

**AGENDA
CITY OF SALEM
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 15, 2014
5:30 P.M.**

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **City Council Action**
 - a. Presentation by Salem Township Hospital – Request for Permanent Closure of 425 ft. of Broughton Road
 - b. Presentation from Firms on Procurement of Natural Gas Supply for City of Salem Gas System
- III. **Staff or Council Reports**
- IV. **Adjournment**

Bill Gruen
City Manager

**MINUTES
CITY OF SALEM
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 15, 2014**

I. Call to Order

A special meeting of the Salem City Council was held on July 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Salem City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem David Black.

Council Members Present:
Councilwoman Sue Morgan
Councilman Jim Baity
Councilman David Black
Mayor Raymer (*Arrived at 5:05 p.m.*)

Council Member Absent: Councilman Royce Bringwald

Others present:
City Manager Bill Gruen
City Clerk Bev Quinn
Chief of Police Ron Campo
Members of the Public
Finance Director Ben Stratemeyer
Economic Development Director Jeanne Gustafson
Public Works Director John Pruden

Media: Bruce Kropp, WJBD Radio; Dennis Rosenberger, Salem Times-Commoner

II. City Council Action

a. Presentation by Salem Township Hospital – Request for Permanent Closure of 425 ft. of Broughton Road

Salem Township Hospital President Stephanie Hilton-Siebert, Board Member Marvin Jenkins, and Rhutasel and Associates Engineer Brent Taylor were present to outline their request. Ms. Hilton-Siebert indicated the request is being made first and foremost as a public safety issue, due to concerns about transporting patients on gurneys to the helipad. Ms. Hilton-Siebert referenced a complaint received from a 92-year-old patient. Additionally, the hospital is in a time of growth, with the addition of several specialty physicians and the proposed addition of a dialysis center, requiring more access to the building. Relocating a section of Broughton Road would allow for additional parking and access to the specialty physicians. Ms. Hilton-Siebert indicated the expansion could result in the hiring of an additional 25 employees, and increase the hospital's ability to serve the community's needs.

Rhutasel and Associates representative Brent Taylor displayed three drawings of proposed rerouting of Broughton Road, with Council participating in discussion regarding the pros and cons of all three proposals.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that if the hospital does not have the basement entrance, they will not install the dialysis center, and there will be no additional expansion. Jenkins added that if that is the case, the hospital will probably go the way of other area hospitals and end up closing.

Mayor Raymer indicated his immediate concern is the safety of those being transported from the hospital to the helipad, and asked what is currently in place to warn drivers that someone is being transported to the helipad. Ms. Hilton-Siebert indicated there is a yellow flashing light that is turned on only during transport, and an employee is positioned some distance from the

light. Councilman Black suggested having the employee use a stop sign, rather than a yellow warning light, while this is worked out. Councilman Black also suggested constructing a tunnel from the hospital *under* Broughton to the helipad, with an elevator from the tunnel to the pad. In the interim while this is being discussed, the yellow light could be replaced with a red light. Mr. Jenkins inserted that Broughton must be closed to allow for the dialysis center. Mayor Raymer indicated he sees two problems being discussed – 1) the safety of those being transported to the helipad and, 2) the dialysis center and parking. Councilman Black also suggested that Broughton be widened to allow drivers to be further from the corner of the building. Mr. Jenkins indicated the Hospital Board would like to see Broughton Road taken out of their campus. Councilwoman Morgan indicated it will be wonderful if we can find a way to get this done, and while she is in the hospital's corner, she was elected to represent all, and she is also in the citizens' corner. Mayor Raymer indicated he would like to see a traffic study done on Broughton, but in the meantime, he would like to see a red light replace the yellow light at the crossing to the helipad.

Councilman Black suggested City Manager Bill Gruen meet with Stephanie Hilton-Siebert to discuss this further, then schedule a joint meeting of the Hospital Board and City Council. City Manager Gruen concurred, and asked that he be given some time for preliminary meetings with staff before the joint meeting of the Board and Council.

Joe Hotze, 1605 Hawthorn Rd. addressed Council, and indicated there were 84 helicopter visits this past year, 400 cars drive the road per day, and there have been no accidents since the helipad was installed 12 years ago. Mr. Hotze added that he feels this is a problem created by the hospital, and they want to pass it on to the citizens. Hotze added that he thinks they are making a mountain out of a molehill, and he is not in favor of *any* changes, including stop signs. Mr. Hotze indicated there are numerous walkers and joggers on Broughton each day, and the area would be better served with sidewalks.

Jeannine Richards, 1604 Hawthorn Rd. indicated she feel this issue was created by the hospital, and asked where the money would come from to construct new streets, and if taxes would increase. Richards added that her husband was a frequent visitor to the hospital, and if you park in the front and take a few steps to the elevator, you go straight down to the area being discussed. Ms. Richards also asked if this would create problems for the school district and buses. In response to Mr. Jenkins' comment about possible closure, Ms. Richards indicated St. Mary's and Good Samaritan are going strong. Ms. Richards indicated Good Samaritan uses golf carts year round to transport people from the parking lots to the hospital.

Mohammed Ul-Islam, 402 Greenbriar Dr., indicated he feels an underpass under Broughton would solve the problem, and the lake would not be a problem. Mr. Ul-Islam indicated he is a civil engineer, and rerouting the road will result in more problems than an underpass.

Gloria Wetzel, 500 W. Broughton, indicated she has lived on Broughton since 1966, and she feels the hospital created this problem when they built the helipad, and asked why this wasn't considered when the helipad was constructed. Ms. Wetzel added that she feels the curve where the building is closest to the road is hazardous, and asked who would pay for rerouting the road, and if taxes would go up. Ms. Wetzel added that the hospital should pay for an overpass, if that is what they need, and that a stop light won't help.

Jim Dice, 516 W. Park, indicated he would like the hospital board to address why the building was constructed so close to the road, and questioned why a variance was granted. Mr. Dice added that the increase in groundwater would cause problems, as College Street is already experiencing erosion. Mr. Dice indicated there must be some thought put into where the additional run off would go.

John Smith, 408 Greenbriar, indicated he feels there are many more helicopter visits in a year than 84, and asked if the helicopter people had been consulted about changing the road. Mr. Smith added that the speed limit in this area is 15 mph, and drivers go 45 mph. Mr. Smith indicated he would like to see additional law enforcement in this area, and that red lights would be a good idea.

Leonard Ferguson, 1602 Hawthorn Rd., indicated he would like to be sure the public is informed as to when the meeting between the City Council and the Hospital Board will take place, and that the public be invited to attend.

Stacy Lockhart, 1606 Hawthorn Rd., indicated whoever dropped off a 92 year old woman at the emergency room should be ashamed. Ms. Hilton-Siebert indicated the patient drove herself.

Consensus was that City Manager Gruen would schedule some preliminary meetings, with a joint meeting of the City Council and Salem Township Hospital to follow.

b. Presentation from Firms on Procurement of Natural Gas Supply for City of Salem Gas System

Mayor Raymer indicated prior to the meeting, a random draw of names determined the order of presentations, as follow:

1. IPEA
2. IMGA
3. UGM

Mayor Raymer indicated each agency would be given 10 minutes to present, with 5 minutes for discussion. At the end of the three presentations, there would be general discussion involving all three agencies.

Presenting for the firms were:

IPEA – Kevin Gaden, Doc Mueller, Mike Genin, and Brian Hirschberg

IMGA – Heather Viele

UGM – Ron Ragan

All three firms gave brief histories of their companies, and overviews of the services they would provide to the City of Salem, should they be selected. Additional materials were provided to Council members regarding these services.

III. Staff or Council Reports – None.

IV. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilman Black and seconded by Councilwoman Morgan that the meeting be adjourned at 7:34 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Baity, Councilman Black, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Raymer. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes approved: _____