

**AGENDA  
CITY OF SAEM  
6:00 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
December 16, 2019 – 6:00 pm**

- 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 – 12/02/2019
  - 2. Approval of appointment of Council member
  - 3. Approval of Zoning request recommended by the Planning Commission
  - 4. Request for approval – Ordinance amending Ch. 13 of Salem City Code changing age Restrictions on possession or consumption of cannabis to ages under 21 to comply with State Law, with an effective date of January 1, 2020.
  - 5. Approval of Accounts Payable from November 16-December 12
- VI. City Manager Report**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. Finance Director Report**
- IX. City Council Report**
- XI. Adjournment**

Rex A. Barbee, City Manager

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**MINUTES  
CITY OF SALEM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
December 16, 2019**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular December 16, 2019 meeting of the City Council was convened at 6:00 pm, and called to order by Mayor Sue Morgan.

**Council members present:**

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

**Council members absent:** None.

**Others present:**

City Manager Rex Barbee  
Public Works Director John Pruden  
Finance Director Keli Barrow  
Members of the Media and Public

City Clerk Bev Quinn  
Asst. Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz`  
chief of Police Sean Reynolds

**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**

**“Sleep in Heavenly Peace”** - Annette Brushwitz of “Sleep In Heavenly Peace” provided an update on the Marion County project. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 25 beds were built. The group has now collected its entire goal amount for the project, and the first two sets of bunk beds were set up this morning. Ms. Brushwitz indicated it was a “snow day” for the children receiving the beds, so they were at home for the set up and excited to pick their own bedding. Brushwitz added that the group is going to pursue forming its own Marion County chapter, and they are still receiving requests.

**Mission Salem** – Pastor Phil Martin of the First Christian Church indicated he appreciates the City Council’s service and what they do for the community. Martin added that he is addressing Council on behalf of the Ministerial Alliance regarding the legalization of adult-use cannabis which becomes effective on January 1, 2019. The following letter was provided:

*“Dear Mayor and City Council,*

*We, the undersigned members of the Salem Ministerial Alliance wish to express our concern with the City of Salem opting in to dispensary sales of recreational marijuana. We believe that recreational marijuana will be a detriment to our community. It can be demonstrated that the sale and consumption of recreational marijuana has unintended effects in communities (please see the October 217 report, “The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact” [www.rmhidta.org](http://www.rmhidta.org)). Our community has many issues to resolve without adding new problems.*

*We urge our mayor and city council to seriously consider opting out of supporting recreational marijuana in our city. You, as our elected leaders, have our support and we remember you in our prayers. You hold positions that have considerable responsibilities and, we assure you, that we respect and honor the positions that you hold.*

*/s/*

*Jon Bell, President, Salem Ministerial Alliance*

*Andy Dewitt, Vice-President, SMA*

*D. M. Baumann, Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas’*

*Doug Meyer, Salem Lutheran Church*

*Rev Lou A. Harvey, Grace UMC*

*Pastor Michael Feldmann, Salem Lutheran*

*Shannon Bopp, Evergreen Christian Church*

*Phil Martin, First Christian Church, Salem”*

Pastor Martin stated the following:

Mayor and Members of the City Council, my name is Phil Martin, I am a resident of Salem and I pastor at First Christian Church in Salem. I appreciate the work you do for our community.

My main purpose to being here tonight is to represent the **Salem Ministerial Alliance** concerning the future decision of whether or not our community should allow marijuana dispensaries. The letter before you states our concern for the negative impact this would have on our community. It is endorsed by several pastors in our community and I ask that it be submitted as part of my statement.

Our position on this matter does not come from some old-fashioned Puritanical morality. This is about how we will address opportunities to put the welfare and future of our community above just raising tax dollars.

Some people declare that marijuana is “no big deal – that the worst that might happen is a case of the giggles and the munchies, and that’s certainly not a cause for panic.” We are not panicking. But we are very concerned. We must listen to what experts, both locally and nationally, are saying about what marijuana use costs society. This is about the health and well-being of our youth and community. This is why the Salem Ministerial Alliance is addressing this publically.

In 2018, the **National Institute on Drug Abuse** found that marijuana usage has climbed in every State that legalized it. Nobody should be surprised of this. But here are their statistics that should cause alarm to us as parents and community leaders:

- Nationally, in the last year, usage among 12 to 17 year olds is up 12.5% from last year (that’s 1 in every 8) and it’s up over one-third, 34.8%, among 17 to 25 year olds.
- More specifically, usage is up 27.5% among high school freshmen (that’s double the average at large), and it is up 35.9% among high school seniors.

Who, among us, thinks this is acceptable? Numbers like these should lead us to seek efforts to curtail marijuana use, not make it more accessible by allowing dispensaries in our city.

In our letter, we mention the report from the **Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**. They are commissioned to study the effects of drug use at federal, state, and local levels. I have a copy of their September report that I will gladly leave with you. You can also access this on their website which we cited in our letter. The facts are undeniable as to the adverse effects that the legalization of marijuana and its accessibility has had in the state of Colorado. We cannot ignore this data. If you haven't already, I hope you will consider this information before your decision.

As we know, the main reason why this is being considered is because of the tax revenue it could potentially bring to our community. So, "we'll get more money," but at what cost? The Centennial Institute found that for every dollar raised in marijuana tax revenue in Colorado cost the state \$4.50 to deal with the effects. What price tag are we going to put on the health and well-being of our youth and our community?

Yes, our State legalized it. But just because a government says it's legal, certainly does not mean it's right, nor beneficial to our community. We respectfully ask that you not allow marijuana dispensaries into our community.

Again, I thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Have a Merry Christmas.

*(Transcript of address to Council was provided by Pastor Martin)*

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

Mayor Morgan indicated she attended the Kaskaskia College Gala, which was very nice; judged Christmas lights for the Lion's club; and attended the Christmas Event downtown on Saturday when Santa arrived. Mayor Morgan indicated she also attended the City Christmas party Friday night and met many of the Public Works employees, which was a pleasure. Morgan added that some of the Public Works employees worked for as long as 36 hours on a water leak and asked for a round of applause for the Public Works Department.

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

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

a. City Council Minutes – 12/02/2019

***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve the minutes of 12/02/2019, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

##### **2. Approval of Appointment of Council Member**

Mayor Morgan indicated she and Council members had reviewed the letters of interest for the open Council seat, and her selection for appointment is Jacob Hockett. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Farley to approve Mayor Morgan's appointment of Jacob Hockett to the open City Council seat, term to end April 30, 2021. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

##### **3. Approval of Zoning Request Recommended by the Planning Commission**

City Manager Barbee indicated a petition was submitted to rezone lots 14, 15, 16 and 17 of Block 4, Porter Place subdivision from RS-2 Single Family Residential to B-6 General Commercial for development of a large item warehouse for boats, rv's, etc. Planning Commission is recommending that this petition be approved. ***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Koehler that the zoning of Lots 14, 15, 16 and 17, Block 4, Porter Place Subdivision be amended From RS-2 to B-6, as recommended by the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

##### **4. Request for Approval – Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of Salem City Code changing age restrictions on possession or consumption of cannabis to under 21 to comply with State Law with an effective date of January 1, 2020**

City Manager Barbee indicated the proposed ordinance will bring the City code into compliance with State law by limiting violations for possession or consumption of cannabis to those under 21 years of age. ***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by***

***Councilman Morton to approve Ordinance 2019-19 amending Chapter 13 to bring City ordinances pertaining to cannabis possession and use to those under 21 years of age into compliance with Illinois state laws. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**5. Approval of Accounts Payable from November 16, 2019 to December 12, 2019**

City Manager Barbee indicated that in addition to the bills listed and provided to Council, he is also requesting that Invoice 3054 from Citation Oil in the amount of \$15,106.05 be approved.

***Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve the bills payable from November 16 to December 12, 2019, with the addition of the bill from Citation Oil in the amount of \$15,106.05. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Barbee indicated with Economic Development Director Jeanne Gustafson's retirement, the City had advertised the position and received several resumes. Barbee indicated he subsequently interviewed three applicants, and is happy to announce that he has offered the position to Tabitha Meador, and she has accepted.

City Manager Barbee indicated that the City recently purchased the building at 115 S. Broadway, with the understanding that we would have to put in a new waterline. Once the area was excavated, it became clear that the cast iron sanitary sewer line was no longer serviceable. The bathroom facilities are located at the rear half of the building, so it will be necessary to open the floor and put a line in through the entire building.

**VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT- (Not present.)**

**VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT – No report.**

**IX. CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Morton** thanked all who attended the City party.

**Councilman Farley** indicated Dave Sands on Purcell Rd. and JL Dunahee on N. Hotze Rd. (*north or Boone St.*) have great Christmas lights/displays, and encouraged residents to drive by. Farley thanked them for their efforts.

**Councilman Koehler** thanked the Public Works Department for getting the snow cleared from the streets so quickly. City Manager Barbee added that the Cemetery employees had a steel weed-eater with a rotating brush on the end of it that they used to clear the sidewalks around City Hall, and he appreciates their efforts.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Morton to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton and Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_