

CITY OF SALEM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 2023 – 6:00 PM

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**
- 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 07-17-2023 meeting minutes.
 - 2. Introduction of new Police Dispatcher Emma Cavins to Council.
 - 3. Request to classify as surplus items from the Salem Police Department.
 - 4. Approval of appointment for open Library Board member.
 - 5. Authorization to purchase a replacement pump for the Goose Creek Lift Station.
 - 6. Approval of revised invoice for the repair work at the water plant covering additional work that was required as part of repairs completed by JK Trotter.
 - 7. Approval to write off outstanding utility amounts that are no longer collectible because they are over 7 years old.

- VI. City Manager Report with Department Head Updates**
- VII. Executive Session – Discussion of possible litigation**
 - 5 ILCS 120/2 (2)(11) – Discussion of potential legal action
- VIII. Return to open session**
- IX. City Attorney Report**
- X. City Council Members Report**
- XI. Motion to Adjourn**

Rex A. Barbee
City Manager

RAB

Quote of the Day –

Some of the Presidents were great and some of them weren’t. I can say that, because I wasn’t one of the great Presidents, but I had a good time trying to be one, I tell you that.

-Harry S. Truman

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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 July 17, 2023. **Recommending approval of the minutes of July 17, 2023 as presented.**
2. The Salem Police Department has hired a new dispatcher to share in the work load. Chief Ambuehl will introduce Emma Cavins to the Council members and staff.
3. The Salem Police Department has a number of unclaimed firearms that they have accumulated over the last several years. The PD has searched the databases through LEADS and found no claims or indication that they have been involved in crimes. The PD is seeking permission to surplus these weapons to enable them to be sold to local dealers and to use the funds to purchase accessory items for their current weapons. **Recommend approval of the request to surplus the unclaimed guns currently in storage with the Salem Police Department.**
4. Mayor Farley is proposing the name of a potential member of the Bryan Bennett Library Board. **Recommend approval of the proposed name for the open seat on the Library Board.**
5. One of the pumps at the Goose Creek lift station (sewer line) on the west side of town is no longer working. The lift station has two pumps that typically alternate in their operations to push materials through the sewer pipeline. This is an unplanned item and was not specifically budgeted as a scheduled repair. The pump needing repairs is fairly old and has been repaired in the past. Currently, parts are not readily available and the cost to make repairs would likely cost more than the new pump. A proposal from Hydro-Kinetics for a new replacement T4A35-B pump similar to the existing pump, has a price tag of \$9,285.00. **Requesting approval for the purchase of the new T4A35-B pump from Hydro-Kinetics in the amount of \$9,285.00.**
6. The work at the Salem Water Plant has been completed but there was a need for additional parts and labor to complete the repair over what was anticipated. The low bidder, JK Trotter & Sons, Inc. originally estimated that the work could be done for around \$35,000 but with the extra work uncovered as they completed the repairs, their invoice comes in at \$44,160.00 or \$9,160.00 over estimate. This amount is still considerably less than the other two bids for the repair work. **Requesting approval to pay the adjusted invoice in the amount of \$44,160.00.**
7. Our Finance Director has compiled a list of outstanding utility bills that are over 7 years in age. Some of the unpaid amounts are the result of the customer passing away without an estate and the others are from customers who have moved out of town and left an amount due with no forwarding address or were unresponsive. The accounting rules indicate that if the debt is older than 7 years, we can no longer carry it on our account balances, and it should be written off. The individual amounts are still tied to the customer's name and if they return in the future to establish utilities in their name, the past due amount does show up and we will attempt to establish a repayment plan. The amount shown to be written off amounts to \$3,396.25 in deceased account holder balances, and \$10, 685.97 in other unpaid balances for a total of \$14,082.22. **Recommending the approval of the write off of the uncollected utility debt older than 7 years of age.**