

**CITY OF SALEM
6:00 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 6, 2020**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Presentation of Petitions/Public Comments**
- IV. Mayor’s Report and Presentations**

- V. City Council Action**
 - 1. Consent Agenda
 - a. City Council Minutes – Request approval of minutes of 06-05-2020 an amendments to minutes of 5-18-2020.
 - 2. Request to solicit funds for Children’s Miracle Network on Main and Broadway on July 10th and 17th.
 - 3. Request to use Bryan Memorial Park for fundraiser Disc Golf Tourneys for two groups.
 - 4. Planning Commission recommendation for a Special Use Permit at 420 N. Broadway

- VI. City Manager Report**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. Finance Director Report**
- IX. City Council Members Report**

- XII. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee
City Manager

RAB

Quote of the day –

Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can’t be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest. – Maya Angelou

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular July 6, 2020 meeting of the City Council was convened at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall, and called to order by Mayor Sue Morgan.

Council members present via Zoom:

Councilman Jim Koehler
Councilman Nic Farley
Councilman Craig Morton
Councilman Jacob Hockett
Mayor Sue Morgan

Council members absent: None.

Others present:

City Manager Rex Barbee	City Clerk Bev Quinn
Public Works Director John Pruden	Chief of Police Sean Reynolds
Economic Dev. Director Tabitha Meador	Finance Director Keli Barrow
City Attorney Mike Jones	Public Works Director John Pruden
Animal Control Rep Steffani Rakers	Members of the Media and Public

II. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Opening prayer was offered by Councilman Koehler, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Erickson read a prepared statement regarding Judge Michael McHaney’s ruling in favor of Representative Darren Bailey’s petition to find Governor Pritzker’s extension of the “stay-at-home” order beyond 30 days unconstitutional. Mr. Erickson asked if the City of Salem intends to follow the Circuit Court’s findings or enforce the unconstitutional orders.

Councilman Farley responded that it is not up to the City of Salem to enforce either the Circuit Court findings or the Governor's orders. Mayor Morgan added that she has read both the Clay County action and Governor Pritzker's orders, and does not see that either are enforceable by the City of Salem.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Morgan indicated the City's Fourth of July event was great, and she was so happy the City of Salem was able to give its citizens something to enjoy. Mayor Morgan indicated that even though the fireworks started a little earlier than they should have, the music was enjoyable and the fireworks were beautiful. Mayor Morgan commended Tabitha Meador for doing a great job putting it together. Morgan added that families watched the fireworks together, and distanced themselves from others. The event went very well.

V. COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

a. City Council Minutes – 6-15-2020 and amendments to minutes of 5-18-2020.

Mayor Morgan indicated there had been a citizen request to include a letter presented at the May 18th meeting into the minutes, and she is requesting that action be taken on approving the amended minutes of 5/18/2020 and regular minutes of 6/15/20 separately.

Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve the minutes of 5/18/2020, as amended. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler. NAYS: Mayor Morgan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the minutes of 6/15/2020, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

2. Request to solicit funds for Children's Miracle Network on Main and Broadway on July 10th and 17th.

City Manager indicated he received this request from Walmart Manager Frankie Travis, who indicated Walmart has partnered with the Children's Miracle Network for 33 years. Ms. Travis's request is to solicit on two Friday afternoons, July 10th and 17th, at the intersection of Main and Broadway. Chief Reynolds indicated he has no objection to the soliciting. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Farley to approve Walmart's request to solicit funds for the Children's Miracle Workshop, at the intersection of Main and Broadway, on July 10th and 17th as requested. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

3. Request to use Bryan Memorial Park for fundraiser Disc Golf Tourneys for two groups.

The first group is planning an event for later this summer as a fundraiser for CASA. The Mission of the Marion County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) association, together with its national and state members, is to provide court appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children, and to promote and support such advocacy for a permanent home that is environmentally healthy and safe for children. The CASA tournament will be a daytime event.

The second group wants to host a Glow in the Dark Disc Golf Tourney on July 25th. This tournament is being organized to increase interest in the sport and develop a local travel team and possibly a league. The organizers for this event are Melanie Johnson and Brandon Shelton.

Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Farley to approve the use of Bryan Park for two Disc Golf tourneys, as requested. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

4. Planning Commission recommendation for a Special Use Permit at 420 N. Broadway

City Manager Barbee indicated the Planning Commission is recommending approval of a Special Use Permit to John and Trista Howard to have a tanning business and two apartments at 420 N. Broadway. This building previously had an office in the downstairs with the remainder being used as apartments. ***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve issuance of a Special Use Permit to John and Trista Howard to have a tanning business and two apartments at 420 N. Broadway. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Barbee and staff/boards provided the following:

Historical Commission: Luke Purcell provided a written report of the steps that have been taken to get the building ready and start cataloguing items for display. Purcell indicated they had originally hoped to be in operation by October, but with COVID-19 issues, it may be later than that.

Animal Control: Dave Lusch and Steffani Rakers provided written reports on activities at the Animal Control Facility. Ms. Rakers was present, and added that Centralia Animal Control has a skeleton crew and Clinton County has ceased animal control activities, and she is concerned that Salem’s facility is seeing an influx of animals from outside of Salem. Rakers added that she had approached the local vets about a spay and release program for cats, and they do not want to participate. Rakers asked for suggestions and input from Council regarding how to handle this. City Manager Barbee added that when out-of-towners are politely told we cannot accept their animals, they post it on Facebook, and Salem residents end up offering to bring the animals to our facility for them. Barbee added that we have a responsibility to Salem tax payers to not accept animals from outside of Salem.

Salem Family Aquatic Center: Asst. Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz indicated operations at the pool had gotten off to a slow start, but since then she has no complaints. The pool is offering two four-hour sessions, with time in between for cleaning, then additional time for cleaning again before pool parties. Brushwitz added that the pool is being very well utilized with little down time, with 5:30 am early adult swim, swim lessons, first open swim session starting in the morning, a second session in the afternoon and every party slot filled for the evenings. The concession stand is in operation, but with reduced choices, as they are using all pre-packaged snacks. City Manager Barbee offered kudos to Annette and Randall for all they’ve done.

Public Works: Public Works Director John Pruden indicated Illinois St. will be closed most of this week for repairs to the roadway, but he hopes it will be open by Friday. The Whittaker St. water/sewer main replacement is done, except for the grass planting. City Manager Barbee thanked Mr. Pruden for having Public Works spray for mosquitos.

Economic Development: Economic Development Director Tabitha Meador indicated there has been some miscommunication regarding the BIG grant program. Salem’s zip code does not fall into the “disproportionately affected area” category, which has caused some applicants to think they don’t qualify. Following discussions with DCEO representatives, Ms. Meador has confirmed that those applicants can get past the “not applicable” section and move on to “other”.

Dir. Meador indicated she was very happy with the crowd at the Fourth of July event, and hopes it can be made into an annual event.

Fourth of July Event: City Manager Barbee reiterated what Mayor Morgan and Dir. Meador said about the July 4th event, and added that even though the band we had originally planned to have as headliner cancelled due to COVID-19, the three bands who performed – Bill Poss, John Spicer, and Taylor Steel and the Love Preachers - did an outstanding job. Barbee thanked Dir. Meador for her work on the event and for getting the food vendors lined up.

Little Egypt Festival: City Manager Barbee indicated he has spoken with Little Egypt Festival Committee Chairman Jay Henke, and Mr. Henke is still searching for ways to have some type of event.

SRO: City Manager Barbee indicated he had received a very nice email from Tom Owen of SCHS that was very complimentary and appreciative that the City had worked with the schools on providing SROs, and the nice job Officer Craig Vieira is providing.

Soccer: City Manager Barbee indicated he has been working with Steve Baker and Jed Casburn on development of the soccer fields. Chris Sexton and Ford Barnfield are willing to help disc up the land, plant the seed, etc., once we have determined exactly where the fields will be located. Barbee added that he expects to schedule a ground breaking sometime in the near future.

Council Retreat: City Manager Barbee indicated he will be looking for dates for the Council Retreat sometime towards the end of August.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – None.

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Barrow indicated the auditors were here two weeks ago and everything is going well. Barrow added that the audit should be presented at one of the meetings in August.

IX. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Koehler indicated he attended the Fourth of July event, and was very impressed with the sound system. Koehler added that the bands were very good, fireworks were great, and the crowd was good, too. Councilman Koehler added that he is happy to hear there is a new fitness center going in where Maximum Fitness used to be. Koehler added that he was not originally in favor of SCHS developing a parking lot in front of the school, but it worked out very well for the fireworks – “it was an excellent weekend!”

Councilman Farley complimented Public Works Dir. Pruden and Asst. Dir. Brushwitz on the condition of Bryan Park, and added that it had never looked so good. Farley added that during the event, an attendee became disoriented and a public works employee who was passing by on his motorcycle and two police officers helped the gentleman and got him safely home. Councilman Farley added that he was very impressed with their response.

Councilman Morton added his compliments regarding the July 4th event, and added that the pool looks awesome. Morton asked the City Manager if he's gotten any further on the weather sirens, or alternative means of notification. City Manager Barbee responded that he has been doing some research, but right now the grants all seem to be COVID-19 related. Finance Director Barrow added that the grants for weather sirens came out in August last year. Councilman Morgan asked if the City is in compliance with the increased minimum wage. City Manager Barbee confirmed that we are.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Farley to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____