

**CITY OF SALEM  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 – 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 – request approval for 09-08-2020 minutes
  - 2. Discussion on current political sign ordinance
  - 3. Discussion on allowing Trick or Treat night
  - 4. Ordinance – Pertaining to the Local CURE Program
  - 5. Accounts payable report for the period of August 17 through Sept. 18, 2020
  
- VI. City Manager Report**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. City Council Members Report**
- XI. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee  
City Manager  
*RAB*

Quote of the day –

*The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will. - Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity. – Vince Lombardi*

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**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular September 21, 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:**

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

**Council members absent:** Councilman Nic Farley (*death in family*)

**Others present:**

City Manager Rex Barbee	City Clerk Bev Quinn
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds	Economic Dev. Director Tabitha Meador
Finance Director Keli Barrow	Public Works Director John Pruden
Code Enforcement Officer Dave Lusch	Asst. Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz
City Attorney Mike Jones	Economic Development Director Tabitha Meador
Brock Waggoner	Jessiycka Coleman, Salem Chamber of Commerce
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**

Jessiycka Coleman, Greater Salem Area Chamber of Commerce Director, indicated the Chamber is proposing a Downtown Salem Planter Decor contest. Brick-and-mortar businesses would decorate their buildings and windows and businesses who do not have a site downtown would decorate the planter boxes, trees & bushes, as well as Sweney Corner, with lights and Halloween décor. The décor would be put into place between September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup> and removed between November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>. Maintenance of the boxes would be done by the Chamber on a weekly basis. Ms.

Coleman indicated she had spoken with Dee of the Daffy Dills Garden Club (*which normally maintains the planter boxes*) and the club has no objections. City Manager Rex Barbee responded that as the garden club has no objections, the Chamber has permission to move forward with their use of the boxes.

**IV. MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS - None.**

**V. COUNCIL ACTION**

**1. Consent Agenda**

**a. City Council Minutes – request approval of 09-08-2020 minutes**

***Motion was made by Councilman Hockett and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve the minutes of September 8, 2020, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**2. Discussion on current political sign ordinance**

City Manager Barbee indicated resident Brock Waggoner has requested that the Council review the current sign ordinance regarding the allowed size of political signs in yards. The current ordinance restricts the sign size to no more than eight (8) square feet per side.

Brock Waggoner addressed Council indicating that political speech is a right under the First Amendment, and by restricting this, the City is allowing an easy opportunity for legal action. Mr. Waggoner added that one of the reasons cited for the City's size restriction is to "keep things clean and fresh in the community". Waggoner added that political signs are free speech, and asked why Halloween and Christmas decorations are not restricted. Councilman Morton responded that property owners have to respect their neighbors. City Manager Barbee indicated the ordinance is only limiting the SIZE of the signs, not what the signs say -- all candidates have the same sign size restrictions. Mayor Morgan asked what size Mr. Waggoner thinks the signs in yards should be. Mr. Waggoner responded, "whatever size they are comfortable with". Following more discussion, Mayor Morgan asked for a motion. No motion was made. City Attorney Mike Jones advised the Council that if no action is taken, the existing regulations remain in place. No action was taken.

**3. Discussion on allowing Trick or Treat night**

Mayor Morgan indicated she feels the community's children deserve a trick-or-treat night, and "if individuals don't want them to come to their house, they should turn off their porch lights. Same thing for businesses and church trunk-or-treats – if you want to give out candy – give out candy. If you don't, don't." Councilman Koehler concurred, but indicated he does not feel we should have the downtown trick-or-treat, as it is too hard to regulate or enforce social distancing.

City Manager Barbee indicated Jed Casburn, Rec Department and YMCA Director, is still interested in having some type of Halloween costume contest, and is working out the details. Barbee added that the posts on the WJBD site implied that the City was proposing doing away with trick-or-treat, which was not the issue – the City was just asking for guidance. ***Motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hockett to proceed with normal Halloween events. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**4. Ordinance – Pertaining to the Local CURE Program**

City Manager Barbee indicated this ordinance has been drafted and recommended by the Illinois Municipal League to assist with the DCEO CURE program. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve Ordinance 2020-08 "An Ordinance Pertaining to the Local CURE Program". Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**5. Accounts payable report for the period of August 17 – September 18, 2020**

Councilman Morton asked about reimbursement from the schools on the SRO program. Finance Director Barrow advised that the schools are billed quarterly, and are paying their share. Barrow added that she will send out a Revenue Report. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the accounts payable report of 8-17-20 to 9-18-20, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: Motion carried.***

**VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

**City Manager Barbee** indicated he is working with several vendors on upcoming building improvements. These items are not yet ready for action, but he will keep Council apprised.

Mr. Barbee asked Department Heads if they had any information they wanted to share. Asst. Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz indicated her report is unrelated to Public Works, but she did want to provide an update on the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" program. Brushwitz indicated that this Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, is "Bunks Across America Day", and there will be 237 chapters building beds on Saturday. This Saturday's local event is being sponsored by the YMCA. Brushwitz added that the local chapter still builds on Tuesday nights, but this Saturday is a special event. Last week, the local chapter built its 100<sup>th</sup>

bed, and that bed will be set up in a home Tuesday evening. Brushwitz added that all volunteers are welcome to join them.

**VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT** – No report,

**VIII. CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Hockett** indicated he had received a report from a citizen indicating there is a big mud hole at the Dog Park at the water spigot. City Manager Barbee indicated he would ask Public Works would check it out.

**Councilman Morton** indicated there was a Gold Star Bike Ride over the weekend, where the riders rode to Olney and back. Morton added that the ride was sponsored by Salem Bicycle Shop. Morton added that the PKC is in Salem for the youth hunt.

**IX. 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 6:40 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Morgan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk

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