

CITY OF SALEM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 1, 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 – Council meeting of October 18, 2021
 - 2. Request to allow Bicentennial Park ground for Christmas on Broadway Event on Saturday, December 4th
 - 3. Dedication of Inclusive Playground scheduled for November 5th at 4:00 pm

- 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:

When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute – and it’s longer than an hour. That relativity. – Albert Einstein

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 1, 2021

- I. Call to Order**

The regular November 1, 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	Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz
City Clerk Bev Quinn	Chief of Police Sean Reynolds
Finance Director Keli Barrow	Economic Dev Dir Tabitha Meador
City Attorney Mike Jones	Asst. Public Works Dir. Cory Purintun
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**

Rosa Roma and Luis Roma of El Rancherito Mexican Restaurant indicated their company is looking at the Salem Pizza Hut building as an additional business site. Ms. Roma indicated she had suggested moving the existing restaurant to the Pizza Hut building, but the restaurant owners (*Ms. Roma’s father and uncle*) were not interested. They are now considering developing a high-end liquor store with video gaming, and they will not be serving food. Ms.

Roma indicated they are looking at a 5–10-year lease of the building, and they know it will take City Council action increasing the number of Class A liquor licenses available for them to do this.

Mayor Farley indicated this is not an agenda item, but he had invited the Romas to address City Council at this meeting to get an idea of how Council members feel about their request, prior to making it an agenda item.

Councilman Koehler indicated he does not think Salem needs any additional video gaming sites, but he does feel the Council should do what it can to help a local business. Councilwoman Troutt asked what the rationale was behind limiting the number of licenses. Mayor Farley indicated it was to limit the number of video gaming “parlors” in Salem. Farley added that he is not expecting action tonight, and this will be made an agenda item for the next meeting, pending submittal of a liquor license application by the petitioners..

IV. MAYOR’S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Farley reported -

- The City recently partnered with St. Theresa Church on a vaccine clinic, and the Mayor expressed his appreciation to Deb Husk for her help with this.
- The downtown Halloween event was a great success. Farley added that DOEM Director Terry Mulvany indicated he thinks it was the biggest crowd he’s seen for this event.
- There is a “push tax” that may be enacted for video gaming machines that the City can participate in, as well as an annual fee per machine. This will be discussed more in the future. Councilman Koehler commented that he would hesitate to do more taxing. Councilwoman Troutt added that the tax and fees could be a deterrent to additional gaming businesses.
- Bryan Bennett Library is currently hosting an Apollo Space Exhibit, which is part of a private collection. The display will be in place until the end of November.
- There is currently an open seat on the Tourism Board, as Holiday Inn manager Robin Lindberg has retired and is moving from the area. Farley invited member of the public who are interested in serving contact him by letter, email or phone, although priority would be given to a representative of the hotel/motel industry. Farley added that Tourism Board members do have to live inside the City limits and be registered voters.

V. CITY COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

a. City Council Minutes - request approval of minutes of October 18, 2021

Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve the minutes of 10/18/2021, as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Councilman Morton abstained. Motion carried.

2. Request to allow Bicentennial Park ground for Christmas on Broadway Event on Saturday, December 4th.

City Manager Barbee indicated a committee, including Tabitha Meador, Jed Casburn, and some community members, has been working together to find ways to draw traffic to the downtown area. The group is interested in using Bicentennial Park, and possibly Sweney Corner, for a vendor event on Saturday, December 4th. Barbee added that this needs City Council approval, as the vendors will be making sales on city-owned property. Economic Development Director Meador added that this will be an expansion of what Mr. Casburn has already been doing with Santa coming to town. The ABC Pub, Theatre Board, and Historical Museum will all be participating, and the event will be followed by the Community Choir Concert. ***Motion was made by Councilman Koehler and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve use of Bicentennial Plaza and Sweney Corner for the December 4th event. Roll call vote: Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Councilman Bringwald, Councilman Koehler, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

3. Dedication of Inclusive Playground scheduled for November 5th at 4:00 pm.

City Manager Barbee indicated a dedication ceremony for the Inclusive Playground has been scheduled for Friday, November 5th at 4:00 pm. The playground is nearing completion and the crew is currently working on light features and LED lamps. Barbee added that the Lions Club members will also be involved, with speeches from Addy Rose’s parents, Mayor Farley and Lion Club Member Shelli McIntosh. Mayor Farley commended the Lions Club and City staff for making this happen. The park will be open to the public after the dedication ceremony. ***Motion was made by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Morton to name the park the “Salem Lions Club Addy and Friends Inclusive Playground”.***

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

VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT WITH DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES

City Manager Barbee reported –

- within the past two weeks, the area has experienced some severe weather with tornado touchdowns. Barbee indicated he has discussed this with DOEM Director Terry Mulvany, who recently met with GTSI, and at some point in the near future, the City will need to invest some dollars in our notification system.
- as mentioned by Mayor Farley, the Bryan-Bennett Library is hosting an Apollo 11 display through the end of November.
- office staff members have proposed that City Hall operating hours be amended from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. City Clerk Quinn added that the revision would match the hours public works currently works. Councilman Koehler asked about split shifts, with some starting at 7:30 am and some starting at 8:00 am. Quinn responded that she would prefer that all office employees have the same hours, due to issues caused by sick days, vacations, etc.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – No report.

VIII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

Councilman Koehler –

- asked about progress on the soccer complex;
- indicated he is working with the Historical Commission on determining what improvements need to be made to the Bryan Home. Koehler added that he would like to see the Bryan Home utilized more with events like “Thanksgiving at the Bryan Home” or “Christmas at the Bryan Home” in order to justify the expense of improvements. City Manager Barbee indicated he will be putting together a group meeting to make some decisions regarding the home in the near future.

Councilman Bringwald –

- indicated he has visited the Apollo 11 display at Bryan-Bennett Library, which contains an actual space suit, and it is very cool.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, ***motion was made at 6:43 pm by Councilwoman Troutt and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Koehler, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Troutt, Councilman Morton, Mayor Farley. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: _____