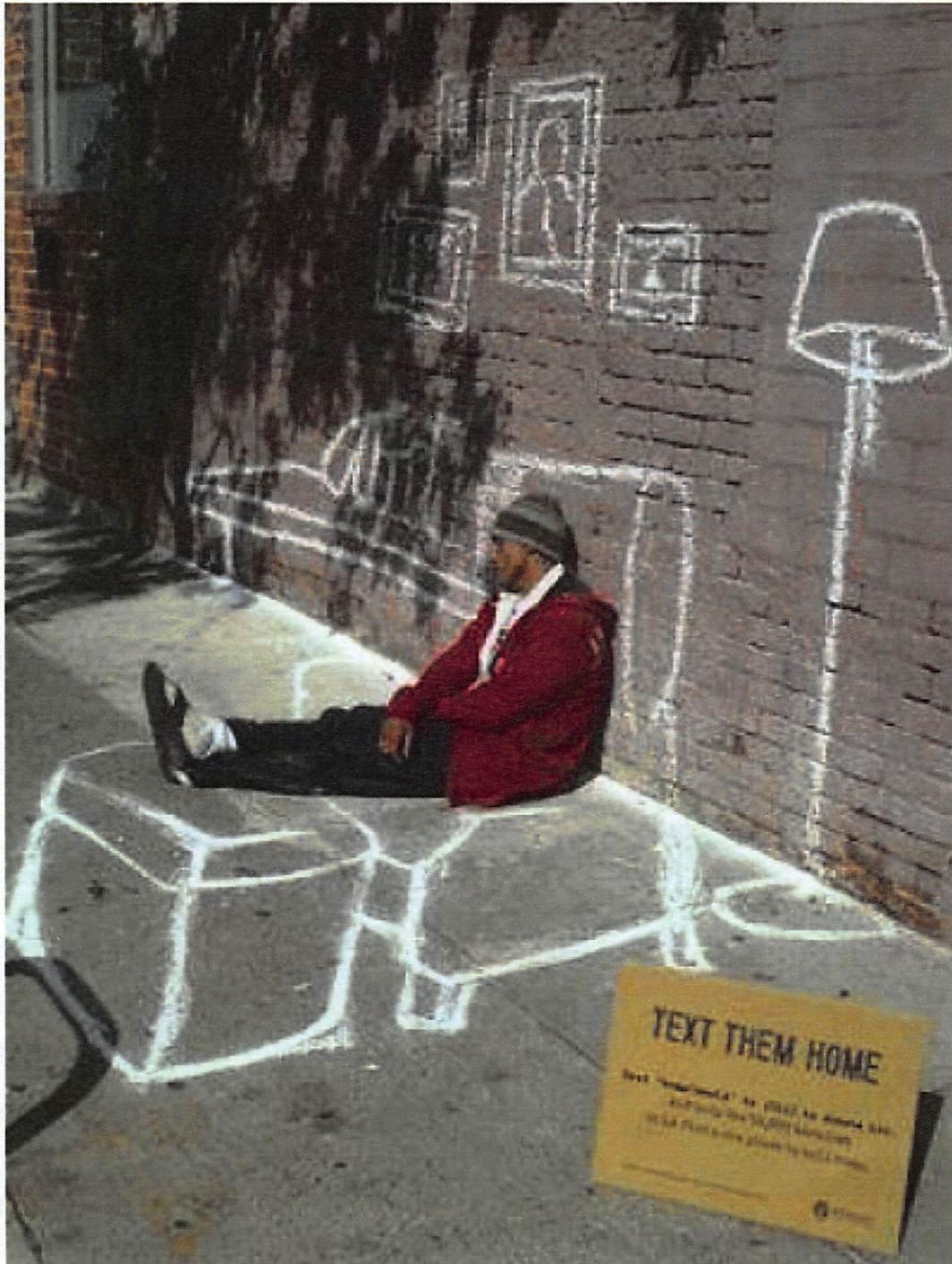


Today's Top News from Downtown Cherry Pits

For Downtown Salem Business and Property Owners

March 2019

MAYOR CHUCKLES SOLVES HOMELESS PROBLEM IN DOWNTOWN SALEM!



PARKING DISTRICT FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF DOWNTOWN ORGANIZATION BY YEAR

Fiscal Year	Parking Tax Collected	Funding for Downtown Projects	Percentage to Downtown Association	Promotions
1979-80	\$118,795			
1980-81	\$139,295	\$29,710	21%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1981-82	\$150,260			100% to Salem Downtown Association
1982-83	\$138,750			100% to Salem Downtown Association
1983-84	\$133,410	\$39,000	23%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1984-85	\$130,300	\$70,555	54%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1985-86	\$125,835	\$55,500	44%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1986-87	\$120,850	\$49,500	41%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1987-88	\$134,020	\$50,500	38%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1988-89	\$160,000	\$50,500	32%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1989-90	\$160,900	\$50,750	32%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1990-91	\$160,000	\$54,545	34%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1991-92	\$160,000	\$71,490	45%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1992-93	\$173,965	\$74,350	43%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1993-94	\$170,000	\$90,900	53%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1994-95	\$191,005	\$118,670	62%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1995-96	\$206,765	\$94,460	46%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1996-97	\$214,000	\$103,535	48%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1997-98	\$224,995	\$115,305	51%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1998-99	\$224,995	\$109,230	49%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
1999-00	\$230,755	\$118,670	51%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2000-01	\$232,275	\$77,500	33%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2001-02	\$236,945	\$46,970	21%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2002-03	\$249,043	\$54,400	20%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2003-04	\$266,509	\$53,900	4%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2004-05	\$299,120	\$10,940	16%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2005-06	\$305,380	\$50,000	13%	100% to Salem Downtown Association
2006-07	\$304,630	\$ 3,900	1%	Fee support for downtown events only)
2007-08	\$318,066	\$100,000	31%	Funding for EID formation (Go Downtown)
2008-09	\$336,542	\$100,000	29%	Go Downtown Salem plus \$200,000 from EID)
2009-10	\$347,496	\$100,000	29%	Go Downtown Salem plus \$200,000 from EID
2010-11	\$368,103	\$100,000	27%	Go Downtown Salem plus \$200,000 from EID
2011-12	\$389,214	\$100,000	26%	\$90,000 To Salem Downtown Partnership
2012-13	\$386,480	\$0	0%	City Manager kept all funds
2013-14	\$437,080	\$0	0%	City Manager kept all funds
2014-15	\$434,180	\$0	0%	City Manager kept all funds
2015-16	\$455,110	\$0	0%	City Manager kept all fund
2016-17	\$476,580	\$0	0%	City Manager kept all funds
2017-18	\$467,190	\$32,150	7%	(Salem Main Street Association)
2018-19	\$428,880	\$25,890	6%	(Salem Main Street Association)
2019-20 (Proposed)	\$410,570	0	0%	No promotions, no Christmas decorations, and no summer hanging baskets. Nothing.

Chuckles Bennett was elected to City Council in 2008 and as Mayor in 2016.

For several decades, about half the collected parking tax went to fund our downtown organization. That is why we voted it in, not so city council can assist staff in taking all the money to make up for mismanaging maintenance for decades.

BRIEF HISTORY OF LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

The Downtown Parking District was voted in by the entire citizenry of Salem in Nov. 1976. Chuckles Bennett was a cub reporter for the Capitol Journal who reported on the formation. (See below)

With the impending opening of Lancaster Mall, advertising acres of free parking, the downtown community was in favor of the parking tax because they wanted the penny parking meters removed and they supported secure funding for their new downtown organization.

The formation of the Parking District also included creation of a "maintenance fund" to ensure future maintenance of the downtown garages was covered forever.

Fast forward to early 2000's and the "maintenance fund" contributions disappear from the budget and deferred maintenance began to grow to monster proportions. By 2013, the Downtown Advisory Board (DAB) was made

aware of the depth of deferred maintenance city staff and city council had created. Over \$4 million. . .

The city staff decided they needed an additional \$400,000 a year to catch up on deferred maintenance in 10 years.

One property owner scoured the Parking District budget and found \$400,000 the city was spending on "security" in the downtown garages, but there was no "security" cost in any other city owned garage. The property owner met with then City Councilor Chuckles and recommended he have the city move that \$400,000 to fund deferred maintenance - problem solved! Simple!

Instead of dedicating the funds to solve the garage maintenance problem, Chuckles moved \$350,000 to pay for police officers to solve a problem we didn't have, but the City budget did.

The proposed budget for 2019-20 eliminates all funding for promotions, Christmas decorations, and hanging baskets. That was NEVER the intention of the Parking Fund.

NOV 1976, Salem voters approve charter changes

By CHUCK BENNETT
Capitol Journal Reporter

Salem residents overwhelmingly approved three amendments to the city's charter Tuesday.

Ballot Measure 53, creating a downtown Salem parking district covering 25 square blocks, passed in both Marion and Polk counties, 18,774 to 10,894. These are unofficial returns.

Jeanne Giordano, city urban renewal director, said today that with voter approval of the parking district formation, the next step will be for the parking district board to decide on the scope and type of program it will institute.

She said the board will decide now the type of assessment it will use to finance the district's operations and establish a budget. That will mean another city-wide vote some time in the next few months. Any taxation will be levied only against downtown businesses and property owners.

Mr. Giordano said she would not speculate on when the district board will decide it is time to remove the downtown parking meters, the major campaign promise in the parking district race.

Mayor Robert Lindsey said Monday it may be two or three years before enough off-street parking is available downtown to warrant removal of the meters.

In Marion County the parking district measure passed 18,304 to 9,658. In Polk County (West Salem) it passed 2,470 to 1,236.

Formation of the parking district is part of the city's overall redevelopment and urban renewal plan for the core area.

Boundaries for the district are Mar-

ion, Church, Trade and Front streets, including the old Post Office building.

The district will be supervised by the 11-member parking district board appointed last month by the city council.

The board's major role will be to administer the operations of the district.

BEWARE: SALEM PARKING OFFICERS ARE STALKING YOU

Earlier in February the city reported they wrote 490 employee parking tickets for parking on-street downtown. Chapter 7 of the Salem Revised Code prohibits employees, volunteers, jurors, building owners and business employees and owners from parking on-street any time. The first ticket is \$100, the second offense is \$180, and all future offenses are \$250.

Since the City stopped requiring business owners to provide the names of their employees to the city in 2013, the parking officers do not know who is an employee and who is not. Then City Councilor Chuckles felt it was a violation of an employees privacy to require submission of their names to the city, even though that worked for decades.

In a recent conversation with a parking enforcement officer he let slip that parking officers now "follow employees from their cars to their place of work and ticket them that way." So, stalking employees is not a violation of their privacy? Who makes these rules?

DOWNTOWN PARKING TICKETS ISSUED BY YEAR

YEAR	Employee Citations	Employee Warnings	Customer Citations	City Citation Income	Notes
2003	476	one then ticket	0	\$47,000	Free, unlimited time parking
2004	259	one then ticket	0	\$25,900	Free, unlimited time parking
2005	216	one then ticket	0	\$21,600	Free, unlimited time parking
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	City doesn't have statistics
2007	N/A	626	6,591	\$98,865	2 hour parking implemented Feb 2007 (\$15 ticket)
2008	13	685	6,792	\$101,880	2 hour parking
2009	57	1,222	6,945	\$104,175	2 hour parking
2010	33	1,092	5,698	\$85,470	2 hour parking
2011	25	1,495	4,769	\$71,535	2 hour parking
2012	10	2,733	8,832	\$132,480	2 hour parking
2013	155	2,186	6,970	\$104,550	Free, unlimited time parking re-implemented Oct 2013
2014	508	4,434	2,112	\$31,680	3 Hour Parking implemented June 2014
2015	152	2,049	11,923	\$178,845	3 Hour Parking
2016	372	1,617	11,210	\$280,250	3 Hour Parking /Parking fine increased from \$15 to \$25
2017	490	782	5,120	\$128,000	3 hour Parking
2018	308	N/A	14,562	\$364,050	3 hour Parking



CITY DISCOVERS IT IS "PRIVATE PROPERTY"!

The wise city staff have found a new way to protect themselves from the homeless invasion in downtown Salem. They have declared themselves "the owners of the sidewalk in front of their offices-making sidewalks private property", thus the sidewalk are off-limits to pesky homelessness sleeping.

Interestingly enough, the Ninth Circuit Court ruled:

"...ordinances were amended to prohibit their enforcement against any homeless person on public property on any night when no shelter had an available overnight space."

Wow, the ruling applies only to the NIGHT. If you have eyeballs residing in your bone-box atop of your shoulders you will have noticed many homeless sleeping on public sidewalks ALL DAY LONG.

If our elected city fathers could get their noses out of the city budget (making sure all city staff have dedicated funds for their paychecks, and to limit services to citizens even further), maybe they could issue an edict allowing "sleeping on sidewalks from midnight to 7 AM". After that time they could no longer be prone on public property.

It also begs the question, if the city can claim the sidewalks are private property, why is it only private property in front of their offices? What about us?

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DISCLAIMER

For those without a funny bone, this is a satirical newsletter. Get a grip and get over yourself.

Several people have asked "Which articles are true, and which are false?". Here is a clue. If it is bad news, its probably true. If it is good news, its probably false.

The Downtown Cherry Pits is a newsletter for downtown business and property owners to help them through being associated with a mediocre downtown.

The City Manager does his best to hire out-of-date ex-Portland employees who work to retain mediocrity in Salem. He is trying his hardest to make sure we remain in the 19th century for tourism and general coolness.

NEW PARKING PROBLEM BEING PROPOSED - ONE STEP CLOSER TO PARKING METERS!

The new retail/residential project being proposed at the old McMahons Furniture site on the SW corner of Commercial and State Streets will feature:

PARKING REQUIREMENT
MULTI FAMILY : 1 SPACES / DWELLING @ 4 MORE UNITS
148 UNITS X 1 = 148 SPACES, REQ.
18 SPACES ARE PROVIDED AT SITE.
130 SPACES ARE PROVIDED OFF SITE.

140 residential units being built with only 18 parking spaces provided on-site. Look out street parking spaces - you are about to win a new popularity contest in your area! The developers are dreaming of only renting the tiny units to car-less citizens. Anyone living in the 21st century has seen the parking-apocalypse these tiny, car-less apartment buildings have caused in Portland neighborhoods. Squirrels approve because it means more assistance from cars smashing nuts for them.

It is proposed tenants living in these tiny apartments sleep hanging from the ceilings as there is no room for beds. If they own cars, they must be the kind that dissolve when it rains.

But it has always been the wet-dream of Chuckles Bennett to install parking meters downtown. Now he has a downtown association to recommend meters so he is speeding up the installation by supporting more projects that create more parking problems. We are taking bets on how long before he proposes parking meters to help balance the city budget?

ST. PATRICKS DAY FESTIVITES PLANNED!

On March 17 the Salem City Council will hold a dance recital downtown. City councilors will dance the Irish way with no arm movement while the Mayor and City Manager will dance naked for our entertainment. Tickets are going fast so reserve your seat now to get the best viewing location, or to reserve seating out of the floppy bits zone.

CITY CREATIVELY SOLVES SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSING PROBLEM AND HELPS OUT THE HOMELESS!

For the past year the City of Salem has been rebuffed by short term rental booking companies such as AirBnB and VRBO, who refuse to give the city access to short term rental addresses here in Salem.

The State of Oregon passed a law in 2018 requiring any municipality who licenses short term rentals to allow the booking company to pay the municipality directly each month for all taxes owed within their city limits. But thats not good enough for our city. Our city has to get statistics, not just 100% of the money owed them each month.

But thats where our great city ran afoul with AirBnB and VRBO. No booking company will release the addresses of the short term rentals within their city boundaries. The city knows Salem has over 250 short term rentals but only 24 of them signed up for a license in 2018. Of those 24, only 7 signed up to renew their licenses and three new licenses were added in 2019. We have short-term shirkers in our midst.

In order to find the bandit short term rentals, the city has started a program to rent units to house the City's homeless population in AirBnB and VRBO rental units. Once the units are booked, AirBnB and VRBO will release the address of the rental unit to the city! Problem solved.

Now, if you have not registered your short term rental for a license, you may get a homeless person in your expensive rental unit! Imagine the host's surprise when campers show up with their shopping carts of belonging ready to move into your luxury digs paid for the City of Salem. Since many rental units only charge \$70-80 a night, and a license costs \$185 per year, the city wins!

NEED A BARRIER IN YOUR STOREFRONT?

The City of Salem is providing concrete homeless barriers for all downtown storefronts, doorways and stairways. The city will deliver the concrete barriers daily to any business requesting this service.

The barriers are 8 feet tall and 6 feet wide. Perfect for keeping people from sleeping or pooping in your stoop. Stop the stoop-poop. The city will remove the barriers and any human fluids daily by 9 AM so your doorway will be pristine and ready for customers by 10 AM.

If you would like to sign up for this service, please contact the Mayor Chuckle's office at 503-588-6255 or email cbennett@cityofsalem.net. Nothing is too good for our downtown business and property owners. The city is excited about this new program to better address the needs of the downtown business community.

All homeless folks displaced by this program can contact the Mayor's office for permanent housing and mental illness and addiction programs. In Salem, all our citizens needs are important and no problem is too big for us to solve.

GLOBAL WARMING CONFIRMED AS HOAX BY SCIENCE

After expensive research over decades scientists have confirmed global warming is a hoax. The most persuasive argument came when Republican scientists working in bare feet discovered the earth cannot possibly be warming as stated because their feet are still cold.

NEW LAW UPHELD

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled unanimously last month to uphold the Oregon law requiring all boring books to be no longer than 100 pages while interesting books must be over 1,000 pages. Additionally, all steamy books must come in plain brown paper covering. All science books can only be sold to Democrats and all the "For Dummies . . ." books are only sold to high ranking republicans in the US Senate. Children's books remain unaffected.

"STATE OF THE DOWNTOWN ADDRESS"

Since the President and the Mayor have given State of the Union and the State of the City addresses, we felt it was only right to create a State of the Downtown address here.

THE STATE OF DOWNTOWN: The state of our downtown is homeless. Currently there are approximately 200 apartments in our downtown, and approximately 200 homeless sleeping on our sidewalks and in parks. This is forecast to increase in the future because Mayor Chuckles seems to think providing housing for 100 homeless people is sufficient. He claims over and over he has helped 100 homeless, but that is the same 100 homeless over and over again. The last count showed 1,200 homeless calling Salem home. Chuckles needs to get a move on, and learning how to count might be useful.

ECONOMY: Rents for retail/office are the lowest in all of Salem. Low rents and high vacancy are the definition of a slum. The bright spot is downtown housing. After 20 years of telling area developers that **PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE DOWNTOWN**, they finally built some units and found they can really gouge people on rent! Residential rents are the highest in the city. . . Rents range from \$1,350 to \$2,500 a month.

URBAN RENEWAL: The city of Salem collects over \$7 million a year in the Downtown Urban Renewal district and those funds **HAVE** to be invested within the district. The City has invested in downtown Urban Renewal since 1975 and we are **STILL** blighted.

So, is the city investing the money in the right areas or does using UR funds to pay city staff salaries not

SLIGHTLY USED CITY STAFF OR SALE OR HIRE

The city of Salem cannot afford all their trained staff so they are offering to sell off excessive to other municipalities. Staff are trained in public dis-information and secret policy voting. Staff require frequent watering and feed but come with their own sleeping bags. You can now accept the fun burden of their PERS and other benefits! Make your city great again and hire these left-overs today!

increase property values like investing in buildings would? But then the left-over staff crawling away from Portland and hired here in Salem would never allow us to have anything nice. No pride, no improvements, most city staff want downtown to remain in 1950. They already have Portland, why do they need Salem? They collect their paychecks and hump back to Portland every night. 17,000 cars a day leave Salem at 5 PM headed north-thats our highest paid staff.

STREETSCAPE: Several years ago Salem citizens banded together to dream big about a successful downtown. Streetscape was chosen to bring a feeling of "Salem" to the downtown and to celebrate our history and creative community.

Instead of getting behind that program, our left-over Portland city staff decided they know better. They only allowed citizens to talk about their plan (which is just a cheap re-decoration) and does not highlight what is unique and historic about our community. City staff are just imitating other city's projects - so nothing unique to us or our amazing history in this valley. We get to retain our 1950's po-dunkness.

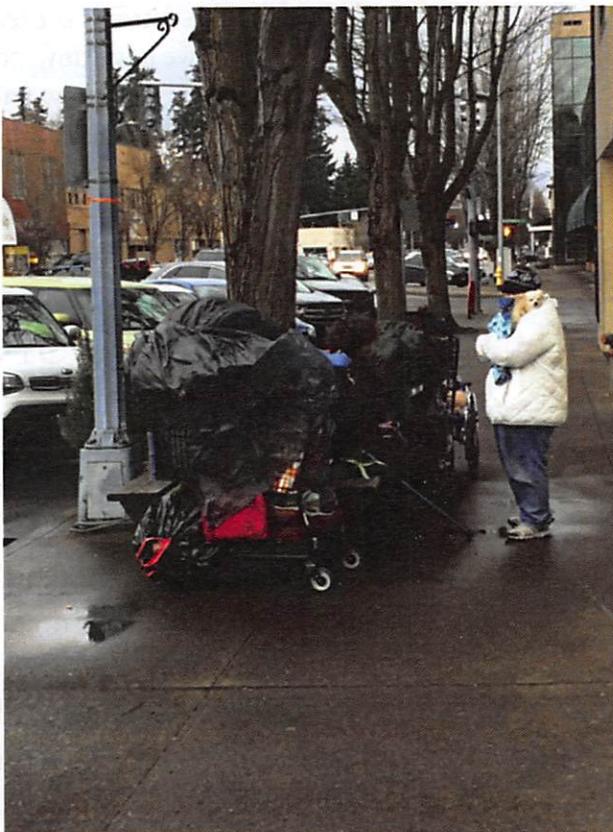
TRAFFIC LANES THROUGH DOWNTOWN: City staff have decided traffic movement is more important to the city than the health of downtown. Our streets downtown have as many, or more, lanes of traffic than I-5. Our 3-4 travel lanes on most streets is excessive for the actual amount of traffic we have downtown. But staff are optimistic that Salem will grow and need those lanes of traffic in the next 1,000 years. So, we cannot have a successful downtown because those left-over staff from Portland see no benefit to a successful downtown in Salem. We do not deserve it.

LOST BUT NOT FOUND:

Cloud shaped like an ice cream cone. Last seen drifting east to encounter large mountains. Emergency medications necessary to keep cloud alive. Please contact 911 if you experience this unique cloud formation and please do not try to lick it. It contains mostly beach sweat from Hawaiian beaches and is contaminated with sun screen. Keep small children and pets inside.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LUXURY HOUSING DOWNTOWN

(WHERE IS THE MAYOR WHEN YOU
NEED HELP?)



HOW TO IDENTIFY A “FLOATER FROM A SINKER”

While regressing into the realm of toilet humor, it has been revealed the Salem City Council is infested with “sinkers” on the council and Urban Renewal Agency.

The recent decline in funds for an independent downtown organization began in 2008, when our current Mayor was elected to city council representing the downtown area. To really show-off his turd ability, he supported the formation of Go Downtown Salem and creation of an Economic Improvement District to duplicate the Parking Tax’s financial support for downtown promotions.

“Go Downtown Salem” sent our downtown to the bottom of the toilet after three years. Mayor Chuckles called them “a train wreck”. That’s a pretty big turd he laid on downtown. Definitely an educated sinker move.

But not to worry, the EID had to be renewed every 3 years, so our city council voted to abuse the Salem Downtown Partnership to get the EID renewed! Then nine months later (the gestation for a stinker-turd) he voted to allow the City Manager to take all the funds away, tanking our independent downtown organization, and helped the city manager spend, spend, spend, spend our new EID funds the way she felt best. A move known as a “pristine-turd”.

In 2016, the citizens of Salem rewarded his 8 years of council accomplishments by electing him Mayor! Now we are in turd-country again with the Mayors and City Councils support of Salem Lame Street (Go Downtown Salem with an almost new name!) Here we go again. We can’t just pull out a brown turd once, we have to do it over and over because we don’t remember who the worst turds are.

Are there any examples of “floaters” out there? Light weights who cannot dive deep on subjects, but rather float along the top hoping no one notices them? The recent “plastic bag ban” seemed on the surface to be in “floater” category, but then the council nailed the citizens with a minimum 5 cent charge for a paper bag. And we are right back in sinker-turd territory again.

HOW TO SELECT NEW CITY COUNCILORS

At the next election you should hold each city councilor in your hands, if they do not give you joy, you should discard them along with your other old useless junk.