

\$1,176,757 IN COMBINED LOSSES.

TAXPAYERS DESERVE THE FULL PICTURE.

The Oregon Garden Foundation's **IRS Form 990 filings** report combined losses of **\$1,176,757 from 2023 through 2025**, with expenses exceeding revenue in each year.

2023

\$427,839

2024

\$235,928

2025

\$512,990

At the September 16 joint meeting, Executive Director Delen Kitchen stated: "Approximately, over the last 3 years, our loss has been about \$350,000."

Those figures demand a clear explanation.

Three Silverton city councilors currently serve on the foundation's board: **April Newton as chair and secretary, Kyle Palmer as treasurer, and Eric Hammond as a board member.** That overlap raises serious questions about financial oversight and public accountability.

Yet City Manager Cory Misley told me in writing: **"We do not actively track the financial position of the Oregon Garden Foundation."** Despite my repeated requests, Delen Kitchen has not provided a current profit-and-loss statement.

On September 2, the City Council approved a **memorandum of understanding** stating the city's willingness to forgive **\$571,212 in historical debt owed by OGF to the city**, contingent on completing a new master lease or lease addendum.

I support updating the master lease to correct inaccurate language and remove parties that no longer belong in the agreement. **But that historical debt is separate from OGF's recent operating losses. Updating the lease and forgiving past debt do not resolve its ongoing budget problems.**

In my conversation with Misley, he described two possible avenues of support: **financial assistance through the city's budget process; a parks district could help with Garden maintenance.** These are possibilities, not approved commitments.

Without a solid financial plan, it is reasonable to believe that taxpayers will ultimately be asked to cover continuing losses through additional financial assistance.

Residents deserve a credible plan to balance expenses with revenue and a clear accounting of the potential costs, funding sources, and ongoing obligations before any public commitment is made.

Supporting the Garden means expecting financial transparency and accountable leadership. Taxpayers deserve to know what they may be asked to support—and how much it could cost.



**Start where we are,
care for what we have.**

Paid for by Jenny Ohren for Silverton City Council

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