

Jane Marshall, CMC
City Clerk

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Date: January 10, 2012

**TO: WJBD Radio
Salem Times Commoner
Centralia Sentinel
Marion County Observer
USSonet**

**Cc: Mayor and City Council
Interim City Manager
Department Directors**

NOTICE AND AGENDA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF SALEM CITY COUNCIL

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, notice is hereby given that the Salem City Council will meet at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall, 101 South Broadway Salem, Illinois, for the following purpose:

To conduct workshop regarding Salem Family Aquatic Center operations

CITY OF SALEM, ILLINOIS

Jane Marshall jm

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Dated this 10TH day of January 2012

AGENDA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF SALEM CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012
6:00 P.M.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
- III. City Council Action
 - I. Workshop Session to Discuss Salem Family Aquatic Center Operations
- IV. Adjournment

Deborah McKinney Huff
Interim City Manager

MINUTES
CITY OF SALEM, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Salem City Council met in Workshop Meeting in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall, 101 S. Broadway, Salem, IL, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012 for the purpose conduct a workshop session to discuss the Salem Family Aquatic Center Operations. Mayor Raymer called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Councilman Royce Bringwald Councilman Kip Meador
Councilman Steve Huddlestun Mayor John Raymer

Absent: Councilman David Black

OTHERS PRESENT:

Interim City Manager Deborah McKinney Huff
City Clerk Jane Marshall
Recreation Director Sherry Daniels

Media: Salem Times Commoner/Dennis Rosenberger, Bruce Kropp/WJBD Radio
Assistant Pool Managers Dawn Jayne & Connie Fulton; Bob Kane,
along with John Andrews

II. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Opening prayer led by Councilman Meador, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. DISCUSSION OF FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER OPERATIONS

Mayor Raymer welcomed everyone and invited comments during the discussion, adding this meeting was called to review last years pool operations and discuss suggestions for any changes. He complimented Ms. Daniels on her operation of the pool. He commented that the Aquatic Center is a “Jewel” and it needs to be maximized to use to get people here.

Recreation Director Sherry Daniels reviewed the Family Aquatic Center’s financial report as of December 30, 2011 and answered questions.

Some of the comments and suggestions were:

- reconsideration of extending the closing date for the pool
- possibility of high school usage of the pool during first week of school, for a fee
- suggestion that city employees be trained on the mechanics of the pool and be qualified to conduct the opening and closing process of the pool
- procedure regarding the number of lights to be left on for security purposes and the ability to turn off those not needed
- Life Guard training costs - Red Cross rates are going to increase; suggested checking with YMCA on costs
- suggestion to look for more lifeguards beyond high school and college age
- suggestion for accounting reporting to be on a January to January cycle
- reduced pool rate for seniors 65 years of age and older and for children from low-income families; and suggested reduced rate for seniors on slow-times during the week or anytime during the day
- encouraged more participation with the Marion County Public Health Department to coordinate programs to provide more services
- work with the Tourism Board to help market the Aquatic Center, focusing on the waterslide, etc.
- corporate passes
- Robinson, IL – business with temperature sign, paid the pool fees for people on any day that the temperature was 100 degree or above
- comment that there are business people who would donate money for kids pool pass if they were aware of the need
- suggestion that day pool passes could be given to kids who help with community projects such as KSB Annual Clean-up and other events
- Marketing suggestion – have t-shirts, towels, hats, and other pool related items printed with Aquatic Family Center logo and visibly displayed and available for sale at all times the pool is open; especially during swim team events
- keep the concession stand open whenever there are special events in the park with concessions as well as other items available for sale
- focus on pride of the pool and marketing of the pool
- offer discount coupons in advertisements in surrounding communities
- work with Greater Chamber of Commerce Director to help welcome visitors to pool events
- past year was first year the swim team triathlon was held in Salem – it was a successful day
- Foundation Fundraiser Event was successful – suggestion to market to other groups for this type event, as well
- discussion regarding fee for pool parties
- discussion regarding Signage – “No Refunds due to”

Recreation Director Daniels asked direction regarding:

- Fee for Pool Parties; explaining the fee to reserve pool for parties in past included an extra \$1.00 per person , she suggested increasing the basic fee and eliminating the extra fee. Council had no objections in doing that.
- Refunds due to weather conditions and due to mechanical problems (cloudy water). Giving refunds was discussed with issues in determining how it should be done if a season pass was used or a pool fee was paid, the length of time the pool was open was

also considered. It was suggested that at the time the announcement of the pool closing, it could be announced that if a person was at the pool for one hour or less, they would be given a one-day pool pass – no money to be refunded. No objections were heard to this suggestion.

Bob Kane commented regarding an experience that his daughter had with the concession stand this past summer during the pool break time, there were not enough people working in the concessions and people could not get waited on.

Mr. Kane also commented regarding the Early Morning Swim – suggesting that a lane be roped off to separate the lap-swimmers from the walkers.

Councilman Huddlestun commented that John Andrews had agreed to develop a business plan for the pool. Also, Bob Kane's brother who is retired from managing an aquatic facility in Wheaton had indicated that he would "walk through" our facilities and talk with the Recreation Director and share information.

Bruce Kropp commented that he has received complaints from the men's softball players about the concession stand being closed during their games. Ms. Daniels responded that the concessions have been left open for two weeks during their ball season and basically no one came to use it.

Suggestion to use "key words" – water park, water slide, etc. on the website so our Aquatic Center will come up when someone does a search for water parks.

Mayor Raymer suggested that questions and complaints regarding the pool operations should be directed to the person they should go to; indicating he directs comments regarding the pool to the Recreation Director.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 P.M., Councilman Meador moved and Councilman Huddlestun seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Jane Marshall, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes approved by City Council as written on 2/06/2012.