

- Mayor Raymer reported that the American Red Cross is conducting a blood drive on Wednesday, October 23rd and recommended citizens make a donation.
- Mayor Raymer indicated the City received a thank you note from the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce Applefest Committee for promoting and supporting the Applefest. Mayor Raymer passed on the Council's congratulations to Chamber President Justin Harness and the entire Chamber for the success of the Applefest.

V. **City Council Action**

1) **Consent Agenda**

a. Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2013

b. Bryan Bennett Library Road Closure – 300 Block of West Church

Motion was made by Councilman Black, seconded by Councilman Bringwald that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. AYES: Councilman Black, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

2) **Bills Payable**

City Manager Gruen distributed a handout for an item to be added to the Bills Payable list. Mr. Gruen indicated the City Council had previously approved purchase of a "Bat Wing Mower" in the amount of \$18,810.40, which is being added to the list of payables. After a review of Bills Payable, Councilman Black suggested the City bill the Department of Military Affairs for repairs made to the Armory windows. **Councilman Black moved and Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion that Bills Payable be approved as presented, with the addition of \$18,810.40 Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Black, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

3) **Planning Commission Action of October 10, 2013 – Rezoning 3.27 Acres at S. College and W. Lake Streets**

City Manager Gruen indicated this item has been withdrawn by the petitioner.

4) **Tully Park Development Project**

City Manager Gruen indicated the SCHS School Board discussed the proposed agreement to use Tully Park at its most recent school board meeting. The agreement had been revised by the City to require that SCHS publish a list of events to be held at Tully Park, to better allow usage by the City or other users when SCHS events are not scheduled. The SCHS Board took action to approve the agreement. City Manager Gruen added that the City had originally budgeted \$5,000 for development of soccer fields, and these funds will be used for the proposed park revisions. Additional funds will be budgeted for next year, for a total of approximately \$9,500.00. Some trees will be removed, but new trees will be planted between the fields and the City Shed to serve as a buffer. **Councilman Black moved and Councilwoman Morgan seconded the motion that the proposed agreement between the City of Salem and SCHS for use of Tully Park be approved. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Black, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

5) **First Reading – Property Tax Levy, 2013 Taxes Collected in 2014**

City Manager Gruen indicated he had some minor revisions, and indicated the amount highlighted on the levy document that currently says \$696,314 will actually be \$683,350. The total is \$1,815,417. Gruen added that the vast majority of the \$683,350 will be abated.

6) **K2 – Further Discussion and Possible Action on Salem PD Proposals**

City Manager Gruen indicated that Chief Campo is still working on some proposed action items regarding K-2. Mr. Gruen added that he had sent out an email to all Department Heads, directing them to direct their employees to call any suspicious activity taking place in the park to the Police Department's attention. Mr. Gruen added that he had directed all non-police personnel NOT engage those involved in suspicious activity directly.

Chief Campo indicated he is currently working on draft language on the seizure of vehicles, and is also considering a video feed of Shelter #4, the basketball courts, and the skate park. Chief Campo indicated he has kept in touch with the Huffhines, and they have been invited to attend the next meeting.

7) **Application to IDOT for Highway Directional Signs**

Mayor Raymer indicated he has been compiling a list of signs he would like to be approved and erected by IDOT. The list includes:

- Fairgrounds
- Salem High School
- Salem Elementary School
- Salem Twp Hospital

Good Samaritan Health Center
Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation
Armory
Family Aquatic Center
Industrial Park West
Industrial Locations South
Youth Baseball Complex
Softball – Soccer Complex
Bryan Statue and Gardens
Bryan Memorial Park Trails

The following additions to the list were suggested:

Bryan Bennett Library
Bryan Park Nature Trail
Tully Park
Golf Course
Cemeteries
Courthouse

Councilman Morgan moved and Councilman Black seconded the motion that the proposed list of signs to be requested through IDOT be approved. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Black, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

8) Discussion on Salem Zoning Code an Business Development – Upper Floor Residential Uses in Commercial Zones, Business Signage, and other Business Issues

Councilman Black suggested City Council may need to look at its sign code and restrictions regarding residential uses in business districts. Councilman Black indicated several years ago, Jeff Dunahee approached the City about wanting an off-premise sign. Mr. Dunahee went through the Zoning Board of Appeals and received a variance to allow a panel advertising his business on the multi-business sign on the Delmar and W. Main Street corner. Councilman Black suggested more signs like this one would be appropriate. Councilman Black added that the City does not currently allow residential uses in upper stories of commercial businesses in any districts other than the downtown district, and he does not see the difference between residential uses and hotels or motels. Black added that buildings that are empty are taxed more, and having a residential use give the buildings an “alive” look.

Mayor Raymer indicated that he agrees with a need to revise the sign code, and suggested it might be appropriate to schedule a joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Councilman Black responded that the Planning Commission is an advisory board, and City Council makes the final decision. Councilman Black added that he had just attended the IML conference, and feels Boards and Commissions should also receive some training. Mayor Raymer responded that training is a great idea. Councilwoman Morgan added that the training she received is very useful, and well worth the cost. Mayor Raymer asked Planning Commission Alan Wilson, who was in the audience, if he thought training was a good idea, and Mr. Wilson indicated it is.

9) Purchase Approval – Repair of Clearwell at Water Plant

City Manager Gruen indicated the City has received bids from both Depew and Owen and Haier, but neither bid will be exact, as the time and materials to be used in the project is unknown. Gruen added that Depew and Owen submitted the low bid at \$10,500 (*the engineering estimate was \$40,000*). Mr. Gruen indicated he would like to see the bid awarded to Depew and Owen, although we will not know the total cost until they get into the project.

Public Works Director John Pruden indicated both bidders have done work for the City before, and both come highly recommended. Councilman Black indicated he does business with Depew and Owen, and asked if he needed to recuse himself on this matter. City Attorney Mike Jones responded that Councilman Black had disclosed that information, had nothing to gain personally from the project, and indicated it is not necessary for Councilman Black to recuse himself. **Councilman Black moved and Councilwoman Sue Morgan seconded the motion that Depew and Owen be awarded the bid to repair the Clearwell at the Water Plant in the amount of \$10,500. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Black, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

VI. City Manager Report

City Manager Gruen indicated that at the last meeting, Council was approached by Jack Costner of Jack and Queens regarding the City’s requirement that temporary vendors apply for a Special Use permit for fund raising events. Currently, not-for-profits who hold fundraisers on their own properties (and whose members do the work) are exempt from obtaining a Special Use Permit. Mr. Gruen indicated he would like

to see that exemption expanded to include fundraisers that involve a professional vendor, as long as the vendor is donating 20% or more of the profit to the not-for-profit. Mr. Gruen added that if City Council had no objections, he would like to handle this at the administrative level, rather than codifying an amendment. City Council consensus was that the proposed exemption was acceptable, and that this be handled at the administrative level.

VII. City Attorney Report – none.

VIII. Finance Director Report – none.

IX. City Council Report

Councilwoman Morgan

- Councilwoman Morgan suggested the High School and other organizations coordinate with the City when they are hosting large events, so that the City can assist with welcome signs.
- Councilwoman Morgan indicated she attended the IML Annual Conference over the weekend, and attended a wonderful session on demolition. Ms. Morgan added that she appreciates the City sending her.
- Councilwoman Morgan indicated the lots at Kinney Boulevard have been cleaned up, and looks wonderful.

Councilman Black

- Councilman Black indicated he wished to explain why he abstained on action taken on Americana's behalf at the last meeting -- it was because one of the contractors he works with is working on the project.

Mayor Raymer

- Mayor Raymer indicated he attended several good sessions at the IML conference. One of the sessions he attended discussed the difference between letters of credit and performance bonds. City Attorney Jones indicated that Performance Bonds are more common, as Letters of Credit are very hard to get.
- Mayor Raymer indicated he has been approached by the Centralia Humane Society for a letter of support on a grant they are applying for on a program for the catch, spay/neuter and release of cats, and he will be providing them with a letter.
- Mayor Raymer indicated he has been approached by someone who would like to construct a mini-golf course in Bryan Park. He will provide more information as it becomes available.

X. Adjournment

Councilman Black moved and Councilwoman Morgan seconded that the motion that the meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Black, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bev West, CMC

City Clerk