

I submitted the following write-up to the Corvallis City Council for their consideration at the Council's work session on August 20, 2026.

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It appears that Corvallis does not have a priority list for use in budgeting. Therefore, I am presenting my partial priority list as a place to start.

The direct cost center with the highest priority is the water system, followed by the sewer system, followed by police and fire, and then the road system.

The direct cost center at the bottom of my list is the Majestic Theater. There is no reason for the taxpayer to pay for it. If the people who use it won't pay for it, the theater should be sold. Next to the bottom on my list is the Osborn Swim Center. Again, if the people who use it won't pay for it, it should be turned back to the school system for sale or lease to private business.

The direct cost centers in the middle are harder to put in priority order. They include the library, social services, and parks & recreation minus the Theater and Swim Center. These cost centers should be trimmed, not eliminated.

Cost centers are divided into direct cost centers which provide service directly to the citizen such as water and police, and indirect cost centers which provide service to the direct cost centers such as human resources. As cuts are made to the direct cost centers, cuts should also be made to the indirect cost centers (overhead).

Given our local economic situation and the ballooning national debt (eventually we are going to be taxed to reduce that debt), Corvallis citizens do not need higher local taxes and fees. It is time for Corvallis to explicitly set priorities, make choices, and understand that we can't have everything. Personally I would rather have a well maintained water system than the Majestic Theater.