

CITY OF SALEM IL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 5, 2022 – 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) Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2022
 - 2. Review and Approval of Annexation Request on Edgewood Rd, Salem
 - 3. Review and Approval of Budget Amendment for FY 2021-2022 for Audit Purposes
 - 4. Cemetery Ordinance Revision Discussion and Possible Action

- VI. City Manager and Dept Head Reports**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. City Council Member Reports**

- IX. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee
City Manager
RAB

Quote of the day –

“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

President John F. Kennedy

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July 5, 2022

- I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular July 5, 2022, meeting of the Salem City Council was convened in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nic Farley at 6:00 pm.

Council members present:
Councilman Jim Koehler
Councilman Royce Bringwald
Councilwoman Amy Troutt
Mayor Nicolas Farley

Council members absent:
Councilman Craig Morton

Others present:

City Manager Rex Barbee	City Attorney Mike Jones
Public Works Director Annette Sola	Asst. to the Public Works Director Courtney Mitchell
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds	Finance Director Keli Roth
City Clerk Bev Quinn	Economic Development Director Tabitha Meador
Members of the Media and Public	

- II. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Koehler offered the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Robert Grzegorek, owner of Bob’s Auto and Truck Repair, indicated the intersection at Commercial St. and IL Rt. 37 is in dire need of repair. Grzegorek indicated road pack was put in, and now axels are

being broken on vehicles using the intersection. Grzegorek added that this repair can't wait until the water line is replaced, and the water main shut off is currently visible. Public Works Director Sola indicate she is aware of this situation, and this will require a complete revamp of the intersection. Mr. Grzegorek indicated this situation is not acceptable, it has cost him customers, and he wants an answer as to when the repairs will be made within 45 days. Grzegorek added that the road pack is causing more problems than it solved.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Farley offered kudos to all involved in the City of Salem Fourth of July celebration in Bryan Park.

Mayor Farley indicated he attended the retirement reception for Kim Baldridge, who has worked for 15 years and 3 months for the Bryan-Bennett Library.

Mayor Farley asked if Dir. Sola had an update on the street light request received at the last meeting. Dir. Sola indicated she has reached out to Ameren, and they are sending a crew to evaluate the location. Ameren's concern is that there are other street lights nearby.

V. CITY COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

(a) Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2022

Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve the minutes of June 20, 2022, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, , Councilman Koehler and Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Councilwoman Troutt abstained, as she was not at the meeting. Motion carried.

2. Review and Approval of Annexation Request on Edgewood Rd

City Clerk Quinn indicated the City's records indicated this property identified as 454 Edgewood Road was *inside* the City limits, and the County's records indicated it was *outside* city limits. *(This was discovered when the resident came in to inquire about a permit, and stated that they were outside the city limits.)* The property was not being taxed as a Salem property, but was receiving City utilities at the lower inside-city-limits rate. Once this was brought to the property owner's attention, Ms. Merrell submitted an annexation petition. ***Motion was made by Councilman Bringwald and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to approve Ordinance 2022-11 annexing 454 Edgewood Road into the Salem city limits. AYES: Councilman Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

3. Review and Approval of Ordinance 2022-12 Amending the FY22 Budget

Mayor Farley indicated he sat down with Finance Director Barrow and she explained the budget amendments being presented, and he is recommending approval. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve Ordinance 2022-12 Amending the FY22 Budget, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

4. Cemetery Ordinance Revision – Discussion and Possible Action

Mayor Farley indicated Rick McCullum is here to address City Council regarding the proposed changes to the ordinance, and invited Mr. McCullum to speak.

Rick McCullum, 420 N. Indiana St., Salem, IL, indicated he would like to see the section of the proposed ordinance that discusses placement of "no more than one container of flowers" clarified to indicate whether or not this includes the stones with fixed vases on them. McCullum added that his wife, Ann, maintains their daughter's grave, as it is just too painful for him. Debby was 29 when she passed away, and she loved turtles. Because of that, they put small turtles on her grave stone, as well as the medallions they collect when traveling. Mr. McCullum indicated these may be considered "trinkets", but they are small gestures to honor Debbie's life. Mr. McCullum added that nothing on their daughter's grave is placed directly on the ground, just on the stone. Mr. McCullum closed by saying they will abide by whatever decision is made by City Council.

Public Works Director Sola indicated that if what Mr. McCullum described was the biggest issue the cemetery faced, they wouldn't have any issues. The real issue is that many of the items family and friends add encroach on spaces owned by others. Additionally, everything has to be moved in order to weed-eat, then returned to its previous location, with the risk that it may be damaged. Dir. Sola indicated she is trying to be sensitive towards family members' feelings, and understands

that this is a difficult discussion, but she is trying to update the regulations so that maintenance of the cemetery is manageable.

Councilman Koehler indicated he knows it takes more time and effort to mow or weed around the extra items, but these things are important to family members. Koehler indicated someone puts a quarter on his father's headstone periodically, and it means something. Councilman Koehler added that that it will cost more, and the City may have to hire more people, but that is just a necessity. Dir. Sola responded that the cemetery is manned by two full-time employees, and two part-time summer hires, and they just can't keep up. Councilman Koehler indicated he agrees with the price increases proposed, but feels people put a lot of time and heart into the items they put at their loved one's graves, and he feels these revisions are opening "Pandora's Box". City Manager Barbee indicated that at the least, there needs to be something adopted that holds the City harmless if any of these "trinkets" are lost, stolen or damaged, and added that this is a lot of work for two full-time employees.

Councilwoman Troutt indicated she feels there does need to be some standardization, and a way to limit encroachment, as well as developing some protocol for approaching those situations where people don't comply.

City Manager Barbee indicated he and Dir. Sola would get together and work on some additional revisions, and asked City Council to email their suggestions on what they would like incorporated into the ordinance to him.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Koehler to table action on proposed revisions to the Cemetery Ordinance until the next meeting. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

VI. CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

City Manager Barbee-

- thanked all involved in the July 4th event – Dir. Meador for her organizing of the event with Bill Poss; Bill Poss for lining up the entertainment; Alberson Audio for their assistance; the Parks crew for having the park clean, moving tables to accommodate the event, and staying after to clean up; and the Police Department for having officers onsite. Barbee added that the tents that were on the stage helped the entertainers with the heat, but next year fans will be added.
- indicated that the topic of electrical aggregation will be coming up, and there will be meetings with our consultants in the near future;
- offered a "shout out" to the cast and crew of "Biloxi Blues", which will be performed this weekend and next weekend at the Salem Theatre; and
- indicated DOEM has posted some "cooling sites" due to the extreme heat.

City Clerk Quinn –

- indicated City Hall was having a myriad of issues involving the internet, access to accounting software, the copier, and/or some related piece of computer equipment. Wabash, H & H and GFI have all been involved in trying to determine what is causing the issue.

Economic Development Director Meador -

- thanked Dave Sands and Todd Laird of the Parks Department for their help and the Police Department for their presence at the July 4th event and added that she has some suggestions for revisions for next year's event.

Public Works Director Sola-

- Indicated Public Works is very busy, and they are hoping to start the Kell St. water line project soon. Once that project is done, they will begin the revisions to the roadway;
- indicated they opened bids on the Whittaker St. project. Contractors are extremely busy, so there were not many bids received;
- Spoke with Ron Ragan, who has been hedging gas purchases into 2023, as well as buying month-to-month. Current natural gas prices are more than \$2.00/dekatherm less than last month. Sola added that she can't say enough about what Mr. Ragan does for the City, and because of his efforts, we are in better shape than many communities. The City has natural gas in storage, and is just currently buying what is required.
- Animal Control will be holding its annual fundraiser at the pool on July 17th from 12-4. Swim team will be hosting a State meet on July 30th. The pool will be closed to the public during the

day of the meet, but will be open to the public from 6-9 pm that evening with a band and fun events for the public for \$5.00/person;

- Public Works will begin the oil and chip program next week.

Mayor Farley mentioned that there are two concrete tables near the main playground in Bryan Park that appear to have collapsed or sunk into the ground. Sola indicated she would check into it.

Finance Dir. Barrow –

- Indicated she will get the June revenue reports out tomorrow. The auditors will be here next week, and the tech problems we've had for the past week have made preparing for the audit difficult.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – no report.

VIII. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Koehler –

- reported that repairs to the exterior of the Bryan Home are done, and the painting will be scheduled soon;
- indicated the Historical Commission will be doing their historical drive through of the cemetery again this fall, and is working on plans for the city's Bicentennial next year; and
- wants to see the City stay on top of Mr. Grzegorek's issue and the street light request for S. College.

Councilman Bringwald –

- indicated he has spoken with some of his constituents, and they have expressed concern about the condition of some derelict buildings in the downtown area;
- indicated he has been to visit the Water Plant, Gas Plant, and Sewer Plant;
- reported that he dropped in on the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization during a build, and it was wonderful to see volunteers of all ages, including children, participating.

Mayor Farley –

- indicated he is part of a committee that is geared towards helping underserved communities expand their broadband capabilities. The city of Salem, as a whole, has good coverage and some competition, but outside the City limits, this is not the case. A survey has been posted on the City of Salem website and Facebook page to get information on areas that do not have good broadband coverage.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Koehler, councilman Bringwald, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes approved: _____