

**AGENDA**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OF THE SALEM CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

Bill Gruen  
City Manager

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**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OF SALEM CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

The Salem City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Raymer.

Council Members Present:

Councilman Jim Baity  
Councilman David Black  
Councilwoman Sue Morgan  
Mayor John Raymer

Others present:

City Manager Bill Gruen	Finance Director Ben Stratemeyer
Recreation Director Sherry Daniels	Public Works Director John Pruden
Asst. Pool Manager Randall Knaak	Asst. Pool Manager Connie Fulton
Ticketing Manager Martha Berry	City Clerk Bev Quinn

Also present were the following members of the media: Bruce Kropp, WJBD Radio; Reece Rutland, Centralia Sentinel; and Dennis Rosenberger, Salem Times-Commoner.

**II. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Raymer dispensed with the Prayer and Pledge to move directly into the discussion regarding the Salem Family Aquatic Center Operations.

**III. City Council Action**

**1. Workshop Session to Discuss Salem Family Aquatic Center Operations**

Recreation Director Sherry Daniels introduced Assistant Pool Managers Randall Knaak and Connie Fulton, and Ticketing Manager Martha Berry.

City Manager Gruen directed Council's attention to a packet of information that had been sent to them prior to the meeting, and noted that both revenues and expenses were down last year over previous years. Gruen attributed this to the very cool summer we had. City Manager Gruen indicated the big picture items he would like City Council to look at are:

- Memorial Day through June 5 hours of operation, as the Salem schools will be in session until June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Closing Time – 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.?
- In the past, we have had two deck supervisors, with the Managers staying in the office. If we do not use deck supervisors, we can save \$5,200 in wages. Direction would be given for the Managers to leave the office and supervise the deck.
- Keep an open mind on offering an open season. The extended season cost us approximately \$3,800 in labor, plus electricity, etc.
- Review prices for admission.

Mr. Gruen provided a sheet showing current prices, proposed prices and projected prices to cover costs, as follows:

<u>Gen Admin</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>To Cover Costs</u>
0 to 2 yrs.	-	-	-
3 to 16 yrs.	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$5.75
17 to 54 yrs.	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$6.00
55 to 64 yrs.	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$6.00
65 years +	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$3.00
Parent/Street	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
<u>Passes</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>To Cover Costs</u>
Individual	\$65/\$80	\$70/\$85	\$82.50/\$92.50
Family (of 4)	\$180/\$220	\$185/\$225	\$207.50/\$245
Family (over 5)	\$36/\$45	\$36/\$45	\$36/\$45
<u>Swim Lessons</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>To Cover Costs</u>
Intro to Water	\$24/\$30	\$24/\$30	\$28/\$34
Learn to Swim	\$48/\$60	\$48/\$60	\$52/\$64
<u>Private Parties</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>To Cover Costs</u>
All Parties	\$195.00	\$200.00	\$230.00
<u>Early Morning Swim</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>To Cover Costs</u>
Adult	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.00
65 years +	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00
Projected Revenue	\$181,124	\$202,323	\$227,862

Mr. Gruen indicated it costs approximately \$10,800 to stay open until 7:00 p.m. Recreation Director Daniels added that there will be four weeks of swim lessons and 5 swim meets that will require the pool to close at 6:00 p.m., regardless. Daniels added that the parties seem to be more attractive when they can start earlier. Starting a party at 9:00 p.m. seems to be a deterrent.

City Manager Gruen indicated something he has been considering is offering an incentive to increase attendance, such as a free hot dog or food item. Gruen added that he had discussed this with Chamber Director Leonard Ferguson, and he had indicated he would be willing to approach business owners to “sponsor” free hot dogs one day, in exchange for advertising on a sign.

Mayor Raymer indicated he feels the proposed rate increases are appropriate, and they should be done incrementally each year, rather than no increase for several years then a very noticeable increase. Councilman Black added that he feels the proposed increases would be acceptable.

Assistant Pool Manager Randall Knaak indicated sometimes even staying open until 6:00 p.m. is too late. Many of the participants leave at break time, with the majority leaving around 4:00 p.m., when the sun goes behind the trees. Ms. Daniels reiterated that the pool has to close at 6:00 p.m. or before for five weeks of the year for lessons and meets.

Councilman Black asked how the lessons are doing. Ms. Daniels indicated they do make a little income. Daniels added that they were able to continue to make a profit on the lessons by reducing the length of the lessons from 45-50 minutes to 30 minutes. Councilman Black asked about the parties. Daniels responded that they do make money on the parties.

Councilwoman Morgan asked the pool managers if it is their recommendation to continue closing at 6:00 p.m.? Consensus was “yes”, as there are fewer than 50 people at the pool after 5:30 p.m.

City Manager Gruen indicated he has received the following suggestions:

- If the pool needs to buy another hot dog cooker, the cost is \$1,000 - \$1,200.
- Remove the turnstiles in the entryway, as they hit the kids, and don’t count attendance. Councilman Baity asked how many attended last year. Mr. Gruen responded 28,183.
- Last day of operation – doggy swim.
- Charging a \$25.00 on parties where they are bringing food, to encourage them to clean up before they leave. Deposit would then be refunded. Mayor Raymer suggested a \$100.00 deposit. Asst. Manager Knaak indicated he felt \$25.00 would be sufficient, as he would be reluctant to even book a party (himself) if he was required to give a \$100

deposit. Councilman Black asked if the concessions are kept open during parties. Director Daniels indicated they are not, but they could try it.

- Doing away with the resident/non-resident pricing. Gruen added that we don't charge different individual admission rates on whether or not a participant is a resident or non-resident. Asst. Manager Fulton indicated she would like to see the res/non-res differences done away with, as it will be much more visitor friendly without. Mr. Gruen indicated that if the non-resident fees are abolished, the proposed resident fees will be charged to all.

There was some discussion concerning the diving boards. Assistant Manager Fulton indicated the biggest problem they have is the repeated bouncing on the boards, and that two of the accidents they had last year were the result of repeated bouncing. Additionally, in addition to repeated bounding, some of the larger divers bounce very hard, to where the boards almost touch the water. Fulton added that it is a hazard to the divers, as well as hard on the equipment. Councilman Black asked how they are handling that. Asst. Manager Fulton indicated they really haven't been handling it, as they were told there were to be no rules regarding diving. Councilman Black responded that he is just afraid we will be squelching divers' fun, but he would support posting a sign that limits divers to two bounces.

Ticketing Manager Martha Berry indicated her biggest concern is losing the out of town customers, particularly since the Mt. Vernon facility is opening. Berry added that she would also like to see the non-resident fees dropped, and one price for all. Mayor Raymer and Councilman Black indicated they both support that.

Mayor Raymer indicated he does not feel the parking lot area where the swim team parents set up have sufficient electrical outlets, and he would like to see another set of eight at the west end of the parking lot. Councilman Black suggested adding eight in the center, as well. Mayor Raymer asked Public Works Director John Pruden to check into prices, and see if this could be done before the season starts.

Mayor Raymer indicated he has received calls indicating concern that all the lights are left on after hours, and asked if there would be significant savings if half of the lights were turned off. Director Daniels indicated there would be a savings, but they were left on at the direction of Council to provide security.

City Manager Gruen indicated he and his family enjoy the pool and the staff, and added that they appear to enjoy their jobs, and it shows. Gruen thanked them.

Mayor Raymer indicated the city needs to start thinking about another feature. Director Daniels indicated she would like to see a squirt feature where the tot pool is now.

Councilman Bringwald arrived at 7:07 p.m.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion was made by Councilman Black and seconded by Councilman Bringwald that the meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Black, Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Baity, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

Bev Quinn, CMC  
City Clerk