

**Note: Due to COVID-19 issues, City Hall will not be open to the public. Remote participation is being implemented using Zoom meeting software. Necessary login information is provided below the agenda. To participate via video, it is necessary to download the ZOOM app. It is not necessary to have the app to call in and participate without video.**

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**CITY OF SALEM  
6:00 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 1, 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 – 5/18/2020 and 5/26/2020
  - 2. Request for approval of bids on natural gas line improvements (FY21), materials and construction separately.
  - 3. Discussion on temporary reduction in FY21 liquor license fee structure
  - 4. Discussion on cancellation or postponement or no change for July 4, 2020 fireworks, etc.
  
- VI. City Manager Report**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. Finance Director Report**
- IX. City Council Members Report**
- XI. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee  
City Manager  
*RAB*

Quote of the day –  
*If I had to embrace a definition of success, it would be that success is making the best choices we can... and accepting them. – Sheryl Sandberg*

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**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020  
(Held remotely using Zoom meeting software)**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**  
The regular June 1, 2020 meeting of the City Council was convened at 6:00 pm via video conferencing, and was 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  
Public Works Director John Pruden  
Economic Dev. Director Tabitha Meador  
Members of the Media and Public  
City Clerk Bev Quinn  
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds  
Finance Director Keli Barrow  
Deputy Chief Susan Miller

## 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**

Brock Waggoner was present to express his dissatisfaction with City Council not taking action against Governor Pritzker's executive orders, and read Judge Mike McHaney's comments, as follow:

*"Since the inception of this insanity, the following regulations, rules or consequences have occurred: I won't get COVID if I get an abortion, but I will get COVID if I get a colonoscopy. Selling pot is essential, but selling goods and services at a family owned business is not. Pot wasn't even legal and pot dispensaries didn't even exist in this state until five months ago and, in that five months, they have become essential, but a family-owned business in existence for five generations is not.*

*A family of six can pile in their car and drive to Carlyle Lake without contracting COVID but, if they all get in the same boat, they will. We are told that kids rarely contract the virus and sunlight kills it, but summer youth programs, sports programs are cancelled. Four people can drive to the golf course and not get COVID but, if they play in a foursome, they will. If I go to Walmart, I won't get COVID but, if I go to church, I will. Murderers are released from custody while small business owners are threatened with arrest if they have the audacity to attempt to feed their families.*

*These are just a few of examples of rules, regulations and consequences that are arbitrary, capricious, and completely devoid of anything even remotely approaching common sense.*

*State's attorneys in this state, county sheriffs, mayors, city councils and county boards have openly and publicly defied these orders followed by threats to withhold funding and revocation of necessary licenses and certifications unless you obey. Our economy is shut down because of a flu virus with a 98 percent plus survival rate. Doctors and experts say different things weekly. The defendant cites models in his opposition. The only thing experts will agree on is that all models are wrong and some are useful.*

*The Centers for Disease Control now says the virus is not easily spread on surfaces. The defendant in this case orders you to stay home and pronounces that, if you leave the state, you are putting people in danger, but his family members traveled to Florida and Wisconsin because he deems such travel essential. One initial rationale why the rules don't apply to him is that his family farm had animals that needed fed. Try selling that argument to farmers who have had to slaughter their herds because of disruption in the supply chain.*

*When laws do not apply to those who make them, people are not being governed, they are being ruled. Make no mistake, these executive orders are not laws. They are royal decrees. Illinois citizens are not being governed, they are being ruled. The last time I checked, Illinois citizens are also Americans and Americans don't get ruled. The last time a monarch tried to rule Americans, a shot was fired that was heard around the world. That day led to the birth of a nation consensually governed based upon a document which ensures that on this day in this, any American courtroom tyrannical despotism will always lose and liberty, freedom and the constitution will always win."—Judge Michael D. McHaney, Clay County court, Mainer v. Pritzker, argued May 22, 2020.*

**(Clerk's Note:** As I wasn't completely sure where in the above statement Mr. Waggoner stopped, I have provided Judge McHaney's statement in full. bq)

Mr. Waggoner began addressing Council on "its decision" to cancel the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks. Mayor Morgan stopped him from speaking, and advised him that Council has *NOT* cancelled July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks and this is a discussion item for later in the meeting.

City Manager Rex Barbee read the following letter from SCHS Superintendent Dr. Brad Detering into the record:

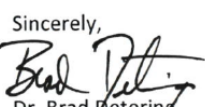
City Manager Rex Barbee  
101 South Broadway  
Salem, IL 62881

Dear City Manager Barbee:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Barbee, the Salem City Council, and the Salem Police Department for all the assistance with making the graduation weekend of the Class of 2020 a memorable one.

When we had the idea of a fireworks display on Friday night and a parade of graduates on Sunday, the City did what was needed to make both of those events happen. The lines of communication were open and guiding through some of the unique items with each request. The Salem Community High School Class of 2020, their families, and the staff at SCHS are thankful for your help in making these events special.

We appreciate the partnership and working relationship that we have been able to cultivate between the school district and the City of Salem and look forward to continuing in the future.

Sincerely,  
  
Dr. Brad Detering  
Superintendent

Dr. Detering was participating via zoom, and he reiterated his and the Class of 2020's appreciation to the City Council, City Manager, Police Department and Fire Department. Councilman Farley responded that it is great that SCHS and the City have such a good partnership.

#### IV. **MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Morgan indicated she has heard from several of the restaurants thanking City Council for its resolution to assist them in being able to serve outdoors.

#### V. **COUNCIL ACTION**

##### 1. **Consent Agenda**

##### a. **City Council Minutes –5/18/2020 and 5/26/2020**

***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the minutes of 5/18/2020 and 5/26/2020 as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

##### 2. **Request for approval of bids on natural gas line improvements (FY21) materials and construction separately.**

Mayor Morgan indicated the low bid for materials on the FY21 Gas Line Improvement Project was from USDI, in the amount of \$31,469.24. ***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the bid submitted by USDI in the amount of \$31,469.24. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Mayor Morgan indicated the low bid on construction for the FY21 Gas Line Improvement Project was from Kieffer Brothers Construction in the amount of \$247,750.00. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Farley to award the bid for construction to Kieffer Brothers Construction in the amount of \$247,750.00. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

##### 3. **Discussion on temporary reduction in FY21 liquor license structure**

Mayor Morgan indicated she would like to see Council do something to help the restaurant and liquor license holders, and she is suggesting a 50% reduction in the liquor license fees for this year. Councilman Morton asked if there are other things Council can do, perhaps deferring RLF payments for six months. Councilman Koehler indicated he agreed with both suggestions. Councilman Farley indicate the RLF issue was not an agenda item, so he would suggest action on that be postponed until the next meeting. ***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Hockett for make a one-time 50% reduction in liquor license fees for the period beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

##### 4. **Discussion on cancellation or postponement or no change for July 4, 2020 fireworks, etc.**

City Manager Barbee indicated Economic Development Director Meador has contacted Bill Poss, the promoter who is lining up music, but has not heard back from him. Dir. Meador is also looking into the possibility of food trucks. Barbee added that there had been discussion about combining Family Day in the Park with July 4<sup>th</sup> activities, but that is no longer possible. Mayor Morgan suggested holding the concert on the men's softball field to allow for social distancing. Councilman Morton suggested the City tentatively move forward on holding the event. City Manager Barbee responded that J & M Displays needs a confirmation right away, so they can order and transport the fireworks. Mayor Morgan commented that she feels the City should hold the fireworks and concert, as most people sit on the SCHS parking lot, and can gather in groups of 10 or less and sit six feet apart from other groups. Councilman Farley asked Chief Reynolds if he has any concerns. Chief Reynolds indicated it will be business as usual for them, and they will plan accordingly. Councilman Koehler indicated he feels the July 4<sup>th</sup> event will be a positive for the community. Koehler added that churches are opening up this weekend, and if you can have 150 people inside, you should be able to have thousands outside. Councilman Farley commented that the community needs some positives, and he doesn't want to deprive the community's children of the fireworks. Farley added that any press releases that go out should outline that groups should be comprised of 10 or less, and should follow the social distancing guidelines of six-feet or more. Consensus was to proceed with the event, as planned.

#### VI. **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Barbee reported that he had received a call from Jay Henke, Little Egypt Festival Chairman, indicating they are trying to decide whether or not to hold the event this year. General consensus of the Council was that October is pretty far off, and we should be able to hold festivals and events by then.

City Manager Barbee indicated the Illinois Municipal League has cancelled its annual conference this year.

City Manager Barbee indicated that per the Governor’s request, utility companies, including the City of Salem, have been temporarily suspending shut offs and not charging late fees. Barbee indicated he is going to start the process of sending disconnect notices, etc. in an effort to start bringing accounts current. As always, the City will work with its customers on setting up payment arrangements. City Clerk Quinn added that from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>, the utility department is not permitted to shut off gas service, so this is the time of year we try collect on past due accounts.

VII. **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT** – None.

VIII. **FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Finance Director Barrow indicated she will be done with the end of month this week, and will have final year numbers in a couple of weeks. Sales tax figures are down \$14,000 from last year, and property taxes are down, primarily due to the County postponing due dates. We have received \$7,500 in gaming from part of March, but will not receive any more until video gaming businesses are allowed to reopen. Councilman Farley noted that Salem’s two largest retailers are up 30% for May. Mayor Morgan added that drive up restaurant sales are up, too. Ms. Barrow added that we will get new sales tax numbers for April in June. Councilman Farley added that it is still too early to tell how much we will be down. If we were down 4% for two week, we will probably be down 8-10% for an entire month. Dir. Barrow responded that the City had a very good sales tax year last year, and she did not project as much for this year.

IX. **CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Koehler** asked if the pool is going to open this year. Councilman Farley noted that all of the municipal pools in our area have closed for the season, and asked if we could limit the number of people who could be in the pool at one time. Councilman Morton asked about just opening for morning swim and private parties. Mayor Morgan asked if the pool has been filled. City Manager Barbee responded that the pool hasn’t been filled yet. Mayor Morgan indicated she feels we could deny use of the dressing rooms and limit the number of attendees to make it work. Mr. Barbee responded that he will check on some things, and get back to Council on this.

**Councilman Morton** asked if we have had any local businesses qualify for the DCEO grant. Economic Development Director Meador responded that all of the applicants thus far have been disqualified for one reason or another, including having received too much assistance previously and not having been in operation for 3 years. Some applicants have not returned their applications. Meador added that she has really been trying to help the businesses qualify.

Councilman Morton asked if the Police department should be having body cams and car cameras that tape 24 hrs. at a time, based on the current riot situations. Chief Reynolds responded that he had provided Council with a cost analysis for what the cost for storage would be, and there are cameras in all of the cars and they also have gun mounted cameras. Councilman Morton added that he feels the City should keep exploring this.

XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hockett to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_