

**CITY OF SALEM**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (via Zoom)**  
**January 18, 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. City Council Minutes – request approval of 01/04/2021 minutes
  - 2. Maintenance item at Animal Control Facility
  - 3. Review of Accounts Payable for period of December 21, 2020 through January 15, 2021
  
- VI. City Manager Report with Department Head Updates**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. City Council Report**
  
- IX. Executive Session**
  - 1. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) – Review of Closed Session Minutes – 7/20/20, 8/17/20 and 12/07/20 and Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes
  
- X. City Council Action following Executive Session**
  - 1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – 7/20/20, 8/17/20 and 12/07/20
  - 2. Approval of Resolution 2021-01 – Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes
  
- XI. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee  
City Manager

*Quote of the Day – It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues –  
Abraham Lincoln*

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Join Zoom Meeting  
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Meeting ID: 832 3609 2572  
Passcode: 403155  
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**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING (via Zoom)**  
**Monday, January 18, 2021**

- I. Call to Order**

The regular January 18, 2021 meeting of the Salem City Council was convened at 6:00 pm via Zoom meeting software and called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Nicolas Farley.

**Council members present (via Zoom):**  
Councilman Jim Koehler  
Councilman Nicolas Farley  
Councilman Craig Morton  
Councilman Jacob Hockett

**Council members absent:** Mayor Sue Morgan (*due to illness*)

**Others present (via Zoom):**

City Manager Rex Barbee	City Attorney Mike Jones
City Clerk Bev Quinn	Public Works Director John Pruden
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds	Code Enforcement Officer Dave Lusch
Finance Director Keli Barrow	Economic Development Director Tabitha Meador
Deputy Chief of Police Susan Miller	Members of the Public and Media

**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**

**John Consolino**, 357 Country Club Estates, addressed Council regarding a drainage issue in his neighborhood. Mr. Consolino indicated that over the past 7-8 years, there have been increased drainage issues in the southwest corner of the neighborhood. Consolino added that anytime there is significant rainfall, there is standing water at the edge of his drive. Silt and debris build up and his family can't walk to their mailbox and his children can't ride their bikes without riding through it. This causes mud to accumulate on his vehicle and driveway. During the spring and fall, the mud stands and becomes stagnant and moldy. Mr. Consolino indicated he has had to remove the silt and debris himself, as it is unsightly, unsafe and inconvenient.

Mr. Consolino indicated he was informed that the subdivision roads were built by a developer, not the City, and there is no easy fix. Consolino added that the City may not have constructed the roads, but they are responsible for maintaining them. Mr. Consolino indicated he would like to see a plan to address this within the next year or two. City Manager Barbee indicated Public Works Director Pruden will be out of the office for a couple of weeks, but he will schedule a discussion involving Mayor Pro Tem Farley, Dir. Pruden and Mr. Consolino upon his return.

**Brock Waggoner** addressed Council regarding his opposition to HB3653, and the way it limits the way Police Officers do their jobs. Mr. Waggoner added that the 700+ page bill was passed in under an hour, and it is now on the Governor's desk. Waggoner added that several municipalities are sending letters of opposition to the Governor, as this bill will increase taxes and reduce safety.

Mayor Pro Tem Farley indicated he was on the phone everyday last week with Senator Plummer, and he is awaiting direction from Sen. Plummer as to what he feels the City's next step should be. Farley added that he intends to ask for an update from Chief Reynolds later in the meeting. Councilman Koehler added that he would like to hear what the Chief has to say, but he has no objection to the City sending a letter of opposition to HB3653.

Mr. Waggoner stated he is petitioning the City Council to take action to send a letter of opposition to HB 3653 to the Governor's Office.

Mayor Pro Tem Farley indicated the City Council appreciates and supports its police department, and provides the best education, training, equipment and pension that it can. The City has an excellent force, and City Council is proud of it. Farley added that he feels more information is needed before action is taken.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Farley added that Mayor Morgan is still recovering from an illness, and asked for continued prayers for her.

Mayor Pro Tem Farley indicated the COVID-19 restrictions are changing daily, and Salem is now in Phase 4, which permits gatherings of up to 50 people and allows businesses to be open with restrictions. City Manager Barbee indicated it is his intention to open the City Hall lobby to customers on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, if Council has no objections. Consensus of Council was to approve opening the lobby to the public on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. **City Council Minutes - request approval of January 4, 2021 minutes**  
*Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve the minutes as written. Roll call vote: AYES Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*

**2. Maintenance Item at Animal Control Facility**

City Manager Barbee indicated the Animal Control Facility has a mold situation that he would like to see repaired before it gets any worse. The City received an estimate for remediation from ServPro in the amount of \$7,256.64. Barbee added that the facility has a low population right now, and this would be a good time to have the work done.

Mayor Pro Tem Farley asked if sections of wall will need to be torn out, and what it will cost to repair the walls. City Manager Barbee indicated there will be some material and installation costs, unknown at this time. Councilman Morton asked if ServPro will guarantee that this will take care of the problem. City Manager Barbee responded that they will remove everything that is moldy, and they will check to see what needs to be done to prevent this from happening again. Councilman Morton asked how soon they can start. Mr. Barbee indicated probably two weeks. Councilman Koehler indicated he does not feel the City has any choice, and this needs to be done. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve mold remediation at the Animal Control Facility by ServPro in the amount of \$7,256.64. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**3. Review of Accounts Payable for period of December 21, 2020 through January 15, 2021**

Following review, ***motion was made by Councilman Hockett and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the Accounts Payable of 12/21/2020 through 1/15/2021, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

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

City Manager Barbee indicated the State has opened Region 5 to Phase 4, which permits gatherings of up to 50 people. There will need to be some adjustments as far as recreation and YMCA programs to, but Mr. Casburn is working on it. Barbee added that as discussed earlier, City Hall lobby will open to the public on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Chief Reynolds** thanked Mr. Waggoner for the comments he made in support of the Police Department, and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Farley and Council for providing tremendous support over the years. Chief Reynolds indicated there are so many pieces to HB3653 that he doesn't know it all yet. Reynolds indicated he, too, has spoken to Senator Plummer, and there will be an update provided soon. One of the pieces that did not make it into the bill is the Qualified Immunity. Reynolds added that if it had been included, there would have been a mass exodus of officers from Illinois.

Chief Reynolds indicated there are both good and bad aspects to this bill, but the bad far outweigh the good. The Bill includes many unfunded mandates which will prove to be quite a burden to municipalities. Reynolds indicated the use of body cams will be very expensive, not solely due to the cost of the cameras, but due to the cost of data storage and the time spent in redacting and responding to FOIAs. Another issue is the mental health screenings. Our officers currently go through a psychological exam during the hiring process, and if there are concerns, they are no longer considered for hire. Reynolds questioned what will happen if we have an officer screened five years after hire? If there is a concern, do they receive disability? Chief Reynolds indicated there are many additional issues, but these are his main concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Farley indicated the Illinois Municipal League (*the lobbying organization representing municipalities*) has sent out a 24-page summary. Chief Reynolds added that the FOP sent out an even more condensed summary. Councilman Morton asked that the summaries be sent to Council.

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

**VIII. CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Koehler** indicated he is very concerned about the number of businesses closing in and around Salem.

**Councilman Morton** asked if there is a plan for applying for grants this year. Finance Director Barrow responded that the City has received \$900,000 this year in grant funding, not including the IDOT and Parks grants. Councilman Morton asked if we can publish that information, as he keeps receiving questions as to why other communities are receiving grants and Salem isn't. Economic Development Director Meador added that there isn't a set schedule for grants – they come out at different times through different organizations, and any time a grant becomes available that is applicable to the City of Salem, the City applies for it. City Manager Barbee indicated that the grant received by the City of Centralia was applied for in 2018. Round two applications are due in February and Dir. Meador is working on the City's application.

Councilman Morton indicated that in response to the last meetings discussion regarding the soccer fields, he received 24 text messages that were all positive – no negative comments.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) – Review of Closed Session Minutes – 7/20/20, 8/17/20 and 12/07/20 and Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

*Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to enter into executive session at 6:40 pm for the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes of 7/20/20, 8/17/20 and 12/07/20 and semi-annual review of closed session minutes. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*

*Return to open session at 6:46 pm*

**X. CITY COUNCIL ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE3 SESSION**

**1. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – 7/20/20, 8/17/20 and 12/07/20**

*Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the closed session minutes of 7/20, 8/17 and 12/07/20, and that they remain closed. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Councilman Lockett, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*

**2. Approval of Resolution 2021-02 – Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

*Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Hockett to approve Resolution 2021-02 Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session minutes as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*

**XI. 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 6:50 pm. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Hockett, Councilman Koehler, Councilman Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.*

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk

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