

**CITY OF SALEM
6:00 PM REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 3, 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 for 7-20-2020 minutes
 - 2. Request to adopt a name for the historical museum
 - 3. Request approval for payment to J.K. Trotter & Sons for repairs to sewer lines
 - 4. Request authorization to replace/repair electrical transformer at the Salem ~~Water Plant~~ Wastewater Treatment Plant
 - 5. Request to purchase and upgrade drive-by and handheld radio meter reading equipment for the gas and water departments
 - 6. Ratification of contracts for Engineers & Operators Union and the Fraternal Order of Police on a three-year contract term

- 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 –

Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

- Henry Ford

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, August 3, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular August 3, 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 Pro Tem Nic Farley.

Council members present:

Councilman Jim Koehler
Councilman Nic Farley
Councilman Craig Morton
Councilman Jacob Hockett

Council members absent: Mayor Sue Morgan (*medical leave*)

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
Asst. Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz	Code Enforcement Officer Dave Lusch
Luke Purcell, Historical Commission	Mark Decker, Soldiers and Sailors Reunion Committee
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

Mark Decker, representing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion was present to give an overview of the 2020 program. Mr. Decker indicated the Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion was started in 1883 by the G.A.R. (*Grand Army of the Republic*) and took place for 102 years. In 1985 the event was no longer scheduled. Decker indicated a couple of years ago, in cooperation with the American Legion, Historical Commission, Tourism Board and Chamber of Commerce, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion Committee was established,

as a way of honoring our veterans and those actively serving our country. Through the generous support of the Salem Times-Commoner and WJBD Radio, who offered free advertisement, and the Salem Tourism Board, which provided grants, the event came together. Jay Henke, Chairman of the Little Egypt Festival, suggested dovetailing the two events to help them both succeed.

Mr. Decker indicated he recently met with the City Manager, Economic Development Director and City Clerk to outline what the Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion Committee has in mind for 2020, due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place, and to discuss additional options. The Committee would like to establish a banner program involving banners that can be used every year to bring attention to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion. Decker added they would like to display the banners from the date of the Little Egypt Festival to Veteran's Day, and added that November 4th, the date the GI Bill of Rights was signed into effect, has been declared a day of recognition. Mr. Decker indicated they would like to start by hanging the banners at the intersection of Main and Broadway, and add banners each year until they eventually stretch from I-57 to the American Legion. Decker indicated the committee hopes this will draw people to the community. Additionally, an "Honor Drive" has been discussed, although he does not think the Committee has time to get this together for this year.

City Manager Barbee indicated the poles already host the "Avenue of Flags" during that time, and they would have to mesh the two activities together. Mr. Decker indicated they really just want the City's blessing, and to know how many poles they can use. Mr. Barbee responded that the top brackets are in place, but the bottom brackets are not, as they cause a problem with the Christmas Pole decorations. Mr. Decker indicated they were just looking for ways to honor the Soldiers and Sailors without holding a dinner or concert that would bring some of our most vulnerable citizens into close contact with others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councilman Koehler indicated he thinks it is a great idea. City Manager Barbee concurred, but added that the timing may be off to get this accomplished for this year. Mr. Decker indicated that although they would prefer to October – November timeline, their second choice would be June – July.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Farley indicated Mayor Morgan has had surgery, and is home recovering.

V. COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

a. City Council Minutes – request approval for 7-20-2020 minutes

It was noted that the minutes indicated the meeting was called to order by Mayor Morgan, and they should have read that the meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Farley. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the minutes, as amended. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

2. Request to Adopt a Name for the Historical Museum

Luke Purcell, Chairman of the Salem Historical Commission, thanked City Council for approving development of the historical museum. Purcell indicated that things are moving forward, although more slowly as a result of COVID-19. The Commission has selected "Salem Area Historical Museum" as the name they would like to use, and is asking for Council approval. Purcell added that Finance Director Keli Barrow has set up a bank account for the Commission at Marion County Savings Bank, although all donations will be run through the City. The major cost coming up now is for new carpet in the display areas. The approximate cost is \$3,600, and the Commission will be asking for donations to cover this expense. Mr. Purcell added that they have started accepting historical items and getting them inventoried and cataloged. There are some larger items stored at City Hall that will require help to move to the museum.

Councilman Morton asked how soon the museum could be in operation if the carpet was installed immediately. Mr. Purcell indicated possibly six weeks. City Manager Barbee asked if carpet is the best flooring solution. Mr. Purcell indicated it is the most economical solution, since anything else would require leveling of the floors. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the name of "Salem Area Historical Museum" for the new museum. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Farley and Councilman Koehler both commended the Historical Commission for the good job they are doing on this project.***

3. Request Approval for Payment to J.K. Trotter & Sons for Repairs to Sewer Lines

City Manager Barbee indicated the City recently had some sewer line breaks that required additional equipment for digging deep enough and providing a safety cage. JK Trotter & Sons, Inc. had the necessary equipment nearby and was called to assist city crews. Total cost is \$11,770.00. These costs were neither planned for nor budgeted. ***Motion was made by Councilman Hockett and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve payment to JK Trotter & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$11,770.00. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

City Manager Barbee added that at the last meeting, he had mistakenly indicated the change order approved was for Illinois St -- it was for work on Whittaker St. We have not yet been billed for Illinois St.

4. Request Authorization to Replace/Repair Electrical Transformer at the Salem Wastewater Treatment Plant

City Manager Barbee indicated during the weekend of July 19th, Salem experienced an electrical storm that damaged a transformer on the Ameren line and created a power surge at both the Salem Family Aquatic Center and the Salem Wastewater Treatment plant. The surge damaged some relays and fuses that had to be replaced at the Aquatic Center and caused damage to a harmonic filter transformer at the Wastewater Treatment plant. Both the fuses and the filter took the brunt of the surge and protected more costly equipment. The Wastewater Treatment plant damage was to a harmonic filter transformer which will need to be repaired or replaced. Replacement with a new device was estimated at \$9,850.00 by Livesay Electric and repair cost for the device was estimated at \$8,000. Our out of pocket deductible is \$10,000. We are requesting authorization to replace the Harmonic Filter with a new unit. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the purchase of a new Harmonic Filter in the amount of \$9,850. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

5. Request to Purchase and Upgrade Drive-by and Handheld Radio Meter Reading Equipment for the Gas and Water Departments

City Manager Barbee indicated the requested upgrade is a budgeted purchase. It includes new software and a tablet and two handheld reading devices, along with installation and training on the new software. The software cost with a 7" tablet is \$14,995, installation cost with training cost is \$4,475.00, and the handheld devices are \$1,995.00, for a total of \$23,460. Public Works Director Pruden added that this is the next step up. The final step will be total telemetry. ***Motion was made by Councilman Hockett and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve the purchase the upgrade drive-by and handheld radio meter reading equipment and software in the amount of \$23,460. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*** Mayor Pro Tem Farley offered "kudos to" the meter reader for knocking on his door and bringing a leak to his attention. Dir. Pruden added that this upgrade will be for commercial areas and the fringe areas of town that require the meter reader to do a lot of walking. Pruden added that he is starting to see some time savings. Mayor Pro Tem Farley expressed his appreciation for the work put into this.

6. Ratification of Contracts for Engineers & Operators Union and the Fraternal Order of Police on a Three-Year Contract Term

City Manager Barbee indicated that negotiating committees for both the Operating Engineers and the FOP have reached agreements. The contracts are both three-year contracts, with 2.75% raises annually, and some minor language changes. The 2.75% raises will be retroactive to May 1. Mayor Barbee added that he is requesting ratification of both contracts. Following discussion, ***motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Hockett to ratify both the Operating Engineers and FOP three-year contracts, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Barbee and Department Heads provided the following updates:

- City Manager wished Mayor Morgan well on her recovery.
- City Manager Barbee indicated the last day of full operation for the Aquatic Center will be August 16th. Depending on staff availability, we may be able to offer early morning swim for a little longer. On August 22nd, there will be a fundraiser for the Animal Control Departments Trap-Neuter-Release program and to assist with emergency vet expenses. This will be open to the public and there will be a charge to participate.
- City Manager Barbee indicated the disc golf course in Bryan Park is getting a lot of use. The first Moonlight Tournament is over, and the T-boxes now have signs on them that describe the layout of the hole; the distance to the next box; and how many throws it should take to par. Councilman Morton asked if the course is on the National Disc Golf Course website. Luke Purcell responded that it is.
- City Manager Barbee indicated Jed Casburn is trying to determine what the State will allow regarding recreation programs. The YMCA also has its own regulations that must be adhered to. Barbee added that he has a meeting with Mr. Casburn on Tuesday to discuss this further.
- Finance Director Barrow indicated the auditors will be presenting the FY20 Audit at the next Council meeting, and she will have first quarter reports out next week.
- Public Works Director Pruden indicated that the oil and chip work schedule for this week will probably be cancelled again due to rain.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – No report.

IX. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Koehler indicated he walked the walking trail today, and the water issue that had been occurring appears to have cleared up.

Councilman Morton asked what the plan is for utilizing TIF funds. Finance Director Barrow responded that all of the funds that were intended to be used have been distributed, and we should receive additional dollars when the tax payments come in in September or October.

Councilman Morton asked when the Soccer Field ground breaking will be. City Manager Barbee responded that he is waiting until Mayor Morgan can attend.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Morton to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____