

**CITY OF SALEM IL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
December 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 – November 21, 2022
  - 2. Authorization to move forward with July 4<sup>th</sup> and Bicentennial Celebration plans.
  - 3. Discussion on topic of changes on requirements to establish residential occupancy above downtown commercial buildings.
  - 4. Public Works has a non-budgeted repair request for replacing the roofing at the bathroom facility in Bryan Memorial Park near the stage.
  
- VI. City Manager and Dept Head Reports**
- VI. City Attorney Report**
- VII. City Council member report**
- VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee  
City Manager  
*RAB*

*Quote of the day –*

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”  
- H Jackson Brown, Jr.

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December 5, 2022**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular December 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  
Councilman Craig Morton  
Mayor Nicolas Farley

**Council members absent:** None

**Others present:**

City Manager Rex Barbee	City Attorney Mike Jones
Chief of Police Kyle Ambuehl	Finance Dir. Keli Roth
City Clerk Bev Quinn	Economic Development Dir Tabitha Meador
Public Works Dir. Annette Sola	Asst. to the Public Works Dir. Courtney Mitchell
YMCA/Rec Dir. Jed Casburn	Code Enforcement Officer Dave Lusch
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 – None.**

**IV. MAYOR’S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Farley thanked all of the volunteers who worked on the Christmas events over the weekend, and added that it was great to see the sense of community.

**V. CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of Minutes – November 21, 2022

***Motion was made by Councilman Bringwald and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to approve the minutes of November 21, 2022, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilman Morton, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Councilman Koehler and Councilwoman Troutt abstained.***

**2. Authorization to move forward with July 4<sup>th</sup> and Bicentennial Celebration Plans**

City Manager Barbee indicated he is seeking authorization to commence with the planning of the 2023 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. 2023 activities will also include the celebration of the Bicentennial, with events in Bryan Memorial Park. Barbee indicated he is questioning whether the date for the event should remain July 4<sup>th</sup>, or be moved to Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Barbee indicated he is also requesting authorization for Dir. Meador to make arrangements with Bill Poss to hire the stage entertainment, to solicit food trucks, and to authorize the expenditure for the fireworks.

Director Meador indicated she needs to be able to give Bill Poss direction on whether to book the musical groups for July 1<sup>st</sup> or July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Barbee added that this will make it easier for the Historical Commission to make plans for the Bicentennial Celebration.

Luke Purcell, Chairman of the Historical Commission, indicated they have started some basic planning for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, piggybacking on the City’s July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Purcell indicated they are working with a reenactment group and will have a replica of a cannon. Purcell indicated they hope to involve church and civic organizations in the event.

Mayor Farley asked those involved if they had recommendations as to which date would work better. Mr. Purcell responded that he does not have a recommendation. Dir. Meador indicated that either date works for her, although there might be a better turnout if the event is held on Saturday. Chief Ambuehl said either date works for his department, but as a citizen, he would like to see a full day event. Councilman Koehler and Councilman Bringwald both indicated they like having the fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>, but felt the Bicentennial events would be better attended on a Saturday. Councilwoman Troutt indicated it would be nice if the area communities would stagger their events, and suggested the Bicentennial events be held on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and the fireworks held on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to hold the Bicentennial Events on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and the fireworks on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

City Manager Barbee asked that the purchase of fireworks, soliciting of food trucks, and hiring of entertainment through Poss Music Works be approved. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to approve the purchase of fireworks, soliciting of food trucks, and hiring of entertainment through Poss Entertainment. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Public Works Dir. Sola indicated the City traditionally closes the Aquatic Center on the Fourth of July, and asked if it will now be closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Farley responded that Council will postpone that decision, for now.

**3. Discussion on the topic of changes in requirements to establish residential occupancy above downtown commercial buildings.**

Mayor Farley indicated this topic has been brought to Council, as he was approached by some owners of property in the B-2 Commercial (*downtown*) District regarding their desire to have dwelling units as a permitted use in the downtown district. Currently, building owners must submit an Application for Special Use Permit and attend a public hearing before the Planning Commission to be approved. Neighboring property owners are notified, the project is discussed, and Planning Commission makes a recommendation to City Council for a final decision. The “change of use” requires a sealed set of plans addressing health, safety and fire concerns. Farley added that there is a misconception that each subsequent building owner has to go through the Special Use process to have dwelling units. Clerk/Zoning Administrator Quinn added that once the Special Use Permit is granted, the sealed set of plans approved, and the revisions made to the building, the Special Use permit continues through subsequent owners. Additionally, if a potential buyer for a building wants to ensure that the upper stories may be used for dwelling units, the buyer can make their offer on the building contingent upon receiving the necessary permits, and proceed with the Special Use process.

Mayor Farley asked if Council has any questions or comments. Councilman Bringwald indicated he feels the code is good as is, and added that the Special Use and sealed plans are to ensure that safety concerns are addressed. Bringwald did add that he thinks the building code needs to be updated to the IBC 2021 edition. Councilwoman Troutt asked what the property owners’ concerns are – is it the cost of the architectural plans? Rick McCullum, Chairman of the Planning Commission, indicated the State of Illinois requires that sealed plans be submitted for all buildings other than single and two-family residential structures.

Mayor Farley indicated that he wanted there to be a frank and open discussion on this topic, and it appears City Council does not see the need for any revisions to the code at this time.

**4. Public Works has a non-budgeted repair request for replacing the roofing at the bathroom facility in Bryan Memorial Park near the stage.**

Public Works Director Sola indicated the two skylights in both restrooms are leaking again. They have tried to seal them several times in the past, and the seals are not holding. Sola added she had intended to hold off on the repairs until she could budget it in the next budget, but they are seeing some rot in the rafters, and she is afraid the longer repairs are put off the worse it will be. Although she tried to get multiple bids for the project, the only one received was from McCoy Construction and Roofing in the amount of \$4,400.00. As long as the weather holds out, McCoy could complete the repairs in January. Sola added that the skylights will be removed, but the public works crews will install additional lighting. Mayor Farley asked if the funds are available. Fin. Dir. Roth responded that they are. Dir. Sola added that the heated restrooms are getting a lot of foot traffic. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to approve the bid from McCoy Construction and Roofing in the amount of \$4,400.00 for repairs at the Bryan Memorial Park restrooms. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**VI. CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**City Clerk Quinn –**

- reminded all of the City Christmas Party on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and added that the catering is being done by Deb’s of Altamont and music will be provided by Off the Cuff Dueling Pianos.

**Public Works Director Sola –**

- indicated the leaf vac is still running.

**Economic Development Director Meador -**

- reported that the Christmas events went very well, and she gave out 215 mugs of hot chocolate.

**YMCA/Recreation Director Casburn –**

- reported that he was very happy with both events over the weekend, and the community was great.

**City Manager Barbee –**

- indicated the Public Works Department devised a man-made tree made with metal and lights, and it looks great.

**VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – no report.**

**VIII. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Councilman Koehler –**

- indicated the downtown flower pots look great, and he’s noticed the Snoopy, A Christmas Story, and National Lampoon themes. Koehler added that his grandkids from California were shocked at the size and quality of Bryan Park, and the lighting at Addie’s Playground is great. Koehler added that this is the best the downtown has looked in years.

**Councilman Bringwald –**

- indicated he has spoken with Crouse Funeral Home Director Rich Crouse, and their expansion is going well. Bringwald asked how the library is coming along. City Manager Barbee responded that with good weather, the work should be done by the end of the month;
- added that he enjoyed the festivities over the weekend.

**Mayor Farley –**

- expressed his appreciation to the public works and other city employees, citizens, and business owners, and encouraged them to “keep on keeping on”.

**IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

***Motion was made by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk

*Minutes approved:* \_\_\_\_\_