

**CITY OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 6, 2021 – 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 – November15, 2021
  - 2. Request to renew liability and workers compensation insurance coverage with ICRMT through Kane Insurance.
  - 3. Approval of Mayor's appointment to the Salem Tourism Commission – Joy Conner
  - 4. Renewal/extension of Listing agreement on City owned property with Somer Real Estate.
  - 5. Approval of Resolution to increase the number of Class A liquor licenses by one for 777 Liquor and Gaming, LLC, contingent upon the receipt of full application and fees and subsequent adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 3 – Alcoholic Liquor of the City Code.
  - 6. Request for approval of purchase of bulk chemicals for Salem Water Plant.
  - 7. Discussion and action to impose residency requirements on new hires for City of Salem
  - 8. Approval actions related to Property Tax Levy collection proposal for 2022 –
    - a. Approve Levy ordinance for additional 1.4% over 2021 Levy
    - b. Approval of Abatement Resolution for series 2021 General Obligation Bonds for Aquatic Center and Waste Water Treatment plant.
- VI. City Manager and Department Head Reports**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. City Council Members Report**
- IX. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee  
City Manager

*RAB*

*Quote of the day;*

***We must be courageous but also reasonable. The world admires us for walking a tightrope without falling off. It asks us to keep our balance.***  
*Lech Walesa*

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**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 6, 2021**

- I. Call to Order**

The regular December 6, 2021 meeting of the Salem City Council was convened at 6:00 in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nicolas 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 Clerk Bev Quinn  
Economic Dev Dir Tabitha Meador  
Asst. Public Works Dir. Cory Purintun  
Code Enforcement Officer Dave Lusch  
Dan Luttrell, ICRMT

Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz  
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds  
City Attorney Mike Jones  
Finance Director Keli Barrow  
Deanna Purcell, Kane Insurance  
Members of the Media and Public

II. **PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Koehler offered the opening prayer, with Mayor Farley leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** – No comments.

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

Mayor Farley –

- thanked Security Alarm for donating some of their labor for installing security cameras in Bryan Park, and thanked Bud Mulvany of Bud's Minor League for donating some of his labor on park signage.
- indicated there was a great turnout for the Christmas festivities held this past weekend, and thanked Jed Casburn, Tabitha Meador, Luke Purcell and the Salem Historical Museum, the ABC Pub, the Theatre Committee, the Community Band and Choir, and the Community Center, as well as many unnamed volunteers, for their hard work on the weekend event.
- thanked Chief Reynolds and the members of the FOP for providing their "Shop with a Cop" event this past weekend, which helps build rapport with area kids.
- thanked the volunteers with the "Sleep in Heavenly Peach" organization for another successful build.
- indicated he's spoken with the Department of Natural Resources about our deer population, and he is expecting the local deer expert to contact him in the near future.
- met with Village Garden owners, who indicated they are in the process of selecting contractors to do their rebuild. Farley added that they remain committed to the community.

V. **CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

1. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **City Council Minutes - request approval of minutes of November 15, 2021**  
***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

2. **Request to Renew Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage with ICRMT**

City Manager Barbee indicated the liability insurance coverage provided by Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust through Kane Insurance expires in December of 2021. Kane Insurance agents have provided the City with the proposal for renewal after the prior Council meeting. The ICRMT coverage has been excellent in the past and they have taken a pro-active approach on methods to remain in compliance and reduce risk. Representatives from Kane will be on hand to answer any questions. They have instituted a separate coverage for cyber security and are asking that the City make some small procedural changes to reduce our exposure and risk. The premium for the proposed coverage is about \$2,800 over last year.

Mayor Farley added that the City Council did shop around for Risk Management and Worker's Comp insurance a few years ago, and it is a very labor-intensive process for staff. ICRMT offers a good rate and extensive training opportunities for our employees. City Manager Barbee added that if we want to request proposals, we will need to start working on that in July. Councilman Koehler added that it is very nice having local representation.

Councilman Morton asked if the policy went up last year. Deanna Purcell of Kane Insurance responded that it did, but there was also a one-time COVID credit.

Councilwoman Troutt indicated she would like to see the City request proposals on this every five years. Councilman Bringwald added that he would like to have more information on what training is available to staff.

Councilman Morton asked where the increase of \$2,800 shows up in the plan. Ms. Purcell indicated on page 23, in the increase is in both package premium and worker's comp coverage.

***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve the proposals for Liability and Worker's Comp coverage from ICRMT for the***

**upcoming year. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

**3. Approval of the Mayor's Appointment to the Tourism Board – Joy Conner**

Mayor Farley indicated there was an opening on the Tourism Board caused by Robin Lindberg of Holiday Inn Express retiring and moving from the area. The Tourism Board bi-laws indicate that one or two members of the Board should be representatives of the hotel/motel industry, but they also have to live inside the City limits and be registered to vote. Mayor Farley indicated he did not receive any letters of interest from hotel/motel representatives, but he did receive two very good letters of interest from members of the community. Farley indicated he has selected Joy Conner, who works for Security Alarm, to serve on the Tourism Board. **Motion was made by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve Mayor Farley's appointment of Joy Conner to the Tourism Board. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

**4. Renewal/Extension of Listing Agreement on City-Owned Property with Somer Real Estate**

City Manager Barbee indicated the real estate listings with Somer are up for renewal, and they are requesting a six-month extension. Discussion ensued regarding how properties were originally assigned by lottery. Consensus was to do another lottery with remaining properties next year, when the six-month extension with Somer expires. **Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilwoman Troutt to extend the listing agreement with Somer Real Estate for six months. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

**5. Approval of Resolution to Increase the Number of Class A Liquor Licenses by One (1) for 777 Liquor and Gaming, LLC (contingent upon the receipt of full application and fees and subsequent adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 43 – "Alcoholic Liquor" of the City Code)**

City Manager Barbee indicated this resolution represents a request from the owner/operators of El Rancherito Mexican Restaurant (*represented by Rosa Roma and Luis Roma*) under the name of 777 Liquor and Gaming LLC. Mr. and Mrs. Roma appeared before the Council requesting a package liquor license at the November 1, 2021 Council meeting. They are looking to open a high-end package liquor facility in the former Pizza Hut building under the name of 777 Liquor and Gaming and are requesting the number of Class A licenses be increased by one to accommodate their use of the property for that purpose. Utilizing the resolution will clear the way for the issuance of a license reserved for their operation without having an open license in the event that issues arise with the 777 Liquor and Gaming, and they choose not to move forward with the business.

Councilwoman Troutt indicated she is struggling with this request, as caps were placed on liquor licenses that permit video gaming for a reason. Councilman Koehler concurred, but added that this request is from a local business that has been a benefit to the community. Koehler added that he does feel Salem has enough gaming venues, but he wants to support this local business. Councilman Bringwald added that he hesitates to increase gaming venues in Salem.

Rose Roma, representing the owners, indicated she understands if City Council does not want additional gaming, but they do intend to provide an upscale liquor store with the gaming.

**Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve Resolution 2021-08, agreeing to increase the Class A liquor licenses by one for 777 Liquor and Gaming, LLC, with contingencies. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Farley. NAYS: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt. Motion carried.**

**6. Request for Approval of Purchase of Bulk Chemicals for Salem Water Plant**

City Manager Barbee indicated he is requesting approval for bulk purchase of chemicals for the Salem Water Plant in the amount of \$16,160.12. Purchasing the chemical in tanker quantity provides a savings over purchasing in smaller quantities multiple times in the year. The amount of the chemical purchase is part of the line-item account 16-5120-315-00 budget for the Water Plant, and is a budgeted expense. **Motion was made by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Koehler to approve bulk purchase of water plant chemicals from CedarChem in the amount of \$16,160.12. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

## **7. Discussion and Action to Impose Residency Requirements on New Hires for the City of Salem**

City Manager Barbee Indicated this agenda item was brought forward by Councilman Morton, and involves discussion and possible action to require new employee hires to adhere to a residency requirement. The suggested action would require new hires to live within a certain radius of Salem and be willing to relocate to be in compliance within 6 months of the hire. Barbee added that the FOP contract requires officers to live within 30-miles of City Hall and certain public works jobs require a 15-minute response time, so some employees already have residency requirements.

Councilman Morton Indicated the cities and towns he has lived in have all had residency requirements, and he has always felt strongly about this. Mayor Farley added that most neighboring towns have some form of residency requirement, ranging from inside the city limits to 30 miles from City center. Councilman Bringwald indicated he feels a residency requirement may cause difficulties when looking to hire key personnel. Bringwald added that as long as their attendance is good and there are doing their job, he doesn't feel residency is an issue.

Joan Kless addressed City Council regarding her strong objections to residency requirements. Kless indicated she feels there is limited housing available, "no reason to come here", and implementing a residency requirement will just limit the quality of applicants. Mayor Farley responded that it is important for personnel to be able to respond in a timely manner.

Councilwoman Troutt indicated she sees the rationale behind a residency requirement, but feels this is a hard time to impose additional employment regulations, when so many employers are loosening requirements. Councilman Koehler indicated he does not feel a requirement that employees live within 30 miles of City Hall is asking too much. City Manager Barbee asked what about potential hires whose spouses work further than 30 miles from the center of town, or who have children involved in schools they don't want to leave. Councilman Bringwald indicated this topic has been a point of discussion in the coffee shops since Chief Reynolds moved to Effingham, but he still feels it is a non-issue, as long as employees show up and do their jobs. Bringwald indicated living in the community might show pride and loyalty to community, but so do long years of seniority.

***Motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Koehler to impose a residency requirement that new hires for the City of Salem be required to live within 30 miles of City Hall within six-months of hire. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler. NAYS: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Mayor Farley. Motion failed.*** Mayor Farley indicated he could not see imposing additional restrictions on new hires at this time, but may want to do so in the future.

## **8. Approval of Actions Related to Property Tax Levy Collection Proposed for 2022**

### **a. Approve Levy Ordinance for Additional 1.4% over 2021 Levy**

City Manager Barbee indicated the first reading of this proposal was done on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Although the City can levy up to 5% over the previous year's levy, tax caps reduce the amount the City will actually get. Therefore, the City is levying what we can actually collect. Mayor Farley added that this shows that we are being good stewards of City funds. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve Ordinance 2021-18 agreeing to levy 1.4% over the 2021 collection. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

### **b. Approval of Abatement Resolution for Series 2021 General Obligation Bonds for Aquatic Center and Waste Water Treatment Plant.**

City Manager Barbee indicated the City originally issued bonds for the aquatic center and waste water treatment plant improvements, but does not want to levy property taxes for these bonds, as we have implemented two half-cent sales taxes to pay them. Therefore, we are abating these by resolution. ***Motion was made by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve Resolution 2021-09 abating taxes for 2021 General Obligation Bonds. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald,***

***Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT WITH DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES**

**City Manager Barbee –**

- indicated Bev Quinn has sent out the postcards to all addresses in the City regarding the public hearing on use of shipping containers for storage in commercial and industrial zoning districts. The Planning Commission will be holding the Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Salem Community Center cafeteria.
- reiterated the Mayor’s comments regarding Jed Casburn and Tabitha Meador’s hard work during the Christmas event. They sold 18 gallons of hot chocolate, and ran out before the last hour. ABC gave out 150 hotdogs. It appears there were more than 200 attendees both nights. Barbee thanked the media for their coverage of the event.
- indicated the Inclusive Playground is getting a lot of use, and the new live camera feed will be monitored by the Police Department.

**Finance Director Barrow –**

- indicated she will be handing out budget worksheets and a schedule tomorrow morning at the Department Head meeting.
- reported that she has been working with the Bryan Bennett Library staff, and they have been successfully switched to QuickBooks Online.

**Public Works Director Brushwitz –**

- indicated he leaf vac will run for two more weeks.

**Chief Reynolds –**

- indicated the Police Department raised \$660.00 during “No Shave November”, which will be donated to Salem Township Hospital for their Cancer Care Clinic.
- Indicated the Community Christmas Tree is up in the lobby of the Police Department, and it will remain up until December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer Lusch –**

- reported that the catch, neuter and release program is going well.
- responded to a question from Council regarding a Warmouth St. code enforcement issue. City Attorney Jones added that there is really very little the Courts can do. The residents in question are renters, and the landlord would have better a better chance of taking action than the City.
- reported that the burned-out home on Pine St. that was slated for demolition is being worked on.

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

**VIII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT**

**Councilman Bringwald –**

- indicated the downtown area was a flurry of activity during the Christmas events.
- recognized that 80 years ago tomorrow, was a day that lives in infamy.

**Mayor Farley –**

- indicated he was privileged to present a Key to the City to Leona Meador (*Sharon Woodward’s mother*) in recognition of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made at 7:02 pm by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Mayor Farley. NAYS: Councilman Koehler. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk

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