday	March 28	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/0WEPYp7tcl0">https://youtu.be/0WEPYp7tcl0</a>

## APRIL 2022

Monday	April 4	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/4DQe6Xaae0M">https://youtu.be/4DQe6Xaae0M</a>
Tuesday	April 5	Parks and Recreation Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Community Center
Monday	April 18	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/YEPfKSfOHik">https://youtu.be/YEPfKSfOHik</a>
Wednesday	April 20	Library Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Public Library
Monday	April 25	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/QsQ73awQZmc">https://youtu.be/QsQ73awQZmc</a>
Thursday	April 28	Marion County Commissioners City Meetings	12:00 p.m.	Jefferson Café (Jefferson)

## MAY 2022

Monday	May 2	Budget Committee	6:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/ZeQMqi4S1o8">https://youtu.be/ZeQMqi4S1o8</a>
Monday	May 2	City Council	<i>Cancelled</i>	
Tuesday	May 3	Parks and Recreation Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Community Center
Monday	May 9	Budget Committee	6:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/nwUvw1YPp9Y">https://youtu.be/nwUvw1YPp9Y</a>
Tuesday	May 10	Marion County Commissioners City Meetings	7: 30 a.m.	Turnaround Café (Turner)
Tuesday	May 10	Budget Committee	6:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/FRGj8F0qyho">https://youtu.be/FRGj8F0qyho</a>
Wednesday	May 11	Budget Committee	6:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/o9h2pDIS2il">https://youtu.be/o9h2pDIS2il</a>
Monday	May 16	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/1yG-tQFRMG4">https://youtu.be/1yG-tQFRMG4</a>
Wednesday	May 18	Library Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Public Library
Monday	May 31	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/r725PkOXCUU">https://youtu.be/r725PkOXCUU</a>

## JUNE 2022

Monday	June 6	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/JJYgnrWvJI4">https://youtu.be/JJYgnrWvJI4</a>
Tuesday	June 7	Parks and Recreation Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Community Center
Tuesday	June 14	Marion County Commissioners City Meetings	7:30 a.m.	Covered Bridge Café (Stayton)
Wednesday	June 15	Library Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Public Library
Monday	June 20	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/l346aVqYzgs">https://youtu.be/l346aVqYzgs</a>
Monday	June 27	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/vww73FT_eRU">https://youtu.be/vww73FT_eRU</a>

## JULY 2022

Monday	July 4	<b>CITY OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY HOLIDAY</b>		
Tuesday	July 5	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/rEaBZGBSlf4">https://youtu.be/rEaBZGBSlf4</a>
Tuesday	July 5	Parks and Recreation Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Community Center
Monday	July 18	City Council	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/hVlj0x1zevg">https://youtu.be/hVlj0x1zevg</a>
Wednesday	July 20	Library Board	6:00 p.m.	Stayton Public Library
Monday	July 25	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.	<a href="https://youtu.be/osNaffewj1g">https://youtu.be/osNaffewj1g</a>

**City of Stayton  
City Council Minutes  
March 7, 2022**

<b>LOCATION:</b> STAYTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 400 W. VIRGINIA, STAYTON
<b>Time Start:</b> 7:05 P.M. <span style="float: right;"><b>Time End:</b> 8:47 P.M.</span>

**COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE LOG**

COUNCIL	STAYTON STAFF
Mayor Henry Porter	Alissa Angelo, City Manager Pro Tem
Councilor Paige Hook	Dan Fleishman, Director of Planning & Development (via Zoom)
Councilor Ben McDonald (excused)	David Frisendahl, Police Chief (via Zoom)
Councilor Jordan Ohrt (via Zoom)	Lance Ludwick, Public Works Director
Councilor David Patty (excused)	Janna Moser, Library Director (via Zoom)
Councilor Brian Quigley	Susannah Sbragia, Finance Director (via Zoom)

AGENDA	ACTIONS
<b>REGULAR MEETING</b>	
<b>Announcements</b>	
a. Additions to the agenda	Mayor Porter pulled the North Santiam School District letter of support from the agenda and requested it be added to the March 21, 2022 meeting agenda.
b. Declaration of Ex Parte Contacts, Conflict of Interest, Bias, etc.	None.
<b>Appointments</b>	None.
<b>Public Comment</b>	None.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	
a. February 22, 2022 City Council Regular Session Minutes	Motion from Councilor Hook, seconded by Councilor Quigley, to approve the consent agenda as presented. <b>Motion passed 3:0.</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	None.
<b>General Business</b>	
<b>ASR Informational Report</b>	
a. Presentation	Mr. Ludwick introduced Peter Olsen of Keller Associates, and Walt Burt and Robyn Cook of GSI. They provided a presentation on the Aquifer Storage Recovery System project.
b. Public Comment	None.
c. Council Discussion	Council discussion and questions regarding grant funding; location and impact on surrounding properties; injection requirements; acreage required from Mill Creek Park; and

<p><b>Roundabout Project Update</b></p> <p>a. Presentation</p> <p>b. Public Comment</p> <p>c. Council Discussion</p> <p><b>Letter of Support in Support of the North Santiam School District</b></p> <p>a. Staff Report</p> <p>b. Public Comment</p> <p>c. Council Discussion</p> <p>d. Council Decision</p>	<p>flushing locations. Mr. Ludwick and consultants responded.</p> <p>Staff will bring forward a resolution for support of a grant application for this project at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Ludwick provided a brief review of the project and introduced Tony Roos of Kittleson &amp; Associates. Mr. Roos shared a presentation on the roundabout design project.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Council discussion and questions regarding the wetland and development of the property on southwest corner of Shaff Road and Wilco Road and potential funding opportunities. Mr. Ludwick and Mr. Roos responded.</p> <p>Consensus from Council present to continue moving forward with the design phase of the roundabout project.</p> <p><i>Agenda item will return for discussion at the March 21, 2022, meeting.</i></p> <p>None.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>None.</p>
<p><b>Communications from City Staff</b></p>	<p>Budget Committee Meeting on March 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Communications from Mayor and City Council</b></p>	<p>Mayor Porter shared that Wayne Lierman, former Mayor of Stayton passed away this past week.</p> <p>Councilor Hook thanked staff for bringing items forward this evening and for being transparent even if not good news.</p>

APPROVED BY THE STAYTON CITY COUNCIL THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2022, BY A \_\_\_\_ VOTE OF THE STAYTON CITY COUNCIL.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Henry A. Porter, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Alissa Angelo, City Manager Pro Tem

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Tammy Bennett, Office Specialist



**CITY OF STAYTON**  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO: Mayor Henry A. Porter and the Stayton City Council**  
**FROM: Susannah Sbragia, Finance Director**  
**DATE: March 21, 2022**  
**SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021-22  
Quarter 2 Financial Report as of December 31, 2021**

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**INFORMATION UPDATE**

This is an information only item on the agenda to provide the results of quarter two of the fiscal year through December 31, 2021. Along with this is a comparison to the second quarter of 2020-21 fiscal year.

**REVENUE HIGHLIGHTS**

The budget was written during the COVID-19 pandemic. There were many uncertainties on what to anticipate. The budget was adopted with flat-lined revenues in preparation for the unknown economic effects of the pandemic.

Revenue received during the second quarter of the fiscal year continues to show slight increases about prior year. It is estimated that a majority of the fund's revenue received will be just about budget.

**Charge for Services:**

- Charge for services for utilities are currently about an 8% increase compared to FY21
- Charge for services for pool only estimate to be about 25% of revenue collected from FY19

**Intergovernmental:**

The increase in intergovernmental agencies revenue is primarily from receiving ARPA funds. The State of Oregon gas tax revenue has been averaging slightly higher compared to quarter two last year by about 15%.

**Property Tax / Local Option Tax Levies:**

The City property taxes collected as of December is about 2% higher compared to December 2020. The current property taxes that have been collected is 99% of the budgeted amount. The Library and Recreation levies have received 97% of the budgeted amounts.

## **EXPENDITURE HIGHLIGHTS**

Overall, expenses are lower than anticipated. This partly due to delayed capital projects because of contactor availability and/or delivery of supplies being delayed. Additionally, the City is still working to fill vacant positions.

## **POOL UPDATE**

The pool has hired additional lifeguards but is still not fully staffed. Pool schedules have allowed for additional classes and local high schools to use the facility for swim team practices and meets. Staff is currently working on training lifeguards to teach swim lessons in the spring. Classes will be limited due to staffing.

Pool maintenance has been on the rise and resulted in higher than anticipated costs. City staff has reported over the last two years that the pool is at the end of its life. The rising cost of maintenance is showing this reality.

The passage of the Recreation levy has allowed us more time to address what next steps are for the pool. Estimates for pool revenues collected are projected at 25% of the budgeted amount for this fiscal year. The Levy alone is not enough revenue to cover all costs of the pool. With the combination of low attendance, low revenue and high maintenance costs, the pool is projected to be in a negative position by the end of the levy. Therefore, doing an additional levy for the pool would not be possible if things continue as they are now.

Staff recommends scheduling a Council work session after the FY23 budget is adopted. This work session will be a chance for Council and staff to discuss options to address the needs of the pool.

## **GOING FORWARD**

The full effect of COVID-19 is still uncertain; the economic factors are still unknown, and the climbing CPI rate and gas prices add additional challenges. The positive is staff's decision to be proactive and reduce expenditures last fiscal year, even though it added hardships on our staff members, it has helped this year's budget to move forward with needed projects and filling vacancies even though we are facing new uncertainties.

The focus of City staff continues to be ensuring essential services are maintained.



**City of Stayton  
Quarter 2 Financial Update**

**FY 2021-22**

<b>Revenues</b>				
	Prior Yr. Actuals FY20-21 Dec 31, 2020**	Actuals FY21-22 Dec 31, 2021	FY21-22 Budget	FY21-22 Budget Variance
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$11,342,800</b>	<b>\$13,830,400</b>	<b>\$12,683,300</b>	<b>\$1,147,100</b>
Taxes	\$2,555,400	\$2,847,600	\$3,009,500	\$161,900
Charge for Services	\$2,930,000	\$3,072,700	\$6,105,200	\$3,032,500
Intergovernmental	\$497,100	\$1,400,100	\$1,487,700	\$87,600
Other Revenue	\$660,800	\$540,600	\$1,095,300	\$554,700
<b>Total Revenue Received</b>	<b>\$6,643,300</b>	<b>\$7,861,000</b>	<b>\$11,697,700</b>	<b>\$3,836,700</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17,986,100</b>	<b>21,691,400</b>	<b>24,381,000</b>	<b>4,983,800</b>

<b>Operating Budget to Actual Comparison by Fund ^</b>				
Expenditures	Actuals Yr-End FY20	Actuals Yr-End FY21	FY21 Budget	% Spent*
<b>General Fund</b>				
Administration	\$540,600	\$485,200	\$1,619,900	30%
Police	\$1,166,900	\$994,500	\$2,317,800	43%
Planning	\$76,300	\$83,800	\$214,400	39%
Community Center	\$20,200	\$17,200	\$31,000	55%
Court	\$39,500	\$46,800	\$112,000	42%
Street Lighting	\$47,000	\$36,000	\$114,000	32%
Mayor City Council	\$6,300	\$6,200	\$12,500	50%
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$1,896,800</b>	<b>\$1,669,700</b>	<b>\$4,421,600</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Public Works Admin</b>				
Operations	\$221,700	\$257,900	\$768,400	34%
<b>Library Fund</b>				
Operations	\$239,600	\$206,700	\$454,400	45%
<b>Parks Fund</b>				
Operations	\$79,100	\$160,300	\$283,200	57%
Parks SDC	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
<b>Water Fund</b>				
Operations	\$665,900	\$346,200	\$1,153,300	30%
Water SDC	\$0	\$0	\$45,800	0%
<b>Storm Water Fund</b>				
Operations	\$88,500	\$46,200	\$257,900	18%
Storm SDC	\$0	\$0	\$65,000	0%
<b>Sewer Fund</b>				
Operations	\$1,164,600	\$630,900	\$2,448,500	26%
Sewer SDC	\$0	\$0	\$41,500	0%
<b>Street Fund</b>				
Operations	\$356,700	\$89,400	\$809,800	11%
Street SDC	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	0%
<b>Facilities Fund</b>				
Maintenance	\$14,900	\$21,600	\$65,200	33%
<b>Pool Fund</b>				
Operations	\$203,300	\$305,400	\$653,300	47%

\* % Spent is YTD Actuals divided by FY Budget.: Red: 53% & above/ Yellow: 47%-52%\ Green: 46% & under

\*\* FY20-21 Un-Audited Financials Actuals

^ does not include debt service, transfers or contingency





**CITY OF STAYTON**  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO: Mayor Henry Porter and the Stayton City Council**  
**FROM: Lance S. Ludwick, Public Works Director**  
**DATE: March 21, 2022**  
**SUBJECT: Resolution No. 1033, Oregon Water Resources  
Department Water Project Grant Application**

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**ISSUE**

Shall the City Council adopt Resolution 1033 supporting the submittal of an application to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for Water Project Grant and Loan funding for the development of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery System (ASR) to be used as a secondary water source for the city.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The City receives its drinking water from the North Santiam River via the Power Canal located at the south end of town, near Third Avenue and Water Street. The City has one shallow well located east of the water treatment plant in Riverfront Park and an intertie with the City of Salem. The intertie is located at the Schedule M site (1020 West Water Street) and allows for Stayton to use Salem's water supply during the winter months only. Salem receives its drinking water from the North Santiam River and its water treatment plant is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the Stayton water treatment plant. It has newer and more robust processing that can remove the algae and reduce some turbidity issues.

Water that comes out of the North Santiam River is pristine and of very high quality, which is why we use a slow sand filter process for our water treatment. It is our primary source of water and that could pose significant problems for the city.

In 2015 we had drought conditions and came close to having water rationing for our citizens. In 2018 we were hit with an algae bloom in Detroit Reservoir which affected the water in the river. The Salem Water Treatment Plant had to shut down their water supply to their city for a week. Stayton was fortunate not to experience algae issues at our plant.

In 2018 and in 2020 truck accidents occurred along the North Santiam River whereby fuel spilled into the North Santiam River. Fortunately, most of the fuel was contained along the river's bank and evaporated.

The North Santiam River is vulnerable to fires, chemical spills, drought and acts of terrorism. It puts the City in a precarious situation since it is our only source of water.

During the 2019 Stayton City Council / Management Team Retreat, a goal was derived to expand the City's Water Supply. In the short-term (1-2 years) the City was to search for a secondary water source.

In September 2019 the Public Works Department entered into a contract with the consultant team of Keller Associates and GSI Water Solutions Inc. to identify and conceptually evaluate potentially viable alternatives for a secondary water supply source for the City. The Technical Memorandum was completed in October 2019, it was recommended that the city explore using an Aquifer Storage and Recovery system which could be combined with the City's existing water source to provide a more robust water supply.

The Oregon Water Resources Department advertised a Water Project Feasibility Study Grant for Water Projects in the Fall of 2019. The consultant team of Keller Associates and GSI Water Solutions prepared a grant application for the city. The grant request was for the costs to perform the Preliminary and Final Feasibility Studies. The OWRD approved the Grant request in June 2020.

During 2021 the city and consultant team conducted the feasibility study. The test well was located at Mill Creek Park. This preliminary evaluation of the aquifer and well indicated that the target storage volume needed to meet the City's emergency or summer peak demand needs can likely be met with a single ASR well. ASR pilot testing will be necessary to refine and improve operational understanding of injection rates, storage capacity, and interference estimates.

The next step in the development of the ASR system is permitting with the state, design, and construction of a full scale well with the associated infrastructure and testing of the system. The estimated program cost is \$5,018,000.

Staff recommends applying to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for a Water Projects Grants and Loans (WPGL) fund Grant. The WPGL program provides funds for evaluating, planning, and implementing in-stream and out of stream water supply projects that have economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. Due to the preliminary feasibility studies, we have performed, via partnerships with the OWRD, we feel this project would be looked at favorably.

The city would like to pursue funding to help defray the costs of the ASR design and construction. The WPGL program provides up to 75% of the project costs to develop water supply projects that meet and score well on the required criteria. Staff would work with GSI Water Solutions in preparing the grant application. The applications are due April 27, 2022.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The financial impact of preparing and submitting the grant application is up to \$20,000, depending on staff contributions.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution 1033 as presented.

## **OPTIONS AND MOTIONS**

The City Council is presented with the following options.

1. Approve the resolution as presented.

Move to approve Resolution No. 1033 to support applying for a Water Project Grant and Loan from the OWRD.

2. Adopt the resolution with modifications.

Move to approve Resolution No. 1033 to support applying for a Water Project Grant and Loan from the OWRD, with the following changes...

3. Choose to not submit an application for a grant.

No motion necessary.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1033**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF STAYTON TO  
APPLY FOR A WATER PROJECT GRANT FROM THE OREGON WATER  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is accepting applications for Water Project Grants and Loans;

WHEREAS, in a February 2022 an AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY FEASIBILITY STUDY was completed, and a final report prepared by Keller Associates and GSI Water Solutions;

WHEREBY, an Aquifer Storage and Recovery System was determined to be a feasible secondary water source for the city of Stayton;

WHEREAS the City is currently completely dependent on the North Santiam River to for its water source;

WHEREAS, the North Santiam River is subject to seasonal algae blooms, contaminate spills and drought; and

WHEREAS, locating a secondary water source and building a redundant water system for the City was identified as a 2019-2022 City Council Goal.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Section 1. The City of Stayton, through its Public Works Department, via Keller Associates and GSI Water Solutions, shall apply for a Water Project Grant from the Oregon Water Resources Department to help fund the cost of the development of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery System for use as the City’s secondary water source.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Stayton City Council.

ADOPTED BY THE STAYTON CITY COUNCIL THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2022.

CITY OF STAYTON

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry A. Porter, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alissa Angelo, City Manager Pro-Tem



**CITY OF STAYTON**  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO: Mayor Henry Porter and the Stayton City Council**  
**FROM: Alissa Angelo, City Manager Pro Tem**  
**DATE: March 21, 2022**  
**SUBJECT: Letter of Support in Support of the North Santiam School District**

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**ISSUE**

Council consideration of writing a letter of support in support of the North Santiam School District.

**ENCLOSURE(S)**

1. Letter to Gov Brown from NSSD School Board

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At the February 22, 2022 Council meeting, Councilor Patty asked the Council to consider writing a letter of support in support of the North Santiam School District's letter to Governor Kate Brown (attached). The Council voted 3:0 to bring this forward for discussion at the following meeting.

**OPTION(S)/MOTION(S)**

1. Direct a Council member to compose and sign a letter of support on behalf of the City Council.
2. Direct a Council member to compose a letter of support and those who vote in favor of the letter will sign the letter.
3. Do not send a letter of support; no motion needed.

**From:** Tonia Whisman <[tonia.whisman@nsantiam.k12.or.us](mailto:tonia.whisman@nsantiam.k12.or.us)>

**Date:** February 22, 2022 at 3:39:29 PM PST

**Subject:** letter to Gov Brown from NSSD School Board

*On Feb. 17, 2022 the NSSD Board of Directors voted unanimously during their monthly meeting to send the attached letter to Governor Brown. You have been cc'd as one of the District's community partners, education/health authorities or elected representatives.*

Kate Brown  
Office of the Governor  
900 Court Street, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Governor Brown,

We write you today as the Board of Directors for the North Santiam School District, with one voice as a unified elected body, made up of seven individuals with varied backgrounds and experiences with the common goal of doing what is best for our kids, the 2000+ who we serve in our communities.

We recognize the authority under which we serve, the constraints of our power, and the profound responsibility that we share for the welfare of our community, and its future...our children. We further recognize that we are accountable to those who elect us, as are those who serve at higher levels of government.

We enter a third year living with a pandemic caused by a novel virus which has exhibited variability of impact among communities, and which is likely to continue to be present and make its presence known...forever. We also enter a third year of temporary public health measures, which you have extended for so long that they are now termed "permanent" despite your administration's assurance that they are still temporary.

We observe the disparate impact that this disease has had on our communities, and among comparable communities in the rest of Oregon, and the rest of the United States. We also observe the unintended, and perhaps avoidable, effect that several public health measures, including masking among young children, are having among many in our community whom we are responsible for.

As we enter a third year in our new world, it is our position that statewide measures which are in place without obvious and well-communicated metrics grounded in both up-to-date scientific knowledge and in pragmatic lifestyle choices that permit life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness are not effective or appropriate. While we welcome your administration's February 7 announcement about an end to statewide masking, we also maintain a degree of discomfort that will persist as long as policies do not follow metrics that reflect the granularity of local conditions, capabilities, and experience.

A good life is a continual skirmish, a struggle to constrain personal liberty only to the degree necessary to protect the common good. We appreciate that your efforts thus far have been in good faith to protect the health of all Oregonians, but we do not believe that continuing the current or future measures, in a top-down manner, is the correct path.

Life is about making the “next right decision.” The decisions of the past were made with the best available information and with the best of intentions, and were clearly not easy or obvious, as evidenced by the disparate ways that various other states chose to proceed. We are now at today. Not yesterday and not tomorrow.

In our estimation, the next right decision today is for your administration to cede responsibility and control for these public health measures back to local authorities. County, municipal, and school district officials are today so much more knowledgeable and equipped to address the impact that this pathogen is having in the present and future than we were in 2020. We are frankly more nimble than the state apparatus of OHA or ODE can hope to be, and we are as caring, deeply so, about the outcome to our communities. We have always shouldered the responsibility for them, and request you recognize that.

We ask you now for action that works towards our future rather than lingering too long in our past.

Sincerely,

NSSD Board of Directors

Alisha Oliver

Laura Wipper

Mike Wagner

Erin Cramer

Coral Ford

Mark Henderson

Mackenzie Strawn

CC:

(NSSD) Andy Gardner

(ODE) Colt Gill

(OHA) Patrick Allen

(Marion County Commission)

(Linn County Commission)

(Stayton City Council)

(Sublimity City Council)

(Lyons City Council)

**Tonia Whisman**

Superintendent/School Board Administrative Assistant

North Santiam School District ~ #nssd4kids  
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