

CITY OF SALEM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 2, 2023 – 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
 - City Council Minutes – request approval for 09-18-2023 meeting minutes.
 - 2. Mayoral appointment to fill an open seat on the Salem Historical Commission.
 - 3. Request from the Salem Chamber of Commerce to host a Trick-or-Treat booth at Sweney Corner on 10-31-23.
 - 4. Adoption of the City's Strategic Plan 2023.
 - 5. Request to block traffic in the 100 block of East McMackin on Saturday, December 2, 2023 for City/ YMCA Christmas Downtown Celebration
 - 6. First reading of proposal for changes to the gas rate structure for residential and commercial users in the City of Salem gas service system.
 - 7. Adoption of resolution for the Bryan Bennett Library to levy an additional 0.02% portion of the County Property tax for maintenance, repairs and alterations of Library buildings and equipment.

- VI. City Manager Report with Department Head Updates**
- VII. City Attorney Report**
- VIII. City Council Members Report**
- IX. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee
City Manager

RAB

Quote of the Day –

"People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing -- that's why we recommend it daily." *-Zig Ziglar*

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1. Consent Agenda – Council members have been provided with a copy of the minutes from the prior Council meeting held on September 18, 2023. **Recommending approval of the minutes of September 18, 2023 as presented.**
2. Mayoral appointment to fill an open position for the Salem Historical Commission – **recommend approval of the appointee.**
3. The Salem Chamber of Commerce is requesting permission to set up a booth on Sweney Corner to distribute candy to trick or treaters on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 during the normal 6 to 8 pm time frame. **Recommending approval of the request to allow the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce to make use of the Sweney Corner property for Trick-or-Treat night on October 31, 2023.**
4. City staff, City Council members, and representatives from different sectors of life and business in Salem met several weeks ago to work on updating the strategic plan for the City of Salem. A copy of the proposed plan has been provided to Council and we are asking for an adoption of the Strategic Plan to move forward with efforts to lead actions to meet the individual portions of the plan. **Recommending approval of the Strategic Plan for the City of Salem as presented.**
5. The annual Downtown Christmas Celebration involving Sweney Corner and food trucks on McMackin Street is scheduled for Saturday, December 2. The group is requesting the closure of the 100 block of East McMackin to through traffic to allow for food truck traffic for the event. **Recommending approval of the temporary road closure for the 100 block of East McMackin St. on December 2, for the location of food trucks for the Christmas Event.**
6. The City of Salem gas rate structure has not been upgraded in 10 years and the cost for the meters, service line materials and related costs have all seen a rise during this time frame. A new gas rate structure is being proposed that breaks the customer category into updated residential and commercial users based on their usage rates and involves a higher flat fee for the meter charge, with adjustments to the rate per therm that the city charges. The changes in the meter rate will allow the city to be able to better handle the costs for replacement meters and upgrades in the coming months and years. The rate per therm will have some users seeing a small increase in their monthly portion and some commercial users seeing a reduction in their monthly rate per therms used. This is the first reading of the proposed changes with rate changes scheduled for January of 2024.
7. Presentation of Resolution number 2023-08 to agree to levying an additional 0.02% to the County Property Tax Bills for Bryan Bennett Library to cover cost for maintenance, repairs, and alterations of the Library Buildings and equipment. This resolution must be adopted and posted for a given time prior to passage of the City’s overall Tax Levy. **Recommend approval of the proposed Resolution No. 2023-08 for the 0.02% portion of the Bryan Bennett tax levy.**