

AGENDA
CITY OF SAEM
6:00 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 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 – 12/16/2019 Review for Approval
 - 2. Swearing in of new Council member Jacob Hockett
 - 3. Update on Gas Purchase Contracts
 - 4. Approval of Resolution for Maintenance under Illinois Highway Code

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

 - XI. **Adjournment**
- Rex A. Barbee, City Manager

MINUTES
CITY OF SALEM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 6, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular January 6, 2020 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
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	Asst. Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz`
Finance Director Keli Barrow	Chief of Police Sean Reynolds
Economic Dev. Director Tabitha Meador	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

“Sleep in Heavenly Peace” - Annette Brushwitz of “Sleep In Heavenly Peace” provided an update on the Marion County project. Ms. Brushwitz indicated the group has completed installation of 20 beds, and are waiting on additional mattresses that are on back order. Brushwitz added that they have now received enough donations for a second build.

IV. MAYOR’S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Morgan wished those present and the community a “Happy New Year”.

V. CITY COUNCIL ACTION

- 1. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. City Council Minutes – 12/16/2019
Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve the minutes of 12/16/2019, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

- 2. **Swearing in of New Council member Jacob Hockett**

Mayor Morgan administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Hockett, and he took his

position at the Council table. Congratulations were offered by Council and members of the public.

3. Update on Gas Purchase Contracts

City Manager Barbee indicated he, John Pruden and Annette Brushwitz participated in a conference call with Ron Ragan, of Utility Gas Management, regarding gas prices. Mr. Ragan advised them that gas prices are low, and recommended the City hedge its gas purchase prices for the next three years. The current prices on the extension are below the current contract price and the pricing we have seen in the last few years. Dir. Pruden added that this is the first time we've seen prices this low in several years. City Manager Barbee indicated he has executed the hedge for the next three years and thanked Mr. Pruden and Ms. Brushwitz for their assistance.

4. Approval of Resolution for Maintenance Under Illinois Highway Code

Director Pruden indicated the proposed resolution is for the annual expenses associated with the City's oil and chip program. What the City is doing by adopting this resolution is obligating \$140,000 in MFT funds. Pruden added that the amount being obligated is the same as last year. ***Motion was made by Councilman Hockett and seconded by Councilman Farley to approve Resolution 2020-01 obligating \$140,000 in MFT Funds for 2020. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Barbee indicated he wanted to touch on some highlights, below:

- The City has hired Tabitha Meador to serve as its new Economic Development Director, and Barbee looks forward to working with her.
- The City has closed on the sale of the former Brown Shoe property to Wabash Communications, and they expect to have a warehouse constructed by the end of the year.
- The City has closed on the sale of a second lot on the former armory site to the Hoffmann's, who had previously purchased one lot. They have purchased a second lot to accommodate their construction plans.
- The City has had a legal description prepared for the lot being purchased by Aaron Robb in the Industrial Park, and hopes to close on that sale during January.
- There have been some changes at the Animal Control facility, and we have a new facility manager, Steffanie Rakers. Barbee added that he is currently looking for a new Animal Control Officer.
- Public Works has made the necessary repairs to the sidewalk in the first block of South Broadway where the water line was tapped for the new Historical Commission museum.
- Mr. Barbee indicated he has been approached by Craig Engel, on behalf of Marion County, and they are still interested in the purchasing the 23 acres on US Rt. 50 West, formerly identified as the "SBIC Property".
- Mr. Barbee expressed his congratulations to Rich Crouse, owner of the new Crouse Funeral Home, formerly Rogers-Atkin Funeral Home.
- Mr. Barbee expressed best wishes to Larry and Nancy Clark, who are closing Paradise Flowers and entering retirement.
- Mr. Barbee noted that the Salem Community Theatre and Cultural Center is hosting its first Trivia Night fundraiser on January 11th.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - No report.

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dir. Barrow indicated she will be distributing the budget worksheets to the Department Heads tomorrow.

IX. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Koehler indicated he has some concern about Save-A-Lot closing, leaving us only IGA and Wal-Mart. Koehler added that he would like to see another grocery store in the area, perhaps in The Orchard. Koehler added that his goal is to get at least one new business in town during the next year. Mayor Morgan concurred, and added that she has received a lot of requests for an Aldi's. Councilman Koehler indicated he just wants to see the City be proactive.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made by Councilman Hockett and seconded by Councilman Morton to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett and Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____